

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**March 10, 2011**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Michele Fuchs	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk
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Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser for approval to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of February 10, 2011. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding the letters recently sent to the Philmont Fire Company, the Village of Philmont, Mellenville Volunteer Fire District and the Greenport Rescue Squad.

Highway Superintendent Lamont presented a report of his department's activities. In the month of February, there were nine (9) snowstorms. Recently more sand was purchased to have on hand. He also reported the opening of the bids for the concrete box culvert for Stone Mill Road. The apparent low bidder was Old Castle Precast for \$42,550.00. A motion was made by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnson to accept the bid. Carried.

A discussion was held with regard to the difficult winter we have had this year, and the amount of efforts put forth by our Highway Department employees. A motion was made by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to write a letter of appreciation to our highway employees.

The discussion continued with regard to the recent flooding/storm of March 7, 2011. The efforts of the members of the volunteer fire companies within our community were praised by the membership of the Board. A motion was made by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Preusser, to write letters of appreciation to our volunteer fire companies thanking them for their service. Carried.

Dog Control Officer's Report received and on file in Town Office for review.

No Building Inspectors' Reports received for the month of February.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE – Gretchen Stearns** – The Committee presented the Town of Claverack Draft Zoning Revisions “Executive Summary” document to the Board. The Committee will meet again on March 24, 2011. Additionally, they would like to schedule a meeting with the Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board to review current zoning revision proposals. A date for this meeting will be determined. A discussion was held regarding the next steps for the compressive plan revision committee. At least two (2) informational meetings will be held to receive public comment. The Version 3 plan will soon be available on the Town's website, and at the Town Office. Discussion was held regarding establishing a tenancy law, similar to the one enacted by the Village of Philmont to require regular inspections for habitability upon the change of tenancy in a property.

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE --** Chairman Peter Reiss presented his committee report.

Members recently attended the presentation of the Columbia County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board. The County is continuing the process of contacting farmers with a survey document to gather information for future purposes. The Committee has also reached out to all taxpayers who have Agricultural Exemptions in the Town to ask for their participation in the survey. Members of the Committee added personal notes to help boost participation in the survey. Chairman Reiss also gave an update on the future of a mobile slaughterhouse at the Columbia County Airport. The committee will meet again on March 29.

**HISTORIC COMMITTEE – Ian Stewart** – The Supervisor reported that the Committee was meeting concurrently with the Town Board meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter received from Bob Fisher/Jane Felix praising the Highway Department for their efforts during the recent winter season.

No further correspondence.

**REASSESSMENT – Councilman Johnston** – Councilman Johnston gave an update on the reevaluation by GAR. GAR staff has recently held public meetings in the community, with each workshop averaging about sixty (60) attendees. The inventories and property data are available at both the Claverack Free Library and the Philmont Library. The Assessors and staff have been handling numerous inquires re: the valuation letters that were recently mailed to each property owner.

A discussion was held regarding the upcoming Grievance Day on May 24, 2011. The Assessors Office is expecting it to be a busy day, and suggested that for this year additional members might be added to help. The Assessors have been working closely with the building department to update both departments' files as updated information has become available.

It was also reported the information for a new rate has been sent to New York State Albany Office of Real Property for a new equalization rate to be issue.

**SKATEBOARD PARK – Councilman Johnston** – No report.

**WATER – Councilman Johnston** – No change to last month's report.

**HIGHWAY – Councilman Weigelt** – Councilman Weigelt reported that the new truck on order is expected soon.

**ZONING – Councilman Weigelt** – No report.

**YOUTH – Councilman Preusser** – Committee met on February 16. The Committee is planning on meeting with Recreation Director Holmes at the Committee's next meeting, March 17, 2011 to discuss the summer youth program. The Committee is discussing meeting with other Towns to share information about their recreation programs. The Committee is also exploring grant opportunities the program might apply for.

**INSURANCE – Councilman Preusser** – Insurance packets were distributed to interested parties and some proposals have been returned.

Councilman Preusser also noted that the Churchtown Fire Company recently had assisted the Red Cross with the temporary shelter set up at the Taconic Hills Central School.

**GRANT – Councilman Van Deusen**—Cynde Hall has resigned from the Committee with their regrets. The Committee is currently exploring grant opportunities for sidewalk and water line installations to connect the Village of Philmont to the Town Park.

**MINING – Councilman Van Deusen** – Councilman Van Deusen reported that the Committee met on March 1. They are working with the Soil & Water Department to prepare new overlay maps.

**PLANNING – Councilman Van Deusen**—He reports that the Committee has not recently met, but he has been attending the Re-Zone Committee meetings.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY – Councilman Van Deusen** – Councilman Van Deusen reports that the next meeting of the Committee will be March 26. Areas of concern to be discussed include the Route 66 Dutch Village corridor and the Route 23 area by the new Claverack Fire House. A discussion was held suggesting to again write letters to the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) supporting changes be made to the Route 66 area by Dutch Village. Supervisor Andrews suggested meeting with the DOT engineers about this issue. It was suggested that previously written letters be reviewed and perhaps re-written with stronger language.

**WEBSITE –COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE-- Supervisor Andrews** – Supervisor Andrews reported that the website has recently experienced an increase in use; the number of visits to the site appear to have doubled; it was suggested that this may be due to the GAR property inventory data being placed on the site.

**COUNTY- Supervisor Andrews** – It was reported that the County Emergency Management Office has been open since March 7 due to the recent storm/flooding/power outages in the County. Board of Supervisor Chairman Roy Brown recommended that Towns affected by the storm declare a State of Emergency. Supervisor Andrews issued a five (5) day declaration on March 7 accordingly. She stated that six (6) NYSEG customers were still without power as of this evening.

Additionally, it was reported that the County is concerned about dams; it was noted that the Town of Claverack has four (4) within its limits. Property owners are required to submit an action plan to the town for evacuation. Supervisor Andrews will write letters to these property owners. She also reported that the December 26, 2010 storm has met the SEMO storm requirements for damage reimbursement. The Town can submit for reimbursement for these costs.

A discussion was held regarding recent news articles about the possible location of the new County nursing home on the Ockawamick property. It was noted that the Village of Philmont would not support this activity and would not consider extending the water and sewer lines of its districts to the location. No further information was available on the Ockawamick proposal.

**PHILMONT –Supervisor Andrews--**The Supervisor noted the upcoming Village of Philmont elections to be held March 15, 2011, and that the DPW garage plans are available for review at the Village office.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept the Preliminary Financial Reports. Carried.

It was noted that a “table top” meeting is to be scheduled with the Town’s Fire Departments to discuss and comment on the recently adopted Emergency Plan.

Resident Deputy Michael Merante reported that speeding concerns on Stone Mill Road are being addressed. He also noted that the Route 66/Dutch Village area is being monitored for traffic infractions.

Councilman Preusser reported that Dean Knox from Columbia County Highway would be holding a public hearing on April 7, 2011 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm regarding the proposed changes to the intersection of County Route 16 and Route 23. It will be held at the Churchtown firehouse.

A discussion was held regarding the increased truck traffic on Roxbury Road. Trucks are using GPS software that is routing them to Nova-Pak via this road. It was suggested that a letter be written to the County to address the railroad bridge at County Route 11.

Board of Assessment Review (BAR) – A discussion was held regarding increasing the number of members to five (5), with staggered five (5) year terms. In order to consider this, a Local Law must be established. Motion made by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Johnston to have a public hearing April 14, 2011 at 7:00 pm; with the regular monthly Board meeting to follow. Carried.

A discussion was held to set up a special meeting for the Town Board members and the Highway Superintendent to hold an on-site meeting to review the upcoming highway projects. It was determined that the meeting will be Friday, March 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Officials will meet at the Town Office; continuing on to meet the Highway Superintendent at the work areas. A notice will be posted to reflect this meeting.

**Meeting opened to public:**

**Al Wassenhove** - Restated the public opinion that Pine Haven Home remains in Philmont. He stated that building the new nursing home on the grounds of the current site is what has been discussed. He questioned the Certificate of Need application plans that are still not done by the County. He noted that they must be completed so that NYS Department of Health can review the application.

He also inquired as to why the County has continues to ask for further study of many of the recent issues in the news such as the use of the Wal-mart building, Ockawamick and the DSS building for county office space. He then asked the Supervisor for her position on building the new Pine Haven home in Philmont; she replied that she supported this. He then questioned her as to why the Ockawamick site was being considered for the nursing home. Supervisor Andrews replied that another supervisor had suggested this.

He also commented on the Martindale Road (County Route 11) trestle and its impeding truck traffic to NovaPak.

**Bill Poltz** – Asked for the Highway Department to fix the gouges in his lawn from plowing this winter. Superintendent Lamont to look at his.

**Joan Wassenhove** -- Asked if the County would consider using the Ockawamick property for the homeless.

**Tom Delamater** – Lives in Duntz's Acres; Town had previously done paving on this road. Asked if a catch basin could be installed. Superintendent Lamont to look at this.

Upon motion from Councilman Weigelt, seconded Councilman Johnston the Board went into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss personnel. Carried.

At 8:50 p.m., upon motion from Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston, the Board exited the Executive Session. Carried.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$43,343.02, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$720.86, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DA bills, totaling \$ 586.40, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$39,663.49, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$2,959.90, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Escrow Account bills, totaling \$390.00, were audited and ordered paid from the accounts.

There being no further business to be brought before the board, on motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen, meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Van Deusen: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Weigelt: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Johnston: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Preusser: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_