

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

May 12, 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 7:20 p.m. by Supervisor Andrews, who led in a moment of silence in honor of Gerald A. Oles, a member of the Board of Assessment Review for many years, and recently passed away. This was followed by 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
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for the Town
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Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept minutes of the April 14, 2011 Public Hearing, April 14, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting after addition and April 30, 2011 Special Meeting. Carried. In the Economic Development report, the Supervisor would write a letter to the New York State Department of Transportation regarding State Route #66 and State Route #23.

Dog Control Officer's Report for April 2011 received and on file in Town office for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Revision – Chris Post - Very productive meeting with combined Boards on April 30, 2011. Next meeting will be the 4th Thursday in May and now will be having two meetings per month – the 4th Thursday and the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Economic Development – John Lee – Sub-committees, including chairmen, formed to work on specific projects. Meeting with property owners of the “4” corners (State Rte. #23 and #9-H) intersection to discuss plans and safety concerns.

Bill First is to contact Valley Oil owners and Extra Mart to see if committee could assist in their planned expansion.

Discussion about Cable/Broadband contract with Mid-Hudson Cablevision.

Questioned if there were monies available to create a brochure or website to promote doing business in the Town. Need to know the availability of letterhead and envelopes for formal mailings to prospective businesses about moving to our Town and Villages.

Discussion held on the benefits businesses might have if they started a "Business Alliance" to assist in lobbying efforts. Should send a letter to Georgia Ray's Kitchen catering business, which recently relocated to Claverack.

Mr. Lee is to invite a representative from the Center for Economic Growth of Albany to an up-coming meeting.

Agricultural Advisory – Peter Reiss – Met as a Committee on April 27th and reviewed the Proposed Zoning Code for the Town from the perspective of consideration of how best to ensure the continuation of the Town's support of agriculture and farming in the Town. Continuing to review the document and will be developing thoughts to discuss with the Zoning Committee. Will be organizing comments at next meeting, which is scheduled for May 26th at 421 Roxbury Road.

Historic – Ian Stewart – Meeting time has changed from the 1st Thursday of the month to the 1st Wednesday. Meeting will be held at the Philmont Library.

Saturday, May 14, 2011, 10:00 a.m. will be the 1st Hamlet Walk for anyone interested. Will be meeting at the A. B. Shaw Firehouse at 10:00 a.m. to begin walk.

Ian Nitschke has completed final application for grant to work on the Shaw Bridge.

No further Volunteer Committee Reports.

CORRESPONDENCE

Note from George Keeler – Meeting with fire districts regarding consolidation of services. This is open to Boards of each Company and is for discussion only.

After short discussion and explanation by Councilman Johnston, motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to bring someone from the outside to discuss information with the fire companies involved. Carried.

Invitation received for the Annual Tobacco Free Coalition Dinner on June 09, 2011. A member of the Town is invited because the Town Park has been designated by the Town as smoke free. It was noted that the dinner is the same night as the Regular Town Board Meeting.

No further correspondence.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – All plows, wings and sanders have been removed from trucks.

Completed replacing all culvert pipes on Lockwood Road. Replaced two rotted culvert pipes and installed two new culvert pipes on Carlson Road.

Cold patching being done in all zones and grading dirt roads in all zones.

Fence around the “T”-ball field has been completed. Water has been turned on in the Park and Park is open for use.

Request made for a speed limit reduction on Stevers Crossing Road. Motion by Councilman Weigelt, Seconded by Councilman Preusser for resolution for same. Carried

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Insurance – Councilman Preusser – Did receive three proposals, but decided to stay with NYMIR. Dividend of \$1,237.00 was received for last year. Also, training available, both on-line and in classroom, in many insurance related areas, for Town employees.

Youth – Councilman Preusser – “Ellie” Esselstyn and Councilman Preusser seem to be only ones left on this committee.

Park – Councilman Preusser – Ball fields all set for use.

Grant Committee – Councilman Van Deusen- Still working on culvert, sidewalk and water to Park from Church Street.

Mining Committee – Councilman Van Deusen – Have been meeting and discussing some very positive changes.

Traffic Safety – Councilman Van Deusen – No meeting last month. Annual Banquet is this month.

Councilman Van Deusen stated he has been attending Zoning Review Committee meetings. Agrees that two nights per month necessary to get it completed.

County – Supervisor Andrews – HR Deputy Director position very controversial.

Wal-Mart continues to be considered for office building – Social Services has to be out by December.

Pine Haven Home - Informal meeting to be held with Department of State to discuss new design.

Finance – Supervisor Andrews – Sales check 5% less than last year. Amount based on census.

Mortgage resolution passed by County last night.

A woman spoke at the Columbia County Board Meeting regarding a Memorial program on September 11th in Valatie. This is the ten year anniversary of the 9-11 tragedy.

Reassessment – Councilman Johnston – In final stage of process. All going well and GAR is pleased. Appointments for Grievance Day not necessary.

No further Board Reports.

A report on the skateboard park given by Nathan Chess. Specs. should go to attorney and engineer in about a week. Want to have it reviewed and out by end of the month.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept offer from Alvarez & Sons for an office trailer for use during the 6-week Summer Youth Program. This would enable the Director to be present at the playground and not have to travel back and forth from the office building. Carried. A letter of appreciation will be sent to them.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to purchase wreaths for the monument in the Village for Memorial Day. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept Draft Financial Report for April. Carried .

One bid received for transportation for Summer Youth Program /Winter Ski Program:

Donald Kline
31 Blue Hill Road
Hudson, New York 12534

\$ 3.75 per mile
\$75.00 per hour waiting time

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept bid. Carried, with Councilman Johnston abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Supervisor Andrews to appoint Brian Goodrich to open Planning Board position. Discussion followed with Councilman Weigelt and Councilman Johnston putting up the name of James Keegan. For Brian Goodrich, the vote was Supervisor Andrews, Councilman Van Deusen and Councilman Preusser voting in favor. Councilman Weigelt and Councilman Johnston voted in favor of James Keegan. Motion carried with Brian Goodrich being appointed to the Planning Board.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Johnston to pay the insurance buy-out to the eligible employees quarterly, instead of at the end of the year. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to purchase the fence for the "T"-ball Park. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept \$12,207.38 from Columbia County Soil & Water for continued stream clean-up. Paperwork has not been received and is necessary for this.

Letter received from the Village of Philmont requesting total exemption from taxes. Discussion followed. Per Mr. Brewer, Chairman of the Assessors, three of the properties are assessed by the New York State Real Property Services. Will be discussed at next workshop meeting and still be able to make a decision at next Board Meeting in June.

Correspondence received from Stanley Koloski, Building Inspector, requesting Columbia/Greene Humane Society be excused from fees normally assessed for a new building permit. Councilman Johnston made a motion not to give waiver, seconded by Councilman Weigelt. Carried. It was noted that the Humane Society already gets \$305.00 from Town for each dog not redeemed within 24 hours.

Meeting opened to public:

Nathan Chess – Water study as discussed in prior meetings. Began last Fall – Will be working through August. Met with Mr. Gibson who will sign on bill that would enable continuation of program. Will wait for necessary round of funding.

Councilman Van Deusen, Highway Superintendent LaMont, Paul S. McCreary, PE and Nathan Chess met to discuss road regulations.

In regards to WalMart, what is going to happen with Ockawamick? Supervisor Andrews stated it will be put on the market. Town does have a clear two acre option. County cannot do anything with that option for 10 years .

Regarding the building of new bridge on Rte. #16 – need State approval – County wants to make it a natural curve.

Brian Wheeler – Questioned Costa property, Casivant property, trailer by Mellenville bridge and Speed's Garage. What is Town doing about getting owners to clean up the properties? Was told to write letter to Building Inspector.

Also asked what assessors are being paid as elected officials?

General A Fund bills, totaling \$62,151.24, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$3,147.26, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$16,030.46, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DA bills, totaling \$1,565.66, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A (SW) bills, totaling \$13,984.77, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no escrow account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston, meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____