

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

November 03, 2010

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 7:10 p.m., immediately following the Public Hearing on the 2011 Budget 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
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Robert Fitzsimons, Esq.	Attorney for Town
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Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept minutes of previous meeting of October 06, 2010. Carried

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Finished patching broken edges on Roxbury Road and Prach Road Extension.

Patched a culvert pipe cut on Stickle Road – Replaced two culvert pipes in Bate Road -
Cleaned out a drainage ditch on Macoun Avenue.

Chipped-sealed Palmer, Schroeder and Bate Road Extension.

Striped Stevers Crossing, Roxbury, Snyderstown, Stonemill, Schoolhouse, Gahbauer and Stottville Roads.

Roof on Town Hall/Town Court building has been patched.

Grading dirt roads in all zones. – Putting up snow fence and getting trucks ready for upcoming season by putting on sanders, plows and wings.

Water in Park buildings has been drained and winterized.

Councilman Johnston – A man who was experienced in roofing and had been given community service by a Claverack judge, was supposed to work on the Town Hall/Town Court roof repair, but never did show up, so Mr. LaMont pulled two men off highway work to do the job. Thanked Superintendent of Highways LaMont for doing this.

End of report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE – Chris Post – Handed out report to Board members. June at latest for work to be done, including public meeting. Version #3 would be distributed to Public.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Read by Supervisor – Meeting held October 20, 2010 – Discussion revolved around economic development opportunities at the intersection of Rte. 23B and 9-H in the hamlet, what possibilities there might be and what roadblocks might get in the way. Discussed cost of new traffic signs, curbing, sidewalks and crosswalks. Decided to pursue this further with representatives from the County before involving NYSDOT.

Also discussed intersection of Rte. 9-H and Rte. 66 and whether this would be an area better suited to efforts to expand commercial development. Decided that a representative from the County could answer questions concerning joint ventures for water and sewer, and what efforts the County is now using to promote commercial properties available in this area of the Town.

Short discussion held about a long range plan to improve the Humane Society Road with the thought of a bridge being built at some time to intersect with a road in Greenport (to be built) behind Walmart.

Decided to ask Town Supervisor and Ken Flood from County Planning to next meeting.

Next meeting will be November 17, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Peter Reiss – Reported the Committee met with representatives from the Glynwood Center and Columbia Land Conservancy and learned about the agricultural efforts taken by the Town of Chatham and other areas. They also suggested that the Committee should work closely with the Economic Development Advisory Committee to reinforce the economic benefits and opportunities that farming brings to the town.

A draft copy of a farm inventory survey, put together by Katy Cashen, and based largely on Ancram's inventory, was distributed and there was discussion about how best to gather information from farmers in the Town. It was suggested that prior to going out to conduct the inventory, a "kick-off" meeting be held in which farmers are invited to learn about the effort as well as provide input into the process.

Columbia Land Conservancy announced that the Columbia County Agricultural Farmland Protection Board is having a kick-off event the second week in November in connection with the development of the County Farmland Protection Plan and county-wide agricultural initiative, which will be an 18-month effort.

Peter Reiss and Jim Cashen met with representatives from the Farm Credit to learn about programs/initiatives that they have available for farmers.

Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., December 02, 2010 at 421 Roxbury Road.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION – Met last month. Still working on mission statement. Primary focus at present time is Shaw Bridge. Will be meeting 1st Thursday evening of month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office building.

GRANT COMMITTEE – Councilman Van Deusen – Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month. Only one member showed up last month.

MINING COMMITTEE – Councilman Van Deusen – Have been in contact with NYSDEC. Only 4 mines in Town – rest have been reclaimed.

STREAM CLEAN-UP – Councilman Preusser – Some funds are supposed to come from Columbia County Soil and Water. Highway Department has been working on Bate Road and County Rte. #16.

YOUTH SKI PROGRAM – Has not been much of a response so far. Will be extending sign-ups for another week.

No further reports.

Town Fire Companies doing spaghetti dinner fundraisers for the Chase family, whose daughter has been going through treatment for leukemia. Each fire company will plan its' own dinner.

Hildebrant Bridge is now closed – also Town of Greenport, in cooperation with NYSDOT is closing nearby intersection of Yates Road and State Rte. 9-H to all traffic. This could have been used as an alternate detour for Stone Mill Road Extension traffic and features a very poor Y-shaped alignment, minimal sight distance and poor turning radii.

Sal Cozzolino reported on planned trail from Courts Lane to Rte. 9-H. Encroachments have to be addressed – will talk to some of the landowners. County has also been contacted regarding this.

PHILMONT – Supervisor Andrews – Stewart's Store closing.

RESCUE SQUAD – Supervisor Andrews – Philmont Rescue Squad officially closing first week in November. Former insurance company building will be rented and garage will be built.

Supervisor Andrews went to workshop sponsored by NYS Grant for Parks. Nothing we can use at present time, but probably will come up again in two years.

Councilman Johnston and Charles Brewer, Assessor Chairman reported on the reassessment. Program is where it should be on the timetable. GAR is very impressed with the work done and the files in the Assessors Office.

Superintendent of Highways, Louis LaMont, reported that two of the Highway Department men worked on repairing the roof on the Town Hall/Town Court building. The person who was to do community service never showed up.

Water Department reportedly doing well – on line to pay back the \$100,000.00.

Will be working on **Personnel Policy**, which was discussed many months ago.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve Preliminary Financial Report for January – October 2010. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to approve Final Financial Report for January – September 2010. Carried

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston, to hold Public Hearing on Local Law #4, Dog Fees and Licensing Law, to be held on December 01, 2010, 6:45 p.m., prior to Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Preusser to appoint Morris Associates as Engineers, replacing Clough, Harbour & Associates. This will be effective January 01, 2011. Carried. Councilman Weigelt stated whole Board should have been included to meet with them before decision made.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to reappoint Daniel Barrett to Board of Assessment Review (BA). He had originally been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Gerald Oles.

Appointing a new Planning Board member, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Daniel Northrop, was tabled. Also tabled was appointment of Communications Committee.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser, for necessary transfers in the 2010 Budget, as explained in Resolution #50. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept the Preliminary Budget for 2011 as the Final Budget for 2011. Carried. Letter of appreciation will be sent to Michele for many hours of work on this.

Meeting Opened to Public:

Jack Race – Questioned Councilman Van Deusen on discussion of installing windmills on the roof of buildings at last month's meeting. Has checked into many sources and can get no information. Chris Post will send him information. Nathan Chess stated he has heard nothing, except the possibility for hi-rise buildings.

Councilman Van Deusen – Hildebrandt Bridge will not be opened in the future.

No further comment.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen, authorizing Supervisor Andrews to execute LOSAP Agreement between Churchtown Fire District, Town of Claverack and Town of Taghkanic. Carried. Councilman Preusser abstained.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$12,191.22, were audited and order paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$1,654.20, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

DB Highway Fund bills, totaling \$72,537.02, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no DA Highway bills.

There were no Escrow bills.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,119.92, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser, meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____