

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**September 01, 2010**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened at 7:00 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
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Robert Preusser	Councilman
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Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of previous meeting of August 04, 2010. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Repaired the abutments on both sides of the culvert on Catskill View Road. Replaced a culvert pipe on Snyderstown Road at the intersection of Bate Road, which was damaged by flood in 2007. Installed two driveway pipes, one on Sweeney Road and one on Courts Lane, and ditched 400+/- feet.

Grader patching and drag boxing Palmer Road and Bate Road Extension to prepare for chip-sealing.

Patching culvert pipes on Snyderstown, Roxbury, Decker and Manor Rock Roads and Brookbound Lane.

Mowing roadsides in all zones.

Park is winding down. Mario is back in college and Marty is keeping parks mowed and trimmed and buildings clean.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Zoning Review Committee – David Graziano** – Met with Katie Cashen who is on the Agricultural Committee. Making progress in small steps.

**Economic Development** – Sent report – Bill Jacoby has joined them. Met with Zoning Review Committee to review the proposed changes.

**Agricultural – Peter Reiss** - Meeting held August 25, 2010. Extended discussion regarding zoning regulation of farm animals within the town, with special attention to policies for hamlets. General agreement on need for flexibility and avoidance of overly restrictive rules. Also, there should not be discrimination between livestock dogs and non-livestock dogs.

Discussion of immediate next steps to undertake an inventory of Claverack farms, including completion of a questionnaire, initial criteria for farm operations to be surveyed and approaches to be used.

Mission statement for the committee. Based on ideas at the meeting, Chris said he would put together a preliminary draft that can be worked on by email before next meeting.

Mobile slaughter facility – Agreed that the issue would be best pursued at the county level.

Discussion followed. Question on livestock and non-livestock dogs. Some breeds are used/trained for herding on farms. Zoning Review Committee looking into animal husbandry.

**Historic Preservation – Sal Cozzolino** – Meeting supposed to be held on August 19, 2010. Was not able to attend, but requested a report of meeting – did not receive anything.

**Youth/Recreation** – No report – Mr. Cozzolino gave information that only two people attended last two meetings.

**Philmont – Supervisor Andrews** – Problem with dam at reservoir resolved. Public hearing on planning grant application.

**County – Supervisor Andrews** – Regarding County Administrator – Would like hearing comments from residents and what they think about this position.

**Assessors – Councilman Johnston** – Read update statement on “reval project”. Project progressing well. Workshops well attended. Staff has taken upwards of 2000 digital photos that are attached to files and will be used throughout the project and available to property owners on a needed basis. Project has entered valuation stage, which includes sales verification, neighborhood delineation and field review. GAR, along with the assessors, will begin conducting on-site field inspections to create new full-market values of the residential properties in September. A commercial property inventory survey will be mailed to commercial property owners in September and valuation of the commercial properties will occur this fall. Upon completion of the valuation, property owners will receive a 2011 preliminary assessment notice in February 2011. Then GAR will be conducting public educational workshops focusing on the informal review process. Property owners will then have an opportunity to challenge the new preliminary assessment during the informal review process in February and March of 2011, and will be notified as to the decision from the informal review process by the end of April. Property owners will have the ability to grieve their assessment, if so desired, on Grievance Day, May 24, 2011. The project will be considered completed with the filing of the 2011 assessment Roll on July 01, 2011. The new full value assessments will be utilized for the school tax bill processing in September 2011, and the Town and County tax bill processing in February 2012.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Stream Clean-up – Councilman Weigelt** – Another area for clean-up is from the creek in Mellenville into Claverack Creek. One area of the creek has moved 100’ due to large trees being down. Councilman Weigelt questioned whether there might be funds available to property owners. Will look into this.

**Councilman Johnston** reported American Legion Post #252 in Philmont will donate the two machine guns now located at their building, which has been recently sold, to the Town to be installed in the Town Park in the Hamlet on either side of the cannon recently placed there. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to approve same. Carried.

**Water Resource** presentation by **Steven Winkley (NYRWA)** has been rescheduled to next meeting, October 06, 2010.

Due to changes at the State level, Attorney Fitzsimmons has suggested that the Town delay in updating the **Code of Ethics Law** until notified of the changes by the State.

**Judges grant** – Carpet has been installed by **Glen’s Carpet**. Phase two is for the furniture, which will include 40 chairs – 2 against white tables with casters for witness and security – Audience stackable chairs – Also a lectern. Balance is \$4,947.39. Will be

purchased under Sate Contract from W. B. Mason, so cost may be less. Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to proceed with purchase. After discussion, motion amended to include authorization to make payment after receipt of invoices. Carried

**Mining Committee** – After short discussion, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to appoint Linda Guntert, Richard Viebrock, David Carl, Charles Brassard and Councilman Van Deusen to Committee, with Councilman Van Deusen as Chairman. Carried. There will be a meeting scheduled for sometime in October. Letters will be sent to all who sent letters of interest informing them of the decisions and to invite those not selected to attend meeting, if interested..

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston for budget transfer of funds due to third payment to GAR. Carried.

**Correspondence** available at Town Office for public inspection.

**Meeting Opened to Public:**

**Jack Race** – What are plans by County for Ockawamick building? Supervisor Andrews said there are no plans underway. Buildings and Facilities using part of the building at present time and used for law enforcement training. Building is not heated.

**Sal Cozzolino** – Regarding stream cleanup – Asked if Town gets permits, can individuals do it themselves without machinery? Yes. Cannot go into creek itself with machinery – have to go for permit from DEC.

Mr. Cozzolino also cut out newspaper article for grants. **Youth and Recreation Committee** has been given this article which is in regards to Rails to Trails.

**Bill Blaauw** – Highway Budgets in the newspaper not correct and information misleading. Also, in regards to Rails to Trails, there are many easements that must be kept open.

Questioned where carpet came from – Catskill. Would be nice to do business locally.

Spoke on former “Charter Supply”. A clean business with good employment and lots of jobs. Does not ask for anything from the Town. Truckers making deliveries and pickups worry about old railroad bridge on County Rte. #11 (Martindale Road). Sign states height is 12’9”. Have tried to get the County to take it down, but because of link to Rails to Trails, nothing has been done. Would like to see this taken care of so that Town can keep a business in the Town that provides employment and asks nothing from Town.

Questioned what will be done with old chairs once new ones received. Suggested that stackable ones be kept.

No further questions.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go out of Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Carried.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$27,379.76, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$1,864.16, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$128,697.99, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$10,136.81, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Mariner Tower Escrow bills, totaling \$1,847.50, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Homeland Tower Escrow bills, totaling \$2,278.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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