

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

December 12, 2005

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 called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor James W. Keegan, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

James W. Keegan	Supervisor
Anne Twaddle	Councilwoman
James Van Deusen	Councilman
William L. Blaauw	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Highway Superintendent
Joseph Romano	Town Engineer
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Town Attorney
Martha Pizza	Deputy Clerk
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilwoman Twaddle to accept minutes of previous meeting and Public Hearing held on November 14, 2005. Carried.

Supervisor Keegan introduced **James Gavin**, who presented and explained a resolution supporting and concurring in Columbia County's application for re-designation of certain areas within the Town as an Empire Zone. State has changed some property boundaries within some zones. Our zone has three (3) distinct areas – Hudson/Greenport, the Commerce Park and Livingston.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Blaauw to approve same. Carried.

Gretchen Stearns - Liaison for Comprehensive Plan Committee – Gave report on workshop sponsored by Committee, held on November 17, 2005, at A.B. Shaw Firehouse. Approximately sixty-five (65) plus Committee attended. Will have another workshop on a Saturday in February. Questionnaires will be sent out town-wide around

the third week in January. Estimated cost for mailings is \$6,600.00. Tabulation analysis will also be done.

In order to accommodate more people, Michael Brandon will ask for use of the former Ockawamick School.

Committee will meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Will not meet with consultant again until January.

Meeting opened to public:

Ian Nitschke – Said there has been some criticism if Empire Zone and questioned cost effectiveness. Mr. Gavin replied that improvements have been made in the program; jobs have been provided and incentives given through the program. Location of one new business in Greene County has provided jobs for Columbia County residents. Located there due to closeness to Thruway. Greene County not part of Empire Zone.

Virginia Martin – Questioned cost of website. Cost is \$2,190.00. Feels it is too costly. Also questioned qualifications of Tonya Stockman, chosen as Comprehensive Plan Committee secretary.

Report of Highway Superintendent –Louis LaMont – Cleaned ditches and replaced two (2) culvert pipes on Kittle Road. Finished putting plows and sanders on trucks for snow removal. Installed catch basin and 65’ of drainage pipe on Church Street.

Set up ice skating rink in Park and waiting for liner to arrive.

Worked three (3) snowstorms with no problems. Department did a good job.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Park Commission – Councilwoman Twaddle – Thanked Highway Superintendent for keeping walking path in Park open. Anxiously awaiting arrival of new liner for ice skating rink.

No further committee reports.

Building Inspector’s Report for November received and on file in Town Office for review.

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

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilwoman Twaddle to accept Columbia/Greene Humane Society contract for 2006. It was noted

that from January 01, 2005 – October 01, 2005, twenty (20) dogs were brought in from the Town. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Twaddle, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to approve October 2005 Financial Report, as prepared by Town Accountants. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to approve website contract with Robert Jones. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to appoint Tonia Stockman as Comprehensive Plan Committee secretary. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Twaddle to appoint Gary Steenburn to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Blaauw to appoint Daniel Northrop to the Planning Board vacancy, due to death of Peter Hotaling. This term expires 12/31/2006. Carried.

Thomas Schindler announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2005. Thanked Town and Town Board for opportunity to serve as Town Justice for past fifteen (15) years. Supervisor Keegan spoke of Judge Schindler as a true representative of the Town of Claverack, who always went the extra mile.

Letter of resignation received from Caren Mahar, ZBA secretary, effective December 31, 2005. Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilwoman Twaddle to accept resignation with regrets. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to set the following public hearings and meetings: Carried.

Thursday, December 28, 2005 –

7:00 p.m. – Public Hearing – Senior and Disability
Partial tax exemption.

7:15 p.m. – Public Hearing – Making Mellenville
Square a one-way street.

7:30 p.m. – Year-end Meeting

Monday, January 09, 2006

7:00 p.m. – Organizational Meeting

7:30 p.m. – Regular Monthly Meeting

Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilwoman Twaddle to go into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss litigation. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Carried.

Bills #628 - #722, totaling \$84,651.85, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway bills #364 - #402, totaling \$40,030.44, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills totaling \$480,099.46 were audited and ordered paid from their account.

Stewardship at Millbrook Road bills totaling \$1,623.53, were audited and ordered paid from their account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilwoman Twaddle, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Carried.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Twaddle: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Blaauw: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Town Clerk: _____