

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 12, 2007

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 Deputy Supervisor, William L. Blaauw, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

William L. Blaauw	Deputy Supervisor
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq	Town Attorney
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

James W. Keegan	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Highway Superintendent

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept minutes of Organizational Meeting, held on Thursday, January 04, 2007. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting, held on Thursday, January 04, 2007. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Ed Konow - Installation of water lines and work on private property - Never leveled or completed soil work on his property and said they were done. Doesn't need more soil, just needs leveling. Reclamation work not okay. Deputy Supervisor said company is scheduled to come back in the spring and finish work.

Virginia Martin - Read letter regarding Widewaters project in Greenport. Requested Board write letter stating not in support of mall project and its' impact as a neighboring Town. Councilman Weigelt asked Attorney Fitzsimmons if the Town has any rights legally in the decision process. According to Attorney Fitzsimmons, Town has no legal rights, but can send letter.

Howard Brandston - on Widewaters - Town needs to let Greenport know that an E.I.S. and complete SEQR must be required.

Virginia Martin - Also heard road may be constructed from mall through Humane Society Road to Route #66. Deputy Supervisor Blaauw stated Humane Society Road is a user road that is on Town's inventory, but not owned by Town. Final determination for project will be made by Greenport Planning Board.

Jim Nielsen - Resident of Bate Road - Town Highway Department dug trenches on sides of road. Road in horrendous condition and dangerous. Was told he should call Highway Superintendent with these problems.

Howard Brandston - Has not yet received letter from Board which was requested, concerning moratorium. Deputy Supervisor Blaauw will bring this to the attention of the full Board. Mr. Brandston still wants a moratorium and wants a reply in writing as to why Board will not agree to this.

No further comments.

There is no highway report due to absence of Superintendent of Highways.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Park Commission - Councilman Johnston - No report at this time. Looking into purchasing new tractor for upcoming season.

No further Committee Reports.

Building Inspector's Report for January received and on file in Town Office for review.

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

Councilman Weigelt spoke regarding the traffic light at Fish & Game Road and Rte. #9H. Activation very quick - doesn't seem to be properly timed on Rte. 9H. Deputy Supervisor Blaauw will bring this to D.O.T.'s attention tomorrow.

Comprehensive Plan Committee Report - Gretchen Steams - Have continued going over strategies - Went over last section last week. A draft of the complete plan should be ready for the Board this spring. In economic and land use, Committee feels it best to try to attract small businesses to the hamlet and larger businesses to Rte.' s 9H and #66. There has been growth in home-based businesses, but there is a huge need for high-speed internet.

After two townwide workshops and a survey, the Committee had focus groups to develop strategies for achieving goals in six categories:

1. Agriculture and farming
2. Economic Development
3. Housing
4. Historic Preservation
5. Open Space and Recreation
6. Hamlets

One of the real concerns is finding ways to increase the tax base. Columbia Hudson Partnership and Empire Zone could be useful. Another concern in the hamlet is that buildings would have to blend in with the other buildings already there.

A second draft of the strategies is going back to the focus groups for additional input. Mr. Post said each focus group will speak with the Committee on February 24th to discuss strategies.

Councilman Weigelt asked whether saving farms had come up in discussions and whether there is a way to save dairy farms. Mrs. Steams said this had been discussed at great length. Niche farms, such as organic farms or llama farms might be the future for Claverack farms. Another is with Columbia Land Conservancy's strategies to help preserve land through purchase of development rights. Also, there is the Keep Farming initiatives that are seen in some nearby towns. These programs educate about agriculture and help farms build a more sustainable agricultural base.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept Financial Report for November 2006 and encumber funds to pay 2006 bills and balance all accounts for 2006. Carried.

Correspondence received:

1. Howard Brandston regarding moratorium.
2. Resignation from Tanya Stockman as secretary of Comprehensive Plan Committee.

3. Caldwell Tanks-evaluation form for completed work.
4. Thank you from Senior Citizens for Town support
5. Pace University and Hudson Partnership for training program they are sponsoring for Planning and Zoning Boards at Columbia Greene Community College.
6. Labarge Group offering Planning and Zoning Board members training course.
7. Trident Insurance for opportunity to give insurance quote.
8. Invitation to attend Conference on Building Blocks for NY Communities on March 8th in Syracuse.
9. NYSDEC soliciting applications for State Wildlife Grants.
10. NYS Office of Real Property regarding residential assessment ratio.
11. Columbia County Land Conservancy, awarding \$100.00 each to Mellenville Volunteer Fire Company, Philmont Volunteer Fire Company, AB. Shaw Volunteer Fire Company and Philmont Rescue Squad

Deputy Supervisor Blaauw read Letter of Resignation as Secretary to Comprehensive Plan Committee from Tanya Stockman. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept resignation with regrets.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to copy letter from Virginia Martin to Greenport Planning Board. Carried.

Bills #13 - #54 and #66 - #72, General Fund A, totaling \$15,289.25, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Bills #55 - #94, General Fund B, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway bills #13 - #48, totaling \$19,946.16, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District #1 bills #2 - #4, totaling \$26,050.00 were audited and ordered paid from their account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Date: _____

Deputy Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigel: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Town Clerk: _____