

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

March 13, 2006

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 by Supervisor James W. Keegan, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

James W. Keegan	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
William L. Blaauw	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Highway Superintendent
Robert Fitzsimmons. Esq.	Town Attorney
Martha Pizza	Deputy Clerk
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Joseph Romano	Town Engineer
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Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Johnston to approve minutes of previous meeting of February 13, 2006. Carried.

Supervisor Keegan introduced Alex Snyder, a representative from COARC, to present plans for group home on Shasta Drive. Provides services for people with disabilities and concentrate on people from this area.

Mr. Snyder introduced Bruce Drake, who spoke on purchasing property. Clients presently in intermediate care home in Stockport. Five of the residents from there are planned to be in new home. Gave overview of plans.

Councilman Van Deusen - Questioned facility on Fish and Game Road, approximately one mile away from this proposed project. This is a State facility, so it is two different organizations.

Councilman Blaauw - By purchasing property ahead of time doesn't give local people much of an option. Property sale closed in November 2005.

Supervisor Keegan read part of letter received. What would be considered density where there is a State owned facility? There is a group home less than one mile away. Also, there is a Devereaux home across from former Ockawamick School building. COARC home is to be constructed under a not-for-profit organization. After second residence, would have to go before ZBA and Planning Board and would need building permit.

Gary Steenburn - Resident of Shasta Drive, next to where proposed home is to be constructed. Handed out information sheets. Property was on market for sale for a period of time. Gave overview as to why he is against project. Read deed restrictions for development. More traffic on road with buses taking clients to and from COARC plus staff and delivery vehicles. Mr. Steenburn and his wife own approximately 15 acres on Kittle Road. Offering this as an alternate site with no deed restrictions. Would also give \$25,000.00 donation to COARC in memory of Mr. Steenburn's mother.

Per representatives from COARC, under Mental Hygiene Law, this new construction considered one family residence and will be deeded to COARC. Any alternate site must be offered by municipality for COARC to consider it.

Gary Wallace - Resident of development - Damita Drive - Would Town offer this alternate site or was it done by individuals? Why is COARC choosing to isolate people? Why not locate in a Village or area where services are available?

Per representative of COARC, it would have to be cost effective. As yet, there is no approved design for a raised bed septic system.

Richard Schumann - Resident of Shasta Drive - Feels this is a somewhat commercial venture. Has COARC looked into Commerce Park? Board should consider this as alternate site. The Commerce Park is for industry and the group home would not be able to locate here according to Attorney Fitzsimmons.

Suggested alternate site on Kittle Road has seven homes nearby. Councilman Weigelt would like to see this site - has already seen the one on Shasta Drive.

Laura Cammisa - Can more than one alternate site be presented at one time? Kittle Road is a thru-road - Shasta Drive is on a cul-de-sac, so would be in and out traffic.

Roland Vosburgh - Town can object, but because of law, project will go through anyway.

Representative of COARC stated they have never met with this much objection.

Mary Wallace - Resident of Damita Drive- Get 3 gallon of water per minute. This new home may affect this rate. Also, there must be somewhere around the County where there is a home that could be renovated.

COARC representatives stated they could not find property to suit needs. Did not need Board approval to purchase land, which closed in November 2005.

Meeting opened to public:

Ian Nitschke - People at last meeting against rail trail on Boston/Albany rail bed – questions on real estate values and hunting. Gave information on benefits of the rail trail program.

Guy Pultz– Questioned whether Mr. Nitschke owns property near rail trail?

Virginia Martin – Wants to see letters received regarding rail trail being planned for Boston/Albany rail bed. Supervisor Keegan still going over them and will contact her. They will be left at Town Office for review.

Morgan Bowers – Is in favor of rail trail. Questioned time Board of Supervisors has to make decision on this. Per Supervisor Keegan, there is no time frame for them to make decision.

Councilman Blaauw – Stated he has only seen conceptual work, no details – no parking plan, what to do with bridges that have already been removed, etc.

Cyndy Hall – Thanked Board on opening dialogue with regards to Claverack School building. Supervisor Keegan stated that he didn't know where newspaper got information as Board hasn't even discussed this in recent months. Ms. Hall asked if Board had any inclination or decision when it does come up. Supervisor Keegan has spoken to School Board President who keeps him up-to-date.

Guy Pultz– Spoke on proposed rail trail. Would cut three farms in half, with land on both sides. (Tipple, Teaney and Starks farms). Would the rail trail raise assessments? Knows of a 60 foot bridge that would need to be replaced.

“Skip” Hover– Problem on Millbrook Road with proposed development. Bridge will not handle the extra traffic. Building Inspector and Highway Superintendent are aware of this.

No further comments.

Report of Highway Superintendent – 10 ice and snow storms. Continue to supply Mellenville outpost with salt for ice and snowstorms. Continue to supply outpost with screen fill for grading dirt roads in all zones. Graded Old Barrington, Thielman and Catskill View Roads. Repaired culvert pipe on Stickles Road. Removing bush and trees

on Old Barrington and Oak Hill Roads. Continue to service and repair trucks and equipment.

Requested permission to bid on new plow truck – One to be replaced is a 1984. Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to approve same. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Park Commission – **Councilman Johnston** – Has met with one contractor to plant trees along side of Park by cemetery fence. Will meet with two more. Working with Highway Superintendent on planned concession stand for Park near baseball and softball fields.

Cablevision – **Councilman Van Deusen** – Still some homes that are not able to be hooked up. They will not come for just one home – if there are 5 or 6, let someone on Town Board know.

No further Committee Reports.

Building Inspector's Report for February and Report for Year 2005 received and on file in Town Office for review.

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

Comprehensive Plan Committee Update – **Gretchen Stearns** – Had two meetings since last Board Meeting – one on farming and land use and one on affordable housing. Will be meeting with facilitator on the 23rd. Received \$7,500.00 grant from Greenway.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Blaauw to accept Financial Report for January 2006 after correction on page 6 - \$188.11. Carried.

After explanation regarding Bond issue covering increased cost of \$653,000.00, which has been approved by E F C, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston authorizing same. Carried.

Councilman Johnston reported many ads from contractors to hook-up water lines in new district. Cannot be done as yet – Lines have to be tested and charged.

Meeting to be held on Friday, March 17th with water engineer to go over policies and procedures.

No workshop 1st Monday in April. Councilman Van Deusen will be meeting with representatives to discuss LOSOP.

Councilman Blaauw reported meeting with John Keeler regarding Shag Hickory tree as discussed at last meeting. Mr. Keeler was assured tree will not be harmed.

Councilman Blaauw also checked with Building Inspector on complaint by Patricia Longley at last meeting of the Miller property located at Rte. #217 and Kraft Lane. A building permit for a garage was issued by Building Inspector, Stanley Koloski.

Roland Vosburgh spoke on Ag. District #3 – Working on eight (8) year review – mostly in Claverack, but some in Ghent and Greenport.

After short discussion, consensus of Board was to visit Kittle Road site offered as an alternate site for COARC group home on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Bills #81 - #131, totaling \$114,950.09, were audited and order paid from their accounts.

Highway bills #75 - #101, totaling \$37,696.81, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District #1 bills #9 - #14, totaling \$284,971.67, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Johnston to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and salaries at 10:00 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to go out of Executive session at 10:40 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to restore requested raises to Assessors and Assessors' secretary. Carried.

Judge James C. Sherman has requested permission remain as Town Justice until December 31, 2006. Presently, he is filling in for Thomas Schindler, who retired the end of December 2005. The appointment was originally to May 31, 2006. Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to approve same., Carried.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston, meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. Carried.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Blaauw: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Town Clerk: _____