

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**March 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 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
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Supervisor Keegan noted there were four students present from Government Class at Taconic Hills High School.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of Monday, February 12, 2007. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept minutes of Special Meeting held on Wednesday, February 28, 2007. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

**Martin Baumgold** - Has Town been in touch with Hudson City School District regarding Claverack School? Heard rumor lease may not be kept. Board of Trustees of Claverack Library met with school representatives and they may be able to take over lease. Supervisor Keegan answered "No". He has not heard this and he speaks to school representatives at lease once a week.

**Howard Brandston** - Still wants an answer in writing as to why Board will not institute a moratorium on building. Supervisor Keegan, after asking whether recorder was on,

stated again that the Board did not feel that it is necessary at this time. Mr. Brandston stated that more experts should be involved - people are not getting first-hand feedback from experts now involved. Wants outside experts to make decisions on development.

**Gretchen Stearns** - Addressing Mr. Brandston - Need better quality review. Does not see how moratorium will change things.

**Councilman Van Deusen** - Can't believe we have a problem. There is nothing to show it at this time.

**Ian Nitschke** - Did Town follow-up on Widewaters project as discussed in previous meeting? Letter read at last meeting by Virginia Martin was forwarded to Greenport Town Board.

**Councilman Blaauw** - As for Humane Society Road being used in project, as stated in previous meeting, it is a user road, not a Town road. Town maintains road from ditch-line to ditch-line, but does not own it. A bridge would also be needed.

No further comments.

It was noted that a member is needed for the Board of Assessment Review. Mr. Nitschke stated Peggy Lampman is interested and has the knowledge. Supervisor Keegan said anyone interested should send a letter.

E-Mail received from Enid Futterman regarding Colarusso project - Board should send letter wanting extension of open meeting time. Consensus of Board was not to send letter. Councilman Weigelt stated many experts out there on this project doing their job.

**Report of Highway Superintendent - Louis LaMont** - Worked 14 of 28 days in February and 7 of 12 days in March on storms. Repairing and replacing chains for trucks. Cold patching in all zones. Repairing dirt roads. Truck maintenance.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Cablevision** - Finally received check for last year's contract. Supposed to be paid for June each year.

No further Committee Reports.

Building Inspector's Report for February 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 - Gretchen Stearns** - Focus groups met again with some new input. Now plan needs to be edited - lot of overlapping to be cleaned up. Trying to draft explanation of residential zoning. Real need for high speed internet in Town. Supervisor Keegan will find out where we are in regards to this.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Blaauw to accept draft Financial Report for January 2007, as prepared by Town Accounting firm. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go out for bid for bus transportation for Summer Youth Program and Winter Ski Program. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Blaauw to appoint Neil Howard as Chairman of Board of Assessment Review, as recommended by Supervisor Keegan, on retirement of Gerald Oles, Chairman for many years. Carried.

Letter from Donald and Joan Cahill, living on Patroon Street in former Schindler home. Problem with drainage.

Letter from Caldwell Banker Real Estate office, regarding Anderson property on Route #217, Mellenville. Letter read by Supervisor Keegan - real problem selling this property due to condition of Casivant property across from the Anderson's. Attorney Fitzsimmons did not want to comment on the Casivant property problems as there is a trial set for next Monday.

Councilman Johnston suggested that the Board begin to focus on properties not in compliance with zoning regulations..

Councilman Weigelt again brought up a problem with the light at the intersection of Route 9-H and Fish and Game Road. Light automatically changes - he timed it at 3 seconds. Councilman Blaauw contacted N.Y.S.D.O.T. after last month's meeting. Perhaps a letter should be written. Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen for same. Carried..

In regards to Mr. Known's landscaping problem from new waterline installation, noted at last meeting, this will be taken care of when weather breaks.

Also, Mr. Nelson's problem on Bate Road has been noted by Highway Superintendent LaMont and will be taken care of when weather permits.

Highway Superintendent LaMont requested permission to go out for bid for a new loader. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to authorize same. Carried

It was noted that Samantha Steinborn, daughter of Gary and Shana Steinborn, earned three (3) gold medals in snowshoe events at the Empire State Games held recently. This will be recognized at next meeting.

Bills #95 - #138, totaling \$40,116.76, were audited and ordered paid from General A accounts.

Bills #66 - #72, totaling \$2,552.31, were audited and ordered paid from General B accounts.

Highway bills # 49 - #83, totaling \$44,889.42, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District #1 bills #5 - #9, totaling \$2,246.61, were audited and ordered paid from their account.

Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Johnston, to go into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss litigations. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Johnston to go out of Executive Sessions at 9:40 p.m..

There being no further business to be brought up before the Board, on motion by Councilman Blaauw, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Gloria LaMont, an employee of the Town for many years.

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

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

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

Councilman Blaauw: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**IN MEMORY OF**

**GLORIA LAMONT**

**RETIRED DEPUTY CLERK AND**

**EMPLOYEE OF THE TOWN**

**FOR MANY YEARS**