

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

March 09, 2009

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held at the Town Hall, Route #217, **Mellenville**, New York. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Keegan, James W. Keegan, **who** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

James W. Keegan	Supervisor
William L. Blaaw	Deputy Supervisor-Councilman
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Michele M. Fuchs	Deputy Town Clerk

Representatives from the Village of Philmont Board

Absent:

Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk
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Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting, held on February 9, 2009.

Meeting opened to public:

Albert Wassenhove - Has organized a grass roots campaign to keep Pine Haven Nursing Home located in Philmont. Has contacted other communities whose governing bodies have passed resolutions to oppose the Pine Haven move. Discussed concerns received from various community members regarding impact on residents of the Home, their families, the employees and the effected communities, Philmont, Valatie and Kinderhook.

Karen Cook – Currently owns the property immediately bordering the proposed building site for the new Pine Haven Home on Albany Avenue in Valatie. Showed a drawing with building location and site plan of the access roads to facility that will be right next to their property line. Also concerned about impact of this new facility being built in same community as current Barnwell Facility.

Sheri Mier – Spoke of her experiences as a screening nurse for local skilled nursing facilities and the high rate of families choosing the home closest to their own residence when selecting one and the high prevalence of Columbia County families choosing Pine Haven.

Howard Branston – Any update on his previous “Claverack Vision List”.

Councilman Johnston spoke of his positive personal experiences with Pine Haven. He also posed the question as to why would the County would entertain leasing a building from an outside party when it recently advocated for purchasing the Ockawamick campus to consolidate County Offices onto one parcel of land to consolidate services.

No further comments.

Discussion on Off Leash Dog Park, previously presented to Board. An update given by Kathy Rector revealed that the petition has gathered 135 signatures to date. Discussion ensued about various possible locations available within the Town. The park is to have no costs to the Town, with fundraisers and volunteer labor to provide for its operating needs.

Rick Tracey, administrator of Philmont Rescue Squad, provided statistics and information about the Squad’s current operating situation and the potential impact Pine Haven’s relocation would have on its livelihood.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Five (5) snow and ice storms. Gravel fill, coal patching and ice storm clean up underway.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZBA – Meeting on March 12, 2009 regarding Definitions.

Skateboard Board – Work to continue, possible completion by July 1.

Dog Enumerator/Canine Census – Discussion deferred until later date so applications may be reviewed by Councilmen.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Blaaw to accept preliminary Financial Report for February 28, 2009. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Blaaw to require two (2) signatures on all checks written by the Town in the amount of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) or more. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to write letter on behalf of the Town Clerk supporting the position of the New York State Town Clerk’s

Association to oppose Governor Paterson's proposed change to the ability of a Town Board to convert elected positions to appointed positions. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Blaaw, to support a Resolution drafted by Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro to oppose the elimination of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council and Hudson River Valley Greenway Heritage Conservancy. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, to ratify under New York State General Municipal Law Section 103 (4) to provide for the Highway Superintendent the authority to retain emergency services and hire outside contractors as need to ensure public safety needs are met. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to authorize the Highway Superintendent to solicit bids for Tree work and debris removal as related to the December 2008 ice storm damage. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Claverack Senior Citizen Club – Thank you to Supervisor Keegan for his attendance at annual election of officer's meeting and for the Town's continued funding of Senior Citizen Programs.
2. Mellenville Fire Department – Letter regarding information for responder's to access health insurance coverage through the Town's insurance policy.
3. Robin Andrews E-mail – Invitation to fifth Annual Philmont Business Social – Monday, March 30, 2009, 7:00 pm.
4. Chairman Baer – Letter regarding December 11, 2008 Ice Storm Declaration.
5. Letter from State of New York Department of Transportation – Speed Limit Reduction Request

No further correspondence.

Supervisor Keegan reported that the NYS DOT had denied the requested speed limit reduction for the Route 23 section east of Route 9H and the Route 23 B section of road within the 40 mph speed zone.

Supervisor Keegan also reported that he had recently attended a meeting with Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro with regard to the Federal Stimulus Package and its impact on the Town. Discussion concerning possible items for consideration such as weatherization for low-income residents, refurbishing of work on town bridges, as well as assistance to the Fire Department.

Councilman Johnston noted that the Town's FOIL request policy should be reviewed and standardized in accordance with the Open Government Law.

Councilman Johnston also discussed reviewing the Town's contract with the contractor for its web site and the possibility of performing this function within the Town Office.

Councilman Van Deusen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blaaw to form a committee consisting of Board Members and citizens for the purpose of developing and researching funding opportunities for the Town to apply for regarding the Federal Stimulus package and other grant programs. This committee would not represent the Town on these proposals, but would locate prospective programs for the Town Board's future review. Carried.

Councilman Blaaw discussed the pending repairs to the Town Hall/Garage roof, noting that the procurement policy was followed and the Standard Clauses for Contract would be utilized, subject to attorney approval.

Supervisor Keegan said that the bills would be presented, after which the meeting would be closed.

General A bills, totaling \$14,621.59, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$7,127.83, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$39,138.57, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,214.75, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen, meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor Keegan: _____

Councilman Blaaw: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Deputy Town Clerk: _____

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

RESOLUTION NO. 30

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, duly held on the 9th day of March 2009, at the Town Hall, NYS Route 217, Mellenville, NY, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by: James Van Deusen;

Seconded by: Clifford Weigelt.

WHEREAS, the Town of Claverack was subjected to an ice storm on or about December 12, 2008, causing numerous trees and tree limbs to fall resulting in blocked roads and fallen power lines causing county-wide power outages; and

WHEREAS, in response to said storm, the County of Columbia declared a county-wide State of Emergency, including the Town of Claverack; and

WHEREAS, the situation required an immediate response to clear said roadways to allow for emergency traffic to ensure the public health, safety and welfare of Town residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Claverack recognizes in such a situation, there is a permitted exception to formal bidding and procurement requirements. New York General Municipal Law § 103(4) expressly states "in the case of a public emergency arising out of an accident or other unforeseen occurrence or condition whereby circumstances affecting public buildings, public property or the life, health, safety or property of the inhabitants of a political subdivision or district therein, require immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding, contracts for public work or

the purchase of supplies, material or equipment may be let by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a political subdivision or district therein."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Claverack hereby ratifies all emergency contracts let by the Highway Superintendent to clear roads and roadways from trees, limbs and brush due to the unforeseen December 2008 ice storm and resultant state of emergency, the board herein finding that said situation provided the requisite public emergency that required the highway superintendent's immediate attention and action.

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Claverack Town Board members voted "Aye" in favor of the Resolution:

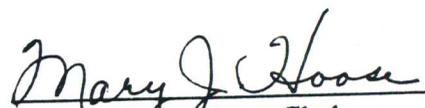
- James W. Keegan _____;
- James Van Deusen _____;
- William L. Blaauw _____;
- Clifford Weigelt _____; and
- Michael Johnston _____.

The following Claverack Town Board Members voted "No" in opposition, thereto: _____; and

"None" _____.

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Town Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of Claverack.

Dated: March 9th 2009


Mary J. Hoose, Town Clerk
Town of Claverack