

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 03, 2010

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 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept minutes of previous Organizational Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting of January 11, 2010. Carried.

Councilman Preusser – Attended Comprehensive Committee Meeting and also meeting with West Ghent Fire Company.

Councilman Van Deusen – Missed Traffic Safety Meeting. Met with Grant Writers.

Councilman Johnston – Attorney Fitzsimmons has updated bid specifications for Skateboard Park. Spoke with Superintendent of Highways LaMont, who has an issue in the Water District. Property owner at 621 Rte. 23B wants to hook up to water but there was no curb stop installed. This should have been done at the time of the water district work and needs to be done for the new hookup. Town is responsible and Highway Superintendent LaMont wants to get estimates for this to be done. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to give authorization to Superintendent LaMont for same. Carried.

Councilman Johnston will get together with Superintendent LaMont regarding the Town buildings. Also, in regards to the installation of lighting, Mr. Leggett was at the Town Garage yesterday.

Councilman Weigelt – Has met with Superintendent of Highways LaMont and discussed many issues and will be meeting to talk further. Superintendent LaMont has a project list and will be ongoing.

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont - worked eight small storms with the men doing a good job. Cold patching being done in all zones. Still picking up debris from the ice storm of 2009.

Helped the Village of Philmont with repairing one of their sand trucks.

Supervisor Andrews - Has been getting letters of interest for the new committees.

Zoning Revision Committee – Translating Comprehensive Plan for future. Letters of interest are a way of getting those from the focus groups and others. ZBA and Planning Board and the rules have reputation of not being user friendly. Need to know the duties of each of these Boards. Will be meeting on February 25, 2010 with Planning, Zoning and Town Boards. Nan will be coming back for March meeting, after going over the document.

Brought to Board's attention that County does have outdoor wood boiler recommendations

Also brought to Board was Arrow City (wind turbines) has been in the news. Are urging them to remain in Columbia County.

There is serious looking into making the Pine Haven Home building into a Veteran's home after construction of new nursing home.

Supervisor Andrews will be having a list of Columbia County Board of Supervisors resolutions available for interested residents to review.

Ongoing Business:

Website – Not currently under contract, but paid until end of March 2010. Will discontinue as of March 31, 2010. Looking into RFP. Volunteers will be looking at this.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Michael Johnston to appoint David Graziano, Jodi Keyser and Chris Lastovicka to committee.

The Grant Writers (now TGW) agreement read to Board by Supervisor Andrews. \$2,000.00 was budgeted to cover expenses for some of this in last year's budget. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to give authority to Supervisor to sign necessary documents.

Discussion on ISO rating for West Ghent Fire Company as there is much confusion about many parts of it. West Ghent has corrected any of the problems. The only remaining problem has to do with water pressure in the Commerce Park and this is a County issue. Building Inspectors follow the rules of New York State and the most recently published are dated 2007. The State is behind in publishing any new rules. This was also part of the ISO review.

James Cesternino, Chief of West Ghent Fire Company, led much of the discussion and stated there are many rumors out there, including another Fire Department taking them over. Has letter they received a few years ago regarding this.

Discussion on Reassessment. Letter that will be sent to residents to do outside analysis has been received. Attorney Fitzsimmons will go over it. Workshops will be set up to inform residents and answer any questions.

Will be getting quotes for Town Insurance, which renews in April.

Discussion on Local Law #1 of 2010, "Establishing income levels for Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemptions, and Local Law #2 of 2010, "Establishing income levels for disabled and low income Real Property Tax Exemptions". Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to hold Public Hearing on February 24, 2010 at 7:00 at the Town Office Building, 91 Church Street, Mellenville, New York. Carried.

If passed, the exemptions would be the same as the County exemptions, beginning at 50% for income under \$28,000. and going in steps to 5% on income to \$36,399.99.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to raise hourly rate of Highway Clerk from \$12.00 to 14.00, retroactive to January 01, 2010. This was overlooked in the 2010 budget process. Carried.

The Town has no contract with the present Town Engineering Firm, Clough, Harbour & Associates Will be checking into other firms.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to obtain quotes for Engineering and Insurance.. Carried.

Columbia/Greene Federal Credit Union is now open for new memberships. Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to check into this. Carried. It will have to be brought before all employees of the Town for consideration.

Attorney Fitzsimmons read a “Smoke-Free Park Resolution” sent by Tobacco coalition. Free signs are available. It was noted that the Park is already a smoke-free Park. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt for adoption of the resolution. Carried.

Public Hearing to be held on February 04, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the A.B. Shaw Firehouse to answer questions regarding the bonding for a new firehouse and the sale of the present building to the Claverack Library. Voting will take place on February 16, 2010 at the firehouse from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Only those residing in the A.B. Shaw Fire District are able to vote.

Meeting opened to public:

Charles Brewer – Assessor Chairman for the Town requested the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to go out of Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. Carried.

It was noted that there will be a meeting with GAR regarding the Reassessment in the Town on February 09, 2010

General A Fund bills, totaling \$12,125.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$2,704.70, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

B Escrow Account (Verizon) bills, totaling \$428.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$39,115.95, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water A Fund bills, totaling \$264.97, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser, meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____