

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

**Regular Monthly Meeting &
Public Hearing for Local Law #2 – Zoning Law Amendment – Boundary Line Adjustments**

April 12, 2018

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag after a moment of silence to honor all the victims of recent active shootings. Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for Town
Lauren Bell	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:	Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk
	Brian Keeler	Councilman

The meeting was opened with a presentation by Rich Nesbitt of Johnny Walker Insurance, the Town's Insurance Broker, to highlight the Town's current insurance coverage on the plan beginning April 1, 2018. Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the various policies and plans with the board.

Following Mr. Nesbitt's presentation Supervisor Weigelt opened up the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 – Amending Zoning Law for Boundary Line Adjustments at 7:15pm. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained that Local Law #2 of 2001 listed boundary line adjustments as a Class 1 minor subdivision where residents would have to present their adjustment to the planning board then have a public hearing and await approval. The Town Board and Planning Board asked for this process to become more streamlined. Attorney Fitzsimmons continued this zoning change would only affect applications where no new lots are created, the lots are conforming lots, not violating existing setback requirements.

Open to the Public

Mike Brandon, a resident in the Town and former ZBA chair expressed his concern the deeds of properties adjusting their boundaries in this manner would not be correctly adjusted and recorded with the county. He feels there might be future confusion. Councilwoman Cashen reminded Mr. Brandon a property owner who did not complete the deed correction would not have a clear title and would therefore not be able to sell their property. Councilman Hook also reminded Mr. Brandon the new law states a resident must correct their deed accordingly.

Public Hearing was closed at 7:19 pm.

The Regular Town Board meeting continued.

Approval of the March regular Town Board minutes and the March Workshop and PDD Special Meeting minutes were delayed to the April Town Board workshop to give the Board more time for review and clarification.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Superintendent LaMont told the Board he received CHIPS money from a March 2017 storm. Host tree service has been contracted to cut down dead trees throughout the Town. Highway workers are repairing dirt roads and putting snow fence away for the season. They have also completed road sweeping of 2 zones and have worked to ready the ball fields in the Town Park to be ready for the season.

Dog Control Officer's Report for April 2018 was received and is on file in the Town Office for review.

Committee Reports: No reports were received.

Correspondence

Including but not limited to:

- NYS Department of Public Service – Re: March 2018 Winter Storms and Related Power Outages and a series of public hearing statements.
- Claverack Library – Local Resources for Substance Abuse Treatment – Sunday April 15th – 2pm.
- Columbia County Department of Human Resources, Re: Summer Youth Employment Program
- Columbia County Planning Board – Re: Local Law amending Zoning – Boundary Line Adjustment
- Conti Solar – Re: Interest in possible use and development of Town property for commercial solar development
- Stephen King – e-mail – Re: Attending Town Board Workshop regarding incident at Claverack Library
- NYS Adopt-A-Highway Program Agreement
- NYS Department of Transportation – Re: Highway Work Permit Application for Non-Utility Work
- NYS and Local Retirement System – Employer's Guide
- Grant Langdon – Re: Petition for Town Board to pass a resolution backing legislation creating a commission to investigate Professional misconduct
- Columbia County Office of the Aging – Requesting a waiver of fees for use of the Town Park for County Nutrition Program to have ice cream social to recognize volunteers.
- Gretchen Stearns – e-mail – Regarding posting of Drumlin Fields project on website.
- NYS Department of Public Service – Re: Announcement of series of public statement hearings regarding the March 218 storm and resulting power outages – dates, time and locations
- Boy Scouts of America – Troop 752 – e-mail – Re: Letter of recognition for new Eagle Scout Samuel P. Keram.

Supervisor's Report

Attended a meeting with the City of Hudson and the Town of Greenport regarding the City of Hudson's desire to move the Truck Routes that run through the City. Supervisor Weigelt informed the Board his recommendation to the City of Hudson was to look for a way within their own jurisdiction before encroaching on Claverack. He explained there was a potential truck route alternative the City of Hudson has been reluctant to approve and urged them to do so. By doing so, it would alleviate a significant

portion of the traffic that runs through the City. Various alternatives were then discussed by the Board with Supervisor Weigelt concluding he will keep everyone informed.

Attended an active shooter drill at the County. Found this a very interesting exercise and very eye opening. Informed everyone there was another active shooter drill at Taconic Hills School for the Sheriffs and State Troopers. These drills help first responders change their methods to help the most people in the event of an incident. Mr. Weigelt expressed his regret this has become a new normal.

Updated the Town on the status of the County upgrading Fish and Game Road (County Route 18). This will not be started until 2019. The County is still figuring out boundary issues and pole placement to widen the road and get it up to current specifications. The County will only patch the road this year and wait for next year to do anything more permanent.

Discussion then began regarding placing Public Hearing documents for Planning and Zoning Board applications on the Town's website. Councilwoman Cashen asked Attorney Fitzsimmons to explain to the Board what he told the Planning Board regarding a recent application. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained documents should be placed for public view on the Town website. He recommended deciding on a case by case basis which applications need to be placed on the website; this would generally mean larger projects and reminded the Board anything submitted to either the Planning or Zoning boards is already a public document. Councilwoman Cashen feels this is necessary for the public to be able to view the documents themselves, it is both costly and could be awkward to review large scale maps and documents at the Town Office. Supervisor Weigelt was concerned applications might be hindered by placing their documents online. He was reminded by Attorney Fitzsimmons it is up to the Planning and Zoning Boards to make sure the public does not misconstrue information at a public hearing. It was recommended when an application is ready for public comments, that is when these documents should be made available. Councilwoman Lee asked who would decide which applications would be made public and who would decide. Attorney Fitzsimmons stating some kind of system would need to be created, the Planning and Zoning Boards would be able to gauge the public reaction to a project and make the recommendation. Councilwomen Cashen and Lee remarked this was a good thing because sometimes at the meetings it is very hard to see the presentations. Supervisor Weigelt remarked it is a good way to save money as well. The Town Board agreed the process would be refined but were content to move forward.

Supervisor Weigelt then asked Attorney Fitzsimmons to discuss the change in status of the Shaw Bridge. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained after reviewing documents regarding the Grant award for restoring the Shaw Bridge the State concluded Columbia County owned the Shaw Bridge and the County would therefore become the administrators of the Grant. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained he attended a meeting with county representatives and after some discussion it was decided the County would transfer whatever interest they had in the bridge to the Town. This would be a legal transfer filed with the County Clerk. In lieu of this transfer a representative of the County would administer the grant. The Town would be responsible for organizing the work, getting bids from suppliers and provide engineering services. This would have to be approved by first the County Public works committee and then go for final approval from the County Board of Supervisors. Councilwoman Cashen reminded this was still a matching grant. Fundraising efforts should continue as well as the coordination of in-kind professional services. Supervisor Weigelt was happy this process could now move at a faster pace, the goal being for people to be able to walk on the bridge. Attorney Fitzsimmons clarified it was a user road that was just not maintained, not abandoned and there is an easement on the Town Road if neighbors complain of people being on their property.

End of Report.

Town Board Members' Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Went to the Copake Town Office to review the building. Attended a meeting with the State DOT regarding a shared services program, Adopt-a-Highway program and means of communicating in the future regarding State Highway concerns. Reported guard rails on Route 23 in Craryville will be installed sometime this month. Reported a request was made to publish a lighting district map on the Town website. After reviewing the steps necessary to produce the map and the cost, asked the Board to further discuss this request at a workshop. Met with Jay Trapp, building inspector. Spoke with Robin Reynolds of the Clean Energy Commission regarding upgrading lights to LED and the potential to join the lighting consortium. Attempted to reach out to Joe Palone of National Grid regarding lights out in the hamlet. Commended Superintendent LaMont on his speedy fix of a sinkhole on Brookbound Lane.

Councilwoman Cashen - Followed-up with Insurance Broker, Rich Nesbitt on Town Insurance quote. Participated in meeting with Planning and Zoning Boards to review and discuss draft PDD law. Attended April Planning Board meeting and received applicant materials for posting on the town website and fielded calls about the materials. Met with three town resident garden experts in order to develop a proposal for the Town Board to consider for upgrades and improvements in the Hamlet park. Superintendent LaMont informed the Board, Host tree service is supposed to fix the tree in the Hamlet park. Councilwoman Cashen continued she worked on edits to the website as well as aided in the introductory language on the Business Directory on the Town Website. Followed up with State Officials on the Broadband grants, responded to resident inquiries about these grants and a timeline for expansion throughout the Town.

Councilman Hook – Attending a meeting, as the Town's representative, for Philmont Community Day. Worked with DOT to fix a sinkhole on State Route 9H. Worked with Building Inspector Trapp in reviewing various property complaints. Had made and posted no smoking signs in the Town Park. Procured the deed for the Claverack Town Hall for architects to use when designing the proposed multi department/multi-use fire house on the same site. Informed the Board the County has requested a nominee from the Town as a Summer Intern. Met with Keyser drilling regarding proposed Town wells and potential pricing. Will continue to work on this at the Board workshop. Supervisor Weigelt explained Water District #1 is supplied from the Greenport Water Department. They have variable rates. If the Town had their own water supply, there would be a fixed rate for residents, thus saving money. Councilman Hook continued to report there will be construction on the approach to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge as the State is putting in a round-a-bout. Construction will be concluded in November. He also informed the Board, a letter was received from a resident on Patroon Street regarding requirements for building in a designated Flood Zone. Attorney Fitzsimmons responded he would have to review the law and get back to the Board.

End of Reports.

Motion to accept financial statements was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried.

Motion to notice for bids for the Summer & Winter Youth Program Bussing was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried.

Motion to accept Shared Services agreement with the State DOT was made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook. Carried.

After explanation and review by Attorney Fitzsimmons **Motion** to declare a Negative Declaration for SEQRA for 2018 Local Law #2 – Zoning Law Amendment – Boundary Line Adjustments was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried.

Motion to accept 2018 Local Law #2 – Amending Zoning Law for Boundary Line Adjustments was made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried.

In other business:

The Office of the Aging contacted the Town Board regarding a waiver in fees for their use of the Town Park for an end of the year gather. **Motion** to waive the park fee was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried.

It was explained the Town Court Pitney Bowes Postal Machine lease has expired and a lease needs to be signed. **Motion** to renew the lease was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried.

It was explained as a means of cost savings the Town Board has budgeted to replace various Town Office computers on a rotating basis. **Motion** to approve to approve quote to purchase computers was made by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook. Carried.

The Board received a letter that resident Samuel Keram has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. A letter of recognition will be sent to Mr. Keram.

There being no other business the meeting open to the public:

Howard Brandston, resident of the Town, wanted to caution the Board about LED lights. In his profession he has seen various misinformation regarding the benefits of LED lights and offered his assistance when the Board chooses to proceed.

Michael Sesserman, resident of the Town, wanted to thank the board for placing “No Smoking” signs in the Town Park. He was happy the Town was looking into replacing lights with LED lights and seconded the need for professional opinions. He also wanted to know the status of the Church Street sidewalk grant – to which there is no update.

Mike Brandon, resident of the Town, wanted to also caution the Town regarding LED lights as well as inform the Board there will be an Active Shooter drill administered by the Columbia County Magistrates at the Livingston Town Court, Friday, April 13, 2018. He also wanted to commend the Philmont PD who act as Bailiffs on Claverack Court nights.

Ian Nitshke, resident of the Town, informed the Board he reached out to the Dean of civil engineering department at RPI. He reported the Dean is willing to have students do a measured drawing of the Shaw Bridge, which has never been done before. This will be a very useful document in the restoration process. It would be supervised by a professor and would be worked on over the summer of 2018. They would need the owner of the bridge’s permission. They will also be looking to see which components of the bridge are original and which have been replaced and date them. Supervisor Weigelt gave his approval for the school to perform these tests over the summer.

Jim Brady, a resident of the Town, reported to the Board that he is on the Columbia County Volunteer Fire Department Board and will be spending the week of April 22nd going from school to school as part of

a recruiting initiative throughout Columbia County for the various Fire Departments. He also wanted to thank the Columbia County Board of Supervisors for changing the fireworks law to be more restrictive. He then asked the status of the Town's Employee Manual and wondered if workers can and or should be more involved. Supervisor Weigelt informed Mr. Brady it is being reviewed by professionals and should be completed shortly.

A question was asked about establishing a Town Dog Park. It was stated this was attempted but there are too much liability and expense at this time.

Councilman Hook told the public the County Department of Social Services will be at the Town Board Workshop on Monday, April 30th to discuss the Yorkshire Motel which appears to be being used as a County Homeless shelter all are welcome to attend.

There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Weigelt closed the public comments.

General A bills, totaling \$20,939.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$3,047.12, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$33,276.13, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$371.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Escrow bills, totaling \$101.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Deputy Town Clerk: _____