

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

July 13, 2017

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who introduced representatives from the Postal Service in regards to find a new site for the Mellenville Post Office. They are looking for land to put a modular unit on and should contain approximately one-half acre. There has been a month to month rent since 1999.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr. Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
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There was a suggestion that the Mellenville Grange be considered. It is a former railroad station that had been used by the Grange for many years, but has not been used recently. It is in need of repair and would be saving and putting to use a very old building that is on the National Register. There is plenty of parking space and is in near proximity to the present post office. There will be contact with former member or members of the Grange to see if there might be interested in this.

If any members of the public have ideas of property available, they are asked to bring the ideas forward. There is a 30-day comment period.

Supervisor Weigelt then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of previous Regular Monthly Meeting of June 08, 2017 after correction. On the second page, second paragraph, it should be "The Planned Development District that they are requesting was in the Zoning Ordinance, but was not included in the update completed in 2012." Carried.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

E-mail – D.L. Davey – Re: Amedore Project
E-mail – Gretchen Stearns – Re: Amedore Project
Guterman Shallo & Alford LLC – Re: Town of Hillsdale Local Law #3 of 2017
Blue Shield of Northeastern NY – Notice of renewal and 2017 rates
Town of Ghent –Public Hearing – Re: Local Law #2 of 2017 – Amends Zoning Law Chapter 190
Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack – Re: 250th Anniversary of Sanctuary Building
Claverack Free Library
Philmont Public Library – Re: 2018 Budget
Koethi Zan – FOIL – Re: Records of development project
US Postal Service – Re: Relocating Mellenville Post Office
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Summer 2017 Programs, Workshops and Events
REMO – Paperwork complete
Wm. Pierson – Requesting vehicle speed study on Fish & Game Rd. between 9-H and Rte. 217
Grant Langdon – Re: Arson many years ago
Rip Van Winkle Amateur Society – Invitation to attend 2017 Ham Radio Field Day Event at Town Park on June 24th and 25th
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Re: Site off Roxbury Rd.
NYS Dept. of Public Service – National Grid requested that NYS Public Service Commission approve proposed rate increase
Robert Preusser – Churchtown Fire Company receiving Federal funds to purchase safety and rescue equipment

Supervisor's Report

County information included news from Greenway – Grant applications for Rails to Trails for B & A trail.

Senior Guidance available, which has resources available for elderly.

Have received information on Clean Energy Communities.

Fish and Game Road Project on tract - talking to people residing along that road. This is a two-Year project and hope that it will be completed in 2019.

Working towards completing solar project at Town Garage.

Town Board Member's Reports

Councilwoman Lee - Received copy of new website for review. As of June 19th, Technology4All was still working on background for formatting and layout.

Received call from Rick Frick of NYSDOT stating they are working on the water problem along Rte. #23 in Martindale, where they had been contacted regarding safety. He stated that it is on private property. She requested again for the State to consider putting guard rails along that area. She will follow-up on this.

Met with Charles Brewer, Assessor, to finalize lighting district adjustments.

Reviewing Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Laws.

Attended Monthly Planning Board Meeting.

Attended Town of Claverack Meeting on June 10th on proposed Planned Development District (PDD).

Met with Town Clerk on new website.

Made appointments with each employee involved to explain healthcare with Committee members and Healthcare Broker. There will be three options to choose from in the upcoming open enrollment, which is scheduled for September 1st.

Councilman Keeler – Was on Committee with Maryanne for insurance and three different plans offered. Employees were met individually and were told they would have their choice from the three programs.

Talked with Brett Holmes regarding Summer Youth Program. Over 100 participants the first day.

Received legal comments from Attorney Fitzsimmons on the Policy Manual. Should be completed soon.

Financials at this time of the year looking good. Will be asking a few questions of Sue Meddoff, Town Bookkeeper.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended training session with youth counselors on State Program for free lunches for youth during Summer Park Program.

Reviewed new website and gave comments to new webmaster. Has pictures to be reviewed for possible use on new website.

Worked with present webmaster to update Town website.

Met with “Jay” Trapp, Building Inspector, to discuss informal Planning Board applicant process and also discussed the process with Planning Board members. Also attended Planning Board and ZBA Monthly Meetings.

Received questions from residents regarding proposed Planned Development District and Amedore Project.

Also, participated with Town Health Insurance broker and met with Town employees to discuss insurance options.

Councilman Hook – Attended luncheon at Pine Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Home with Supervisor Weigelt and Town Clerk. This was sponsored by the Claverack Senior Citizens Group.

Worked with people taking care of mold problem at the Town Hall/Town Court.

Spoke with owner of Almstead Nursery and was able to get wood chips for Town Park donated.

Met with Brett Holmes regarding Summer Youth Program at the Park.

Attended awards ceremony at the Claverack Library.

Installed two AED's, one at the Town Office Building and one at the Town Park.

Read Letter of Resignation from Reginald Conklin, Town Dog Control Officer, effective July 13, 2017. Attorney Fitzsimmons said that the Town has to have a Dog Control Officer because Town issues Dog Licenses. Town can work with an officer from another Town. Village of Philmont can have their own Dog Control Officer, but it is not a necessity since they do not sell dog licenses.

End of Councilpersons reports.

Supervisor Weigelt said that going to the luncheon at Pine Have made him feel a bit younger. He also reported that the owners of Pine Haven are filing a tax grievance. Town, County and School District may work together on this. The request is from an assessment of \$6,000,000. to \$400,000.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to allow Technology4All to administer to Town of Claverack e-mail and make any and all necessary changes. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to send out letter, as drafted, to all residents in lighting district. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept January – December 2016 Draft, May 2017 Draft and January – December 2017 Draft Financial Reports. Carried.

After reading and explaining proposed resolution authorizing a lease of vacant land, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for approval of same. Carried.

Supervisor Weigelt stated that the PDD Law should be looked at closely and meetings should be set up with Planning Board and ZBA. They will be invited to the Monthly Workshop on July 31, 2017, along with Liz Axelson, Certified Planner. Secretary of the Planning Board and ZBA, Jodi Keyser, will be contacted to let both Boards know of the workshop meeting.

Councilwoman Cashen stated that she felt the Town should step back and discuss if this is the direction we want to go. Attorney Fitzsimmons said that an escrow should be collected from the developer to pay for legal, engineering and planning fees on the development of a PDD. Councilwoman Cashen stated that she did not think it was appropriate and would be a conflict of interest for an escrow account to be established and paid for by the developer for the work on a PDD.

Councilman Keeler stated that at the present time this is at the explorational level.

Councilwoman Lee agrees and has been reading a lot on the subject. This whole discussion is in the infancy stage.

Councilman Hook agrees that this is in the explorational level and infancy stage.

Councilman Weigelt stated there is a need to meet and talk about this and Councilwoman Cashen said there are too many unanswered questions at this point.

Meeting opened to public:

The following topics were brought up regarding Amedore Project:

Concerns about sewage disposal

Concerned about what appears to be coaching to Amedore to help them get through process

Should have some distinguished designer

How would Town Board members feel about this in their "backyard"?

Beautiful area that needs to be preserved

Jim Brady – Problem with cars parking on Town Road near High Falls, making it very dangerous. Need "NO PARKING" signs in area

Ian Nitschke – Very frustrated about Shaw Bridge project and the time it is taking. Could have used Columbia County Historical Society. Supervisor Weigelt stated he has been in contact with the State and the representative handling this has been ill. She will be in contact when she returns to her office.

General A bills, totaling \$18,353.53, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$3,835.34, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$13,123.39, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water A District bills, totaling \$1,623.10, were audited and ordered paid from their account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor; _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____