

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

November 09, 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 called to order by Deputy Supervisor, Stephen Hook, who led in a moment of silence in observance of Veterans Day, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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| Stephen Hook | Deputy Supervisor/Councilman |
| Kathleen Cashen | Councilwoman |
| Brian Keeler | Councilman |
| Maryanne Lee | Councilwoman |
| Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq. | Attorney for the Town |
| Louis LaMont | Superintendent of Highways |
| Mary J. Hoose | Town Clerk |

Absent:

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| Clifford Weigelt | Supervisor |
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Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous Regular Monthly Meeting of October 12, 2017. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Completed box culvert project on Preusser Road. Did blacktop work on Palmer Road.

Hauled in all of the road sand for the winter, putting up snow fence and putting plows and sanders on trucks.

Working on changing the intersection on the end of Millbrook Road and County Rte. #12 to a “T” type Intersection.

Closed the Town Park for the year.

End of Report

Committee Reports

No reports received in the Town Office.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Claire Every – Re: Court Laborer position.
Stephen King – Consideration for appointment to Columbia County Planning Board
Chris Post – Re: Reappointment to Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)
Chris Post – Re: Consideration for appointment to Columbia County Planning Board
PKHB – Resolution authorizing Supervisor to file Tax Cap for 2018 Budget
Local Law #2 of 2017 – Extending an exemption from real property taxes for real property owned by veterans who rendered military service to the United States during the “Cold War”
NYSDEC – Re: Extension to October 20, 2017 for replacement of an undersized culvert carrying water in Hollowville Creek
NYSDOT – Re: Statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) – Application must be submitted by March 09, 2018
NYS Comptroller’s Office – Re: Newly Elected Officials 2018 Training School
NYS Comptroller’s Office – Re: Latest Fiscal Stress Scores – No fiscal stress for Town
The Pines at Catskill – Re: Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Monthly Support Group – Held every 2nd Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.
Columbia County Environmental Management Council – Re: Natural Resources Inventory
NYSLRS – Re: Employer Forum for Fall of 2017
NYS Government Finance Officers’ Association – Re: Annual Conference
NYSDOT – Re: Rtes. Rtes. 9-H/23 – Highway boundary
NYS Association of Towns – Ethics Seminar – Thursday, November 30, 2017 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
To Supervisor – Invitation to 92nd Annual Banquet of Mellenville Volunteer Fire Co.
Megan Phillips - Re: Claverack Creek Historic Sites and Public Waterfront Access Study Meeting

There was no Supervisor’s Report this month.

Board Members Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Received email on October 13th from Dave Fingar that Mid-Hudson Cablevision had applied and received grant funding to build Snyderstown Road and the side roads along it. It has been started and are in the process of attaching to utility poles, which will take six months or more. Once they received pole licenses from the other utilities, they will build their fiber optic broadband network there.

Attended Monthly Planning Board Meeting as liaison from the Town Board, along with Councilman Keeler. Some of the applications coming to the Planning Board are complex and challenging. One is the interpretation of the NYS Agriculture & Markets Law. I would suggest that there be mandatory training and continuing education for all Planning Board members and consider the same for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) members. I think there can be excessive costs and time spent to both the applicants and the Town in reviewing some cases. There was discussion by Planning Board members to add workshops.

This might be on an “As Needed” basis and not on a regular schedule. There was also a mention of the possibility of the Town forming a sub-committee specific to agri-tourism, which has become a very popular niche market.

On November 7th, interviewed candidate for position of part-time Court Clerk. Starting date will be Monday, November 13th and starting salary rate at \$14.56.

Town Employee Manual Committee close to finalizing review of the manual.

Community Choice Aggregation Program. a new program, authorized by the Public Service Commission, allows Towns, Villages and Cities help protect residents from predatory marketing practices, save money on energy costs, and advance other community energy goals. All residential and small commercial customers electric accounts within the Town pool their energy needs. As a cost-saving effort, Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance (Mega) and NYS Association of Counties have partnered for more than ten years to arrange energy supply options for County and Municipality facilities. The benefit is buying power, strength in numbers for better rates. Energy suppliers know that they are competing. Community Choice Aggregation Program allows for customers to opt out. Key piece is outreach and education to residents. People need to be engaged and informed of their choice. There would be public hearings, newspaper announcements and whatever means is best to reach residents. More discussion is needed and there is a 30-minute webinar available for the Board to review.

Have been meeting with Building Inspector to discuss abandoned houses and buildings in the Town. Discussed the Statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, where there is funding available in Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program and pedestrian safety projects on local and county urban roads and streets. Applications must be submitted by March 09, 2018.

Councilman Keeler – Reviewing Personnel Manual, hoping to have it completed soon.

Attended Planning Board Meeting as liaison from the Town Board, along with Councilwoman Lee.

Working on fire districts to try and iron out any problems.

Worked on Budget for 2018 to stay under Tax Cap. Thanks to Mike Bucci and his staff for their input and guidance.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended Budget meetings and workshops for the 2017 Budget.

Worked on updates to the Employee Personnel Handbook. Checked with other Towns for related items to our manual.

Worked with Town Clerk’s Office to update Town website on a number of items relating to announcements and public notices and other relate documents.

Worked with Town Office staff regarding bus service for the Winter Ski Program.

Responded to questions regarding widening of Fish and Game Road.

Researched signage from other Towns and costs.

Met with Building Inspector on various questions related to property upkeep responsibilities.

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman – Stopped by the Town Office almost every day to see if there was anything to take care of.

Attended Planning Board Meeting.

Worked with Dog Control Officer, Reggie Conklin, who will be coming back in that capacity.

No further reports.

Opened to Public:

Joanna Tipple - Questioned information on property maintenance and the Junk Law.

Ian Nitschke – Gave information on house tour.

Questioned the taking down of bridge at Webb Road. This is a County bridge and Councilman Hook will check with the County.

Spoke with Supervisor Weigelt regarding speed limit on Rtes.#23 and #23B..This is a State road and a speed limit reduction has been requested by the Town many times. Feels it needs to be addressed again.

Will be selling daffodils again, this time including the Village of Philmont.

No further reports or questions.

Motion by Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Hook for resolution to approve Final 2018 Budget. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to authorize Supervisor to file Tax Cap Calculation. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler to adopt Local Law #2 of 2017 – Cold War Veterans Exemption extension. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler to establish escrow accounts and practices as recommended by Town Building Inspector. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve the hire of a Deputy Court Clerk. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept Draft January – December 2016, Draft January 2017 and Draft October 2017 Financial Reports. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$ 8,731.32, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$ 3,095.89, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$148,878.85, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District #1 bills, totaling \$ 3,096.04, were audited and ordered paid from the 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 Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Date: _____

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____