

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

September 14, 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 Supervisor, Clifford Weigelt, who requested a moment of silence for the 16th Anniversary of 9/11 and for the victims of the recent hurricanes, Harvey and Irma.

Present:

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

Supervisor Weigelt then turned the meeting to representatives of Dutch Village Mobile Home Park. They have many problems with the Park, which was recently purchased by Brian Cook from Webster, New York. A petition was presented with signatures from Dutch Village Mobile Park Association, stating that they are going to be charged for water. The water has been presenting problems for quite some time. The residents feel that the big problem is that the water pipes that run thru the park are not properly maintained and are over 50 years old. They think that they should be upgraded. At the present time the water is rusty, dirty and undrinkable. It is a Senior Park and they now have to buy bottled water to drink. Also, they have had to replace many articles ruined when doing laundry. With so many on fixed income, they cannot afford the extra expenses incurred.

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont - Road has been chip-sealed from– Gahbauer the Town of Ghent line to NYS Rte. #217 and Prach Road from County Rte. #11 to Hillsdale Town line. Old Barrington Road has been oil and stoned from Oak Hill Road to NYS Rte. #23.

Ditching being done on Catskill View Road.

Street signs are being replaced around Town and continuing mowing roadsides in all zones.

Committee Reports

None received in the Town Office.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Wes Powell – Interested in Dog Control Officer’s position
NYS DOT – Re: Speed limit on Carpenter Road is now 40 mph between County Rte. 9 and the Town of Ghent line/Town of Claverack line. Knapp’s Road is now 35 mph between the Village of Philmont/Town of Claverack line.
Thomas Paino – e-mail- Re: PDD
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RBC Wealth Management – Re: Churchtown Fire Company
Columbia County Youth Bureau – Allocation for Year 2017 is \$1,633.00
Julie Veronezi – Book signing event, Friday, October 05, 2017 – 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Jackson’s Old Chatham House. Chris Gibson will be signing his new book RALLY POINT.
NYS DOT – Re: Proposed Coyote Flaco Mexican Restaurant
Churchtown Dairy – Healing Garden walks every Wednesday – 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Tony Fiorillo – Penflex, Inc. – Re: Churchtown Fire Company LOSAP
Laberger Group – Re: Budget Planning for Grants
Jeffrey Cleary – Director of Government Affairs – Office of Senator Kathleen Marchionne – Re: Town Capital Projects
Charles Schumer to Randy Staats – Re: Problems at Dutch Village Mobile Home Park
Alberta Cox – Re: Problems at Dutch Village Mobile Home Park
Robert Macfarlane – Copy of State smoking restrictions; certain outdoor areas
NYS DEC – Re: Clover Hills Residential Development – Permit Reissuance Freshwater Wetlands
Lee Gough – e-mail – Re: Shop-n-Find newspaper nuisance
Clausson-Raught Community Rescue Squad, Inc. – Meeting October 23 – 7:00 p.m. to present 2018 Budget. Invitation to attend meeting

Supervisor’s Report

County passed Shared Services Contract.

\$20,000,000. upgrading going to be done at Columbia/Greene Community College, with 1.88 million scheduled for 2019. The breakdown is 5 million each for Columbia and Greene Counties and 10 million from the State. The school is ranked 7th most popular and rated 27th in the Country for Junior Colleges.

Completed bond from Greene County Bank for \$505,000. for the purchase of four trucks for the Highway Department. This will be a fixed cost in the budget for 10 years.

Reported receiving a concern from a resident whose internet service is “terrible”. It is also a problem around Taconic Hills School area. Gave to Councilwoman Cashen to check out.

Budget Meeting with Accountants was supposed to be October 21st and would like it to be changed to the 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Town Board Members Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended first Budget meeting for 2018 Budget information. Still in need of Fire Departments' information.

Followed up with representative from Mellenville Grange on possible location for Mellenville Post Office. The Grange has not heard from the Postal Service.

Followed up with Attorney Fitzsimmons regarding survey information needed for Shaw Bridge project grant. Matt Bowe may be able to help out with this surveying work. Some of the information of adjoining properties may already be available.

Attended September Planning Board Meeting.

Worked on and gave input on new website.

Worked with webmaster updating website on items related to announcements on homepage and building fee changes,

Reviewed Employee Manual and made suggestions for edits.

Speed on Stone Mill Road a problem. Concerned if new proposed business is also approved to be there and creating more traffic.

Councilman Keeler – Report is basically the same as Councilwoman Cashen reported.

Stated that that water tower will need to be inspected and possibly need to be painted.

Attended 2018 Budget Workshop. Accountants will present trending at next workshop.

Reviewed Comprehensive Plan. Interesting and surprised at amount of work that went into this a few years ago.

Attended Monthly Planning Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Lee – With Town Judge Michael Brandon, Court Clerk Brenda Weigelt, President of the Library Board Jane Case, library trustee members Stephen King and Mario Verna and Architect Linda McNutt, did a walk-through of the Claverack Library to see if it might be a feasible location for the Claverack Town Court. Brenda will get back with a date and time for Town Judge Michael Cozzolino and the Assistant Court Clerk to also take a tour of the library.

Attended a meeting with Robyn Reynolds on how to become a Clean Energy Community. She explained the program, how it works and how to get started. There is no local cost share required as the program is funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the Clean Energy Fund (CEF). Grants are available on a first-come served basis until funds are exhausted. Town has the ability to access up to \$80,000. For energy-related projects. There are 10 High-Impact Actions for example, tracking of energy use in municipal buildings. Measuring and sharing building energy use over time will allow the ability to compare energy usage against other buildings, which will help identify opportunities to cut energy waste, training for improved energy code enforcement, and policies to support solar energy, LED street lights, which, by reducing street light energy use generates cost savings along with emission reductions. By completing four of the ten high-impact actions, the municipality may earn the Clean Energy Community designation. Once designated a Clean Energy community, the municipality is eligible to apply for a grant. NYSRDA will accept applications until September 30, 2019.

As requested, reviewed pictures and submitted along with additional contact information to Technology4All.

Spoke with National Grid representative with questions regarding lighting district.

Met with "Jay" Trapp, Building Inspector, regarding some building/parcel questions.

Contacted Dave Fingar from Mid-Hudson Cable regarding the Third and final phase of the NY Broadband Program. He said it usually takes a few months to find out. This grant funding is to provide last-mile service to unserved and underserved areas.

Contacted NYSDOT regarding the guard rail status on State Rte. #23 in Martindale. Rich Frick said it is still in planning, nothing would happen this year and is looking at April of 2018.

Met with bookkeeper, Sue Meddoff, regarding healthcare renewal. Spoke with broker about open enrollment filing and employee new membership card issues. Found there was a problem with our e-mail possibly due to Mid-Hudson Cable's spam filter. The problem has been solved for now. New website provider will issue new e-mail addresses.

In preparing for the 2018 Budget, was asked to provide Town-wide insurance costs, including health insurance projections.

Attended Town Budget workshop on September 7th.

Reviewed new website, made suggestions and hoping it will go live shortly.

Councilman Hook – Worked with Building Inspector, "Jay" Trapp, on upcoming Planning Board and ZBA applications.

Fixed plumbing problem in Ladies Room at office building.

Accompanied Supervisor Weigelt to Stonemill Road where there is a speeding problem and also to inspect the property where a project is proposed.

Regarding the speeding problem, Claverack Judge Michael Brandon questioned whether Town could get a sub-contract with Sheriff's Department.

Will be meeting with West Ghent Fire Company representatives to see what can possibly be done about their problem with staffing.

End of Town Board Reports

Attorney Fitzsimmons - spoke on possibility of expanding water district. Would have to get Town of Greenport's okay on this. If not in water district, would be charged the outside user rate. For hook-up costs, engineers would be involved.

PDD – Draft plan should be completed by engineers early next week. Intent at that time will be to “pick it apart”. Will be circulated to everyone.

Shaw Bridge – Is part of a user road. Four (4) different landowners involved. Also need temporary easements and may need to be made permanent later on.

Fire Protection District – All documentation sent to him. Now forwarded to special attorney working on this. Local surveyor will look into this also.

Supervisor Weigelt asked about Coyote Flaco. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated there are three (3) underground septic tanks. Also, NYSDOT said they think they have right-of-way and also own more in front of the former Claverack Food Market building.

Supervisor Weigelt has received word that sidewalks can be fixed or replaced if they are already there, but will not install new ones on Rte. #23B and #23.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for Resolution to amend Preusser road properties from Churchtown Fire District to Philmont Fire District as reported by Town Assessor, Charles Brewer. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to approve new Dog License Application for new dog owners to complete and given to Town Clerk and also placed on new Town website. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to waive fees for use of the Town Park and kitchen by Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack. Carried.

Applications for Court Clerk and Dog Control Officer due by September 22, 2017.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept draft January – December 2016, draft September 2017 and draft January – December 2017 financial statements. Carried.

Noted that the LOSAP audit for Churchtown Fire Company has been completed.

Meeting opened to public:

Michael Brandon – Town Justice – Applauds Brenda Weigelt. She has been filling in for both benches since Assistant Clerk resigned and public should be aware of this. She has been the Court Clerk for 23 years.

Gentleman from Van Deusen Road would like sign LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY be put back up. From Stone Mill Road thru Van Deusen Road speeding is a problem.

Chris Post – Mellenville Post Office and Claverack Post Office very inadequate.

Mrs. Sussman – Gave out information on Climate Smart Communities Pledge, along with her explanation. It is noted that Robyn Reynolds came to the Monthly Town Board Workshop and gave information along with a Resolution for Community Adoption for the Board’s consideration.

Ian Nitschke – Gave copies of Citizen Action Program Application from Open Space Institute.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling 22,672.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,938.08, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$60,937.88, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District #1 bills, totaling \$1,276.05, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

T & A Account – \$518.61 paid to Morris Associates – Clover Hills Subdivision.

There were no Highway DA bills.

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

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____