

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

December 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 called to order by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Motion by Stephen Hook, Seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of previous Regular Monthly Meeting of November 09, 2017 and Regular Monthly Workshop of November 27, 2017. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways - Louis LaMont – Completed the intersection change on the end of Millbrook Road and County Rte. #12. Widened the intersection on Roxbury Hollow and Old Barrington Road. Installed new driveway pipe on Wentzel Lane . Grading dirt roads.

Serviced all winter trucks.

Worked two small snow events with men doing good job.

Changed one of the main pumps in the water plant.

End of report.

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

Committee Reports

None received in Town Office.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Town of Claverack Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2016 – also on website
Application for reappointment to Planning Board - Virginia Ambrose
Application for Town of Claverack Planning Board – Heather Grimes
Application for Town of Claverack Planning Board – Stephen Paradis
Application for Columbia County Planning Board – Chris Post, Stephen King, Stephen Hook
Application for reappointment to ZBA – Chris Post
W. Bruce Newman, President – Claverack Realty, Inc. - Complaint from tenants of Colonial Arms
Apartments regarding low level street lighting
James Miller & Gary Davis – 92 Van Wyck Lane – e-mail – Complaint regarding fence and photos
of same
George Schmitt = e-mail – Re: Flaco and NYSDOT
Taconic Hills Central School District – Invitation to D.A.R.E. Program Graduation Ceremony –
December 21, 2017

Supervisor's Report

At the County level, trained on Workplace Violence. Has information for Town Board members.

Have been working on 2018 County Budget. Now available for public and also on County website. Will be meeting on December 28th – 3:00 p.m.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Mid-Hudson is in the process of applying to attach to the utility poles, which takes at least six months. Once they receive this, they will be able to build the fiber optic broadband network there. Also spoke with Dave Fingar from Mid-Hudson to get an update for the Town. He reported the roads that service will be extended to and will include Snyderstown Road, Bate Road, Catskill View Road, Sweeney Road and Manor Rock west of the parkway. They have completed the pole ride with NYSEG and Verizon. Verizon informed Mid-Hudson that they will complete their make-ready work by March 6th, 2018. He is waiting on a completion date from NYSEG. In addition, according to Columbia County Economic Development, the third round of broadband funding awards from the Governor's Office have been postponed until late January or February 2018.

Attended the Planning Board Meeting, where members recommended the Town Board consider amending the Zoning Law of the Town for simple boundary line/lot adjustments. She will be meeting with the Building Inspector to discuss the change and will bring the information back to the January workshop.

Attended the Claverack Senior Citizens Group Christmas Party on December 6th with Councilman Hook and Town Clerk.

This morning met with a representative from the accounting firm along with Highway and Office staff to go over policies and procedures for HR reporting. A copy of the employee manual was given to the accounting firm for review. They will check on the wording to ensure the manual correctly reflects the Town's HR procedures.

Board has approved going ahead with the Clean Energy Communities Program.

Continuing the search for a location for the Town Court and possibly Town Offices, suggested that we look at all Town owned properties along with consideration of the current Claverack Free Library building and any other suggestions or possibilities. We look at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and possible threats of each, and in the meantime making a point to look at other Towns and how their facilities are designed, their size and locations.

Spoke on the Business Directory for the website. Notification should be put on the website as well as notifying the Economic Development Committee and any other media source that can get the word out. The Village of Philmont should be included. It is not meant to be used as an advertisement, but a directory of businesses and services located in the Town, including Philmont.

Councilman Keeler – In regards to handbook, Final “nails” planned for middle of January, but probably should wait until checked by personnel at accounting office who deal with the laws that might have to be adhered to.

Met with West Ghent Fire Company representatives – There were a few issues. Thorough investigation by Comptroller's Office now complete. Attorney Fitzsimmons and the Town of Ghent attorney have a contract according to Comptroller's Office. West Ghent is a Protection District and have their own governing body and are vendors to Towns. **Supervisor Weigelt**, who also attended the meeting, said it is difficult to get volunteers, also true in other fire companies. New York Governor wants shared services. **Attorney Fitzsimmons** stated audit recommendations and State Laws were used. Contracts for the Town of Ghent and Town of Claverack were identical.

Public Hearing needs to be set up for Churchtown and West Ghent Fire Companies.

Councilwoman Cashen – Worked with State officials to provide documents for acceptance of State Grant funds for Claverack Creek Historic Sites and Waterfront Access Study.

Attended meeting on draft Columbia County Natural Resources Inventory.

Followed up on getting out announcements on Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) openings.

Reviewed and provided suggested edits to West Ghent Fire Department contract.

Researched questions received on a number of items, including broadband services, abandoned properties located in the Town.

Heard complaint regarding a vicious dog problem.

Received zoning code questions on modular homes.

Worked with Clerk's office to update Town website on items related to announcements and public notices and other related documents.

Councilman Hook – Called regarding vicious dog issue. State Police had been called. Only thing that Town can do is give ticket to owner for not licensing the dog.

Attended Planning Board meeting.

Attended Claverack Senior Citizen's Group Annual Christmas luncheon.

Stopped at Town Court to check on new employee and other matters. All going well. Also stops by Town Office almost every day to check and see if anything is needed.

Reported that he was at a washout on Rte. 9-H, just south of the Claverack Post Office. Was corrected by filling on with Item 4 and rip-rap.

Supervisor Weigelt reported he has been invited and will be attending the DARE Program Graduation for Fifth graders at Taconic Hills School.

Attorney Fitzsimmons reported on Shaw Bridge. County owns bridge. County should support project. Engineer from County, Dean Knox, supports this.

Heard from Danielle Dwyer from the State, regarding Shaw Bridge Project Grant, with pertinent information. Attorney Fitzsimmons read the correspondence. According to the National Register, the County owns the bridge. If so, they will need the County's opinion of Municipal Counsel and deed providing ownership, an agreement between County and Town such as a lease or management agreement to provide Town with ownership interest, and the County would need to sign onto the grant contract.

Attorney Fitzsimmons had e-mailed Ms. Dwyer with background information regarding the bridge that used to be open to vehicular traffic, but due to condition was discontinued many years ago. The road where the bridge is located was a user road, with neighboring landowners actually owning the land the bridge sits on, and the Town has an implied easement over the land.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution to pay all 2017 bills covering goods and services as received. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for resolution to prepare any and all appropriate budget transfers as necessary. Carried

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution to accept the required examination of the Town Court of the Town of Claverack for April 2017 to September 2017. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for resolution to establish a longevity program to be established for all full-time staff and paid in December of each year. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for resolution to make the appropriate payments as described by the longevity program and to make the appropriate 2017 Budget amendments. Carried

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve Draft January – December 2016, Draft January – November 2017 and draft November 2017 Financial Reports. Carried

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to cancel December Workshop. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to set Year-end Meeting for December 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Carried. After discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to rescind motion. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to set 2018 Organizational Meeting for January 04, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to hold over appointments for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) until 2018. Carried

The Board decided to set up meetings with applicants interested to be appointed to the Columbia County Planning Board.

After short explanation by Councilman Hook, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to reactivate Staples account under the plan for \$79.99, which will be refunded if the account doesn't save that amount by end-of-year. Carried

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to move forward with resolution making it possible to become a Registered Climate Smart Community. Carried

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to replace carpets in Town Office Building for a price not to exceed \$6,500.00. Carried. The carpet has not been replaced since the building was opened in 1991.

Meeting opened to public:

Stephen King – Requested update on PDD. After the New Year will be talking with Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

Ian Nitschke – Thanked Councilwoman Cashen for assisting in Waterfront Revitalization Program. Met with Open Space Institute.

Jim Brady – Heard Board was moving on with longevity program. Also, thinks employees should have more input in employee handbook.

Joanna Tipple – Asked about the Amedore Project. Was told by Supervisor Weigelt that the Town has not heard from them.

No further questions or comments.

General DA bills, totaling \$17,253.30, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$3,955.39, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$53,502.34, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$1,069.64, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Trust and Agency bills – Escrow Accounts - Fieldmakers \$244.63, E.W. Birch \$151.33 and E. W. Birch \$264.20, 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 Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____

