

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

December 13, 2018

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 called for a moment of silence in Honor of Pearl Harbor Day and the passing of Agnes Hess, wife of former Town Supervisor, John Hess, followed by 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

Guest speakers from the Claverack and Philmont Libraries were introduced and told about activities of each of the libraries. They are working together on many programs .and also working with the Roe Jan Library and other Counties,

They would like to assist with the census and would like to be a part of a committee if one is formed.

Will be part of the Battle of Books at Columbia/Greene Community College in the summer. There are about 27 teens involved – only one from each library.

The two libraries also do separate programs. There is a Claverack Neighborhood Program in Claverack. Philmont has a weekly healthcare program and also a meditation program. A weekly children’s program where a child reads 1,000 books by the time they enter kindergarten. There is a weekly story hour for preschoolers set up and also an afternoon program. There is job training assistance and searches and how to make applications.

The new Claverack Library is planning to be open in the Fall of 2019. Claverack will also have a Harry Potter Program next summer. They have also applied for a grant for the teen room.

Philmont Library makes books available for Pine Haven residents and have also received a grant for new computers for the library building.

End of report from libraries.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of November 08, 2018 and Special Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2018. Carried.

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont – Requested “No Parking” on dedicated Town roads from November 1st to April 1st. It is very difficult for plowing and sanding during storms. There are many vehicles parked in the Hamlet area that make it very difficult during storms. Attorney Fitzsimmons said that this would have to be done through a Local Law.

Highway Superintendent LaMont questioned where the Employee Handbook is. Per Councilman Keeler, the Board has the first draft.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Columbia County Planning Board – Re: Adoption of Local Law amending Zoning
Hudson River Valley Greenway – Re: Albany Hudson Electric Trail update
Stephanie Sussman – e-mail and letter – Re: Town of Claverack Election Day materials 2018
Carl Quinn – e-mail – Re: Important news from Technology 4 All
James Keegan – Re; BAR reappointment consideration
Columbia County Department of Public Works – Re: Permits for recycling
Mellenville Volunteer Fire Company – Re: Annual Banquet
Columbia Land Conservancy – Re: Boston & Albany Rail/Trail Study
Columbia County Board of Supervisors – Re: Resolution to distribute Mortgage Tax Monies
Valley Energy – Re: Daiken Heat Pump estimate
Kool-Temp – Re: Heat Pump System estimate
Dell’s Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. – Re: Heat Pump System estimate

Committee Reports

No reports received in the Town Office

Supervisor’s Report

At the County level, the budget for 2019 is \$156,000,000., which is a 1.7 increase from 2018, but still under the “cap”.

Supervisor Weigelt spoke on the problem on Election Day and the distribution of the election materials. He spoke with the Board of Elections. This was a human error which has happened in other Towns in the past. A basic problem is that they do not have up-to-date contact telephone numbers and this will be corrected in the future. He apologized to the public for this human error.

Town Clerk read a prepared statement. She received an e-mail and a letter delivered by the postal service, being the same letter received and also sent to the Town Board Members and the Supervisor. The return address was the Town of Claverack Democratic Committee and signed by Stephanie Sussman. This problem, as stated before, was human error. The local Election Board was aware of the problem and, per a member of the governing Board of New York State Town Clerks Association, the questions put forth by Mrs. Sussman in the letter do not have to be specifically addressed.

Board Members Reports

Councilman Keeler – Regarding the Philmont – Mellenville Fire Companies, the responsibility of combining into one central location is up to the two companies. It is up to them to decide whether they are interested in researching the possibility or not. There may be environmental issue's if building on this site (Town Hall/Town Court building). Per Supervisor Weigelt, this may not be a problem if NYSDEC signed off years ago. Larry Ostrander, from Philmont, will reach out for some direction. There are probably grants available to help in the construction of the premises.

Supervisor Weigelt would like to revisit the Comprehensive Plan sometime around April. This should not take as long as the last time, when it had not been visited in many years.

The bridge on Roxbury will be closed for a time in the near future. It was checked this past week. Supervisor has not seen the report. Budgeting is planned by the County to replace the bridge.

Councilwoman Lee – Beth Mills from the Columbia Land Conservancy attended the November 26 workshop to discuss the Boston & Albany Rail/Trail Study. Columbia Economic Development Corporation and the Conservancy have partnered to undertake a feasibility study and will examine the possibility of creating a multi-use path for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, etc. This would include the City of Hudson and Harlem Valley Trail in the eastern part of Columbia County. The study will include looking at current conditions to see if a trail is at all possible and worth consideration. Access and safety were discussed. They will be planning to hold a public input meeting in the future.

Tara Dinardio from Clean Energy also attended the November workshop. She had agreed to go over the Streetlight Conversion Analysis received by National Grid. There was a question as to why the facility charges were higher with the upgrade than with the current model. Tara got back to the Board with a correction. Councilwoman Lee will work with the Town bookkeeper to get more information.

November 28, the Zoning Review Committee met. A rough draft of the Local Law to regulate commercial events venues was given to Town Attorney for review. Next meeting is scheduled for December 19. Currently, the Committee is reviewing signage. After that, Solar Energy Systems will be reviewed and discussed.

The LED light on Rte. #23 across from Colonial Arms Apartments has been installed and is a major improvement.

Was contacted on Thanksgiving Day regarding icy conditions in an area near Shaw Bridge. Left message with Highway Superintendent and met with Building Inspector. Will follow-up on this road condition problem.

Per David Fingar, Mid-Hudson is doing installation on Snydertown Road.

On December 12, along with Steve Hook, interviewed final candidate for the Planning Board position. A recommendation will be made at the Town Board Meeting on December 13. This seat expires on December 31, 2018.

Attended Monthly Planning Board. Complaint that trees were cut and stumps left. A representative from New York State Department of Transportation will speak with his Supervisor and advise him of the situation.

An e-mail from Technology 4 All, who set up the Town's website notified the Town that their last day of business will be December 28th. They will be contacting the Town Office regarding website hosting, e-mail hosting, offsite backup and other related services.

The first draft of the Employee Handbook has been received for review.

Councilman Keeler – Attended monthly Planning Board Meeting.

Committee now has 2st rough draft of the Employee Handbook – 65 pages long with a lot of legalities. This has been prepared by Hudson Resource Group.

Working on information for meeting with Philmont and Mellenville Fire Companies and the possibility of housing in one centralized location.

Councilwoman Cashen – Going over 1st draft of the Employee Handbook.

Attended Monthly Planning Board Meeting and Monthly Town Board workshop.

Regarding broadband, MidHudson has requested a waiver for the 3rd round to the State

After receiving information from Technology 4 All and their last day of business on December 28, trying to come up with some ideas on a hosting company.

Councilman Hook – Received three quotes for heating & cooling units for Town Office Building – Valley Oil - \$11,500. for four units, Kool Temp - \$12,000. They do the maintenance in the Town Hall/Town Court Building and Del's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning \$48,000. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for acceptance of quote by Valley Oil. Carried.

There is an opening on the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). Anyone interested should contact Town Office. This is a once a year meeting in May of each year.

Attended Monthly Planning Board Meeting and Town Court.

No further reports.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by/Councilwoman Lee for resolution to pay all bills covering goods and services as received for the remainder of 2018. Carried.

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

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

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set 2019 Organizational Meeting for January 10, 2019 at 6:45 P.M. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to approve 2019 West Ghent Fire District and Churchtown Fire District contracts. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to adopt Local Law #4 of 2018 – Senior Exemptions Application Deadline Extension. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept draft January – December 2018, draft January – December 2017 and draft November 2018 Financial Statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to recommend Alberta Cox as a new Planning Board member. She has been a lifelong resident of the community and been involved in local government for many years before retirement. Carried.

Replacement batteries for the AED's was explained by Councilman Hook. Town will contact Mellenville Fire Company as we order supplies for the AED's through them.

Supervisor Weigelt said that the County will do the mandated Sexual Harassment Policy Class for all municipalities. This has to be done by anyone working for the Town. Office will contact the County and see what dates this will be done and how to be included in the class.

Website hosting does not have to be a formal written RFP – can even be telephone quotes. Will look into the County plan, which Town has signed an agreement with earlier in the year and is part of shared services.

After further discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to purchase batteries for AED's through the Mellenville Fire Company. Carried.

Opened to Public:

A gentleman commented on the census. It is the basis of communities receiving funds and needs community involvement. Very important and is slated for April 2020.

Nick Zasorin – As far as he knows, Town does not have a fire alarm law. Only one Town in Columbia County has the New York State Fire Protection Law (Livingston). There are very few qualified inspectors. Someone on the Planning Board has this license.

Stephen King – Supports census information and would like to suggest transportation for people working on it. Also, Alberta Cox is excellent choice for the Planning Board.

Peter Bevacqua – Interested in signage regulations. Wondered whether community would be part of the discussion. Is sensitive of signs in area. Mr. Bevacqua was told that the meetings are open to the public.

Ian Nitschke – Fire in his home due to melting wax exploding and shooting flames in kitchen. After attempting to put fire out, called 911 and within minutes fire company arrived. Burned foot and inhaled much smoke. **Councilman Keeler** commented that 911 should be called immediately.

Mr. Nitschke has been in contact with Ken Flood and D. Dwyer regarding Shaw Bridge. Mr. Flood has provided the State with information.

“Mike” Brandon - Due to machinery having to be moved from the garage under the Town Hall/Town Court Building. Court Clerk had to move over to Town Office Building because of the fumes. Only three court dates in December and a little more thought process should have been done in dealing with this. Court Clerk has a lot of legal work to get done.

Lisa Bowe - Would like separate recyclable receptacles at the Town Park.

Discussion followed on the new recycling plan for Columbia County. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for Town to sell the Recycling Permits at the Town Office where garbage bags are already available. Carried.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$16,062.27, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$1,465.50, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway EDB bills, totaling \$67,930.45, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$199.90, 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 Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____