

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 14, 2019

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 by Supervisor, Clifford Weigelt, who requested a moment of silence in memory of Stanley Koloski, who was the Town Building Inspector for many years. This was 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

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of 2019 Organizational Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting, both held on January 10, 2019.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department doing good job working six snow and ice storms.

With Host Tree Service, have been removing dead trees in all zones.

Cold patching in all zones and covering rough spots on gravel roads.

Servicing equipment for spring season.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Jeane LaPorta – Historian’s Annual Report
Danielle Hotaling – Addiction Recovery Coordinator for Columbia and Greene Counties – e-mail
Willing to provide information and resources available
Kenneth Flood – Questions to Bonnie Nightingale-Buckley of Parks and Recreation
Lalberge Group – Re: 2019 Grant Survey
Jay Shulman – Re: Suggestion of purchasing portable safety device

Lynn M, Szafran – Job application – Looking for administrative assistant job
Katy Cashen – e-mail – Information on speeding signs as used in Ancram.
Columbia County Department of Health – Healthy Neighborhoods Program – Free fire extinguishers available to all residents of Columbia County
Maryanne Lee – e-mail – Re: Employer Recognition of Gender Identity – should be incorporated into Sexual Harassment training program
Hudson River Valley National Heritage postcard – 2019 Heritage Development Grant Program
Columbia County Office of the Aging – Re: Senior of the Year
Dog Control Officer’s Report for January 2019
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation – Re: Arbor Day Community Grant
Berkshire Botanical Garden – Re: Plant Sale – ay 10 & 11
Peter Bevacqua – e-mail – Re: Revisions to some current zoning laws – Concerned about changes in signage regulations in Hamlet area
Gretchen Stearns – e-mail – Thank you for letter and commemorative plate

Committee Reports

“None received in Town Office”

Supervisor’s Report

New policy for Election Day – Residents would be able daily to vote at 401 State Street location, beginning on October 26th through November 5th, including Tuesday and Thursday until 9:00 p.m.

Agreement passed for County reval with Office of Real Property.

Notice to bidders that there will be sale of property thru the County. These are properties that are up for taxes.

Town stands to lose up to \$44,000. If State takes away AIM payments.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Been in contact with Tara Dinardio of Clean Energy Program to discuss upgrades that the Town may be able to count for the program. Lights and fixtures that were replaced in the Highway Garage could not be counted as this was done before January of 2014. But the new boiler/furnace installed in the Town Hall/Town Court Building in April 2017 is being reviewed to see if it would qualify for the 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy. Tara will be getting back with that information.

Zoning Review Committee members have received a copy of the New York State Model Solar Energy Law, which was provided by Town Building Inspector, Jay Trapp, and is being reviewed for next meeting. Also looking at New York Guidebook for Local Governments and at Towns of Livingston and Greenport’s

Local Law for Solar Energy. Committee has submitted a draft of the Event Venue Law to Town attorney for review. It should be ready for the Town Board to review and able to soon set up a Public Hearing.

The LED light for Webb Road have been installed.

Along with Councilwoman Cashen, met with Rick Nesbitt from Johnny Walker Insurance to go over the renewal application for the Town's Liability Insurance.

From Mid-Hudson Cable, Dave Fingar reported that they are waiting on pole licenses. West side of Catskill View Road up to the development on top of the hill has been completed.

Employee Handbook Committee working on some minor details with final draft. Should be ready to schedule meeting with employees soon.

Town Building Inspector, Jay Trapp. has contacted Senator Daphne Jordan's Office regarding Town Park Grant and to bring her administration up-to-date regarding the grant received from Senator Marchione.

Along with Councilman Hook, have been looking at blueprints from the Town of Copake and are waiting to get approval to use their prints. Also looking at other options available for consideration for possible new Town building.

Contacted Cooperative Extension to see if they had information on the Emerald Ash Borer. They suggested speaking with Donna Peterson, who is their Master Gardener Coordinator, She provided a contact for municipalities. If Town would like to pursue this, Councilwoman Lee can get more information and see if a representative could attend a workshop to talk about this destructive beetle. Early detection helps slow the spread,;look for signs of infestation and actions that can be taken, such as using local fire wood and not moving firewood, as the beetles are commonly transported to new areas on the firewood.

Councilman Keeler – Regarding the Employee Handbook, two more rounds of questions have been answered. One more round should be all that is necessary. Hopefully will be ready for review at the Monthly Workshop on February 25th.

Regarding AED batteries, Town can get the regular batteries or rechargeable ones. Rechargeable ones require a charger, with the cost of over \$600. After short discussion, consensus was to continue with regular batteries. Carrying pack was discussed at last workshop and consensus was that they were not necessary.

Will start process to meet with fire companies as has been done in the past.

Councilwoman Cashen – Along with Councilwoman Lee, met with Rich Nesbitt of Johnny Walker Insurance to go over Public Officials questionnaire for the 2019-2020 Town insurance renewal. Mr. Nesbitt will come to next meeting to explain coverage.

On January 26th attended the Village of Phillmont Summit Lake Watercourse presentation, which is a plan for the restoration of Summit Lake, redevelopment of the waterfront park, community center and downtown sites with many attending. Follow-up meetings on the projects are beginning and volunteers are welcome.

Worked with Town Historian and Claverack Library Director to plan presentation on Elizabeth “Mumbet” Freeman, born in Claverack in 1744 in the home of Pieter Hogeboom, which was on Webb Road. Presentation will be held at the Claverack Library on Sunday, February 24th at 2:00 p.m.

Followed up with Assemblywoman Didi Barrett regarding safety concerns on State Rte. #23 near the intersection of County Rte. #16, asking for assistance in requesting the New York State Department of Transportation to change the striping to prohibit passing in that section of the road.

Continued working on the draft Employee Handbook.

Councilman Hook – Attended County Planning Board Meeting, Town ZBA Meeting.

Along with Building Inspector assisted when new Park equipment was delivered for storage in “old” Town Garage.

Attended Tuesday night Town Court proceedings and Monthly Town Board workshop.

Attended Philmont Community Day Committee Meeting.

Worked with Dog Control Officer on a problem that would be going to the Town Court.

Attended the Town Senior Citizen Group and swore in new officers.

No further reports

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution approving Building Inspector, Jay Trapp to attend the New York State Planning Federation Conference April 28 – 30, 2019. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for Resolution to move \$23,000. from the Park Reserve Fund to General A Fund to pay for recently purchased playground equipment for Town Park playground. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution calling on Governor Cuomo to continue Aid and Incentive to Municipalities (AIM) payments in the fiscal year 2019 – 2020 State Budget. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to reappoint James Keegan to the Board of Assessment Review. This is from October 2018 to September 30, 2023. There were no other applications received.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft January 2019 and draft January 2018 Financial Statements. Carried.

Short discussion regarding Park Street – New York State Department of Transportation said two “DO NOT ENTER” Signs can be placed, making it a one-way street from State Route #23.

After short discussion, Supervisor Weigelt will check into solar “Speed” signs and purchase prices.

Supervisor Weigelt asked information from Town Court Judge, Michael Brandon. This is 1st or 2nd busiest court in the County. Many tickets are pleaded down to infractions. If person does not plead guilty, goes to trial. Claverack accepts cash, certified check or 30 days to make payment.

Looking to meet with Churchtown Fire Company representatives and A.B. Shaw Fire Company representatives to try and settle boundary problems. Looking for additional information.

Letters received back from A.B. Shaw Fire Company and Mellenville Fire Company regarding West Ghent Fire Company. Suggested that Chairman of Board of Fire Commissioners be in attendance.

Meeting opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman – Questioned AIM changes. Per Supervisor Weigelt, numbers will not be known until end of the year.

Nick Zasorin Re: Letter to fire companies regarding Fire Alarm Law.

A resident requested law enforcement assistance on Stone Mill Road (a Town Road) and Spook Rock Road (A County Road) because of speeding. Suggested reflective lights may help.

Resident inquiring about the monthly workshops. Was told to call and request to be put on agenda.

“Mike” Brandon – Town Judge – Gave Board information on another option for a new building (also for combined firehouse).

No further questions or comments.

General A bills, totaling \$79,291.48, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,260.46, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$41,393.29, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$3,689.39, 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 Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____