

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

October 12, 2017

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held at the Town Hall, 386 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in a moment of silence for the tragedy at Las Vegas, Nevada and the people affected by the storms affecting the lives of so many, including those in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, 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 previous meeting of September 14, 2017. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Speed limit signs installed on Humane Society Road.

Blacktop work done on Stonemill Road from Rte. #23 to Van Deusen Road.

Repaired broken edges on Macintosh Drive.

Working on replacing a box culvert on Preusser Road.

Committee Reports

“None received in Town Office”.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

New York State Department of Financial Services – Re: Vacant/abandoned properties
Megan Phillips, New York State Department of State, Coastal Resources Specialist
Claverack Free Library – Re: Home Energy Efficiency Workshop, Nov. 5th,2017
Bank of Greene County – Re: Banking Programs
Office of the NYS Comptroller – Re: Fiscal Stress Designation – No Designation for our Town
Taconic Hills Elementary School – Re: D.A.R.E. Program Flag Raising Ceremony
Laberge Group – Re: Engineering Services
Columbia County Planning Department – Re: Membership Nomination
Claire Every – Re: Letter of Interest for Court Clerk position
Deborah Dallas – Re: Letter of Interest for Court Clerk position
Thomas Holmes – Re: Fieldmakers proposal
Marks and Tavano – Re: Fieldmakers proposal
David Weidt – Re: Fieldmakers proposal
John and Mary Lou Staib – Re: Fieldmakers proposal
Andrew and Dawn Taggard – Re: Fieldmakers proposal
Brian and Kim Gaylord – Re: Fieldmakers proposal
John and Diane Konderwich – Re: Fieldmakers proposal

Supervisor's Report

County Planning Department – Town of Claverack and Town of Ghent work together for a representative. Presently Richard Batino is the representative and is from Ghent. He would like to be reappointed representative again as the 3-year term expires on December 31, 2017. Councilwoman Cashen would like it to be advertised to see if there is someone else interested. Supervisor Weigelt said that The Town of Ghent and the County Planning Board should be notified and it should also be put in the paper to see if there might be anyone else interested.

Correspondence received from New York State Association of Counties regarding electric in the Town. Information given to Councilwoman Lee.

Chargeback figures received from the County. Will look at them at the workshop.

Asked Attorney Fitzsimmons for information on out of district water users. He replied that the Town should use its' engineering firm for cost analysis. At the present time the request includes Willmon Road and the Fieldmakers project, which has not yet been approved. Suggested setting up a meeting with Morris Associates and Highway Superintendent Louis LaMont.

Columbia/Greene Community College budget approved.

Town has and will remain under the set cap in its' budget process.

Town Board Members Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Spoke with David Fingar from Mid-Hudson Cablevision to see if there was anything new to report to the Claverack residents. He said there is nothing new and they are waiting on pole applications. She asked if the pole applications were approved, would there be additional service for the Town, but has not yet heard back.

Met with Building Inspector, “Jay” Trapp, to discuss ongoing and new projects.

Continued to work on and review 2018 Tentative Town Budget.

New website is up. The business directory is in progress. It is not meant to be used as advertisement, but just a directory of businesses and services in Claverack. There will be a form to complete for those interested. Only businesses and services within the Town will be able to be listed in the Directory. A question for the Board to decide is whether they would like something to go in the newspaper alerting Claverack Business owners of this service?

Preliminary review done on locations for a new building or interim building for the Town Court. Preliminary review of primary location, but a few more locations need to be investigated before a decision is made.

At the September Workshop, discussion on Clean Energy Community Program. Consensus of Board was to move forward. Grants are available on a first-come first serve basis until funds exhausted. NYSERDA will accept applications until September 30, 2019.

Councilman Keeler – Have been working on 2018 Budget. Basically, will not change from prior year. Saved by consolidating personnel in ZBA and Court expenses.

Continue to work on Handbook, much of it being grammatical changes and a few issues to be decided.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended Budget workshop to discuss the proposed 2018 Budget for the Town.

Spoke with representative from U.S. Postal Service regarding location for Mellenville Post Office. Probably going to stay at present location and have been talking to present owner of property. Would put a modular building there. This is not for sure, but looking that way.

Followed up with Attorney Fitzsimmons on West Ghent Fire Department issues.

Attended Claverack Library Open House and tour of new facility being constructed.

As requested by Supervisor Weigelt, followed up with Town resident near Elm Tree Motel regarding poor internet service. This is located near the Town line, going towards Taconic Hills Central School, which is served by Fairpoint - going to talk with Copake Town Board.

Provided input on the new website and proofed the pages for accuracy before launching and worked with webmaster to update site on a number of items related to announcements on the homepage. Has now been launched and is a lot easier to use.

Worked with Deputy Town Clerk on information regarding Winter Ski Program sign-up. Last year very few Claverack residents participated. Will have program with Catamount, and depending on numbers, we may or may not sponsor bus transportation. Participants will pay Catamount directly for the program. Going to get word out to the schools and will be putting information on website.

Councilman Hook – Attended Open House at Claverack Library.

Worked with “Jay” Trapp, Building Inspector on information regarding escrow accounts.

Discussed Winter Ski Program and what Alternatives there are for the Town, since not many Town residents participate. The transportation is mostly used by participants from other Towns.

Worked on solving the Dog Control Officer problem.

Supervisor Weigelt announced invitation to Grand Opening of the Greene County Bank in Copake on Saturday, October 21. There will be a free chicken barbecue.

Attorney Fitzsimmons reported that new owners of Pine Haven Home want to refinance. For HUD, need to straighten out property line. Need area line adjustment and then a ZBA variance. New owners are grieving taxes. County and Town will share defense costs. Taconic Hills Central School District said “no” to participation.

End of reports.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept 2018 Tentative Budget as the 2018 Preliminary Budget as presented to Town Clerk. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for Public Hearing on Extension of Cold War Exemption on Thursday, November 09, 2017, 7:00 p.m., prior to Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to set Public Hearing on 2018 Tentative Budget on Thursday, November 09, 2017, 7:00 p.m., prior to Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for Resolution to amend properties from Churchtown Fire District #1 to A.B. Shaw/Claverack Fire District #1 as reported by Town Assessor. Carried, with Councilmen Hook and Keeler abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to set Town Budget Workshops for Wednesday, October 18th and Wednesday, October 25th. Carried.

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

It was reported that bookkeeper, Sue Meddoff, has contacted Veridian and received a decrease in the per kilowatt charges per month on the annual contract.

Supervisor Weigelt reported there will be a celebration at the Dutch Reformed Church in Claverack, plus a house tour and a tour of the cemetery of the church on November 04, 2017

Meeting opened to public:

Mrs. Sussman – Disturbed with campaign signs and their size. Read rules for temporary and size of signs from Town Zoning Code and stated County signs were much larger. This was addressed by Attorney Fitzsimmons. Supervisor Weigelt stated that this was a Town Board Meeting and not the place for politics. If there was a problem, she should take it up with the Building Inspector.

Ian Nitschke – Informed by Attorney Fitzsimmons that he was in contact with Danielle Dwyer today. He is going to look in the SEQR process regarding the Shaw Bridge Project. The bridge is on user road and for grants, need to certify that Town owns it. Downside is that since this is historic site, they need to have stamped plans. In regards to Grant Gateway, information should be uploaded. Will be discussed at next workshop.

Also brought up speed limit on State Rte. 23B. Stated it should be 30 mph. Was told that this request has been made several times. Mr. Nitschke said that it should be done again.

Will be going door-to-door with daffodil bulbs in Philmont.

No further questions or comments.

General A bills, totaling \$9,452.22, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,137.62, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$102,044.23 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District #1 bills, totaling #784.59, 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 Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Date: _____

Supervisor _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____