

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

March 14, 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 opened 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

Supervisor Weigelt introduced Rich Nesbitt of Johnny Walker Insurance Company, the firm overlooking the Town's insurance needs. Mr. Nesbitt was present to explain the insurance coverage for the coming year and answer any questions the Board members might have. He handed out a breakdown of the 2019 renewal. Some of the points brought out were;

- Planning and ZBA are covered individually under the General Liability
- Park employees are covered under the Automobile:
- All properties are increased 2% each year for replacement costs
- Under Inland Marine, Town does not have to have extra insurance if renting equipment
- The umbrella coverage gives a "cushion" under Excess Liability
- Premium increase is \$698. per year, with increases on all structures

Following the presentation by Mr. Nesbitt, motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of previous meeting of February 14, 2019. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Worked 10 snow and ice events with men doing a good job even though soft dirt roads.

Men have been working with Host Tree Service removing dead trees.

We have been cutting banks back on Schroeder Road for better sight distance.

Men have built ten new picnic tables for the Town Park and repairing some of the older ones.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – March 15th – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Re: Co-working & Making Stephen King – Re: Interested in appointment to Advisory Council – Columbia County Office for the Aging

Ian Nitschke – 3 e-mails – Re: Shaw Bridge

N.Y.S. Wide Action Council, Inc. – Palantine Manor, 32 Church Avenue, Germantown, NY 12526 – Speaker: Gail Myers, Deputy Director – March 15, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon. Also, May 23, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Office of the Aging, 325 Columbia Street, Suite 231, Hudson, NY Re: Alzheimer's Association. Also, June 5, 2019 – 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – at Office of the Aging – Re: Understanding and responding to dementia-related behavior.

Conrad and Donna Coon – e-mail – Re: rezoning request for land on Rte. #23

Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq. – e-mail – Re: Letter request from John Connor, Esq. for rezoning the Ockawamick School parcel from Rural Residential to Highway Commercial

Lotus Energy – Re: Incentive available

Ava Kilmer – Application for County Summer Youth Program as Intern Nutritionist – Full-time student at Siena College – Will be in 3rd year

"Kippy" Weigelt – Re: Speed sign information

Martin, Mary – e-mail – Re: Free training opportunities on Floodplains

Committee Reports

"None received in Town Office"

Supervisor's Report

Columbia County Emergency Management meeting April 13, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at COARC.

Waiting for more information on New York Power Authority Lotus Energy.

Attorney Fitzsimmons had request for changing former Ockawamick School Building from Rural Residential to Highway Commercial from attorney for owner, Mrs. Ambos.

On March 25, Columbia County Office of Veterans' Services at 401 State Street, Hudson, New York will be honoring Guy Minkler and John William Seerey. Public is invited.

Letter received from Conrad and Donna Coon. Property near Chief Taghkanic Diner and Parkway – 89 – 90% is wetland and located behind storage units. Would like to be able to put three rows of units there. More of the property there cannot be used because of being wetland.

Town is looking into purchasing speed signs to be used in the Town. Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to get three quotes.

Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Attended Monthly Planning Board Meeting.

Sent one year's information to Tara Dinardio for Clean Energy Program. This included one year's electric bills, fuel oil deliveries, propane deliveries, prior to February 2016. She will review information. A big thank you to Town bookkeeper, Sue Meddoff for gathering information.

Participated on Zoning Review Committee, which is in the process of reviewing solar panel installations and finalizing draft Event Venue Local Law.

Final version of Employee Handbook is almost completed.

David Fingar from Mid-Hudson Cable reported they are still waiting on some pole licenses. There has been some construction, but, as yet, nothing completed.

Will be contacting Morton Buildings, Inc. to set up informal meeting.

Spoke with Kevin McDonald, Administrator for Columbia County Office for the Aging regarding someone interested in serving on the Advisory Council. He said there are two seats that are open. Terry Guntert, President of the Claverack Senior Citizens Group was notified and at their monthly meeting in April, he will announce that there is a second opening for the Town of Claverack to see if someone might be interested. 60 years of age or older and Mr, McDonald asked that a letter be sent to the Office for the Aging with appointment date and contact information.

Shannon Thorsey from Lotus Energy, a local solar and LED Company in Hudson contacted Town. A presentation was given to the Town Board in August 2018.

Contacted Cooperative Extension to see if they had information on the Emerald Ash Borer and any other invasive species. They suggested speaking with Donna Peterson, Master Gardener Coordinator. She provided a contact for municipalities. If the Town would like to pursue this, Councilwoman Lee can get more information and see if a representative might be able to attend a Town Board Meeting to talk on the subject.

Motion made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to appoint Stephen King to Advisory Council. They meet six times a year. Carried.

Councilman Keeler – Re: Employee Handbook - Heard back on questions brought up recently. Finally expect a final draft (65) pages to review.

Reached out to some of the fire companies to see how Town can help and what services may help – have to go to board first.

Supervisor Weigelt said Board is still working on two fire companies in this area sharing one building. State grant too late for this year – might be able to help all companies for next year.

Councilwoman Cashen – Followed up with Rich Nesbitt from Johnny Walker Insurance to discuss and finalize the quote for the 2019-2020 renewal for the Town.

Working on ideas for the hamlet park sign for input and approval by the Town Board.

Contacted the State to see if there was a state contract for the portable speed signs and there is not. Contacted Ancram Supervisor to obtain pricing and company information on the signs that they purchased.

Followed up with Building Inspector, Jay Trapp, regarding questions on draft Event Law.

Worked with Town Clerk's Office and Attorney Fitzsimmons to update zoning code page on website to list PDD law.

Worked on draft Employee Handbook.

Attended presentation on Elizabeth "Mumbet" at the Claverack Library that was co-sponsored by Claverack Historian and Claverack Library.

Councilman Hook – Assisted with the Mellenville/Philmont Food Pantry delivery and taking cardboard to recycling.

Met with State representative regarding Building signage and safety.

Met with Dog Control Officer, Reg Conklin and Attorney Fitzsimmons regarding a dog issue.

Attended Zoning Committee Meetings, Columbia County Planning Board Meeting, Town Planning Board Meeting and Monthly Town Workshop.

Met with Deputy Clerk regarding coverage for maternity leave.

Met with Birch Builders regarding extension of development.

Met with representatives from S & F to see about cameras in the Town buildings and also met with County representatives regarding timeclocks.

Attended Philmont Community Day meeting.

End of Town Board reports.

Attorney Fitzsimmons spoke to the Board on request from attorney for Eleanor Ambos, the principal of EAPBF, Ltd., owner of the former Ockawamick School property. Requesting re-zoning from RR (rural residential) to HC (highway commercial district). Discussion followed on options that may be considered.

Attorney Fitzsimmons was given information from Brennan Keeler that Brad Pinsky will come to the County to look for information on boundary line adjustments for fire companies.

Councilwomen Lee and Cashen explained new duties to be given to bookkeeper, Sue Meddoff.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to process renewal of Town insurance with Johnny Walker Insurance. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to set up Public Hearing for the Event Venue Law. Carried. This will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 11, 2019, prior to the Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for resolution to raise salary of bookkeeper due to added responsibilities. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept draft February 2019 and draft February 2018 Financial Statements. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman - To Highway Superintendent LaMont – When is Old Barrington Road going to be “fixed”? His reply was they have to wait for the ground to dry.

Rail Trail – Boston/Albany to Hudson – Hudson to Claverack to Chatham. One of the problems is many homeowners own the railbed behind their homes.

After discussion, motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to approve purchase of trailer for Highway Department, per specifications, cost not to exceed \$22,000. Trade-in is to go back to Highway Fund Balance. Carried.

General A bill, totaling \$21,984.40, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$18.18, was audited and ordered paid from the account.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$18,888.28, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$331.27, 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 Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____

