

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

April 11, 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 at 7:10 p.m. immediately following the Public Hearing on the proposed Event Venue Law by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who requested a moment of silence for Marie Mossman, wife of longtime resident of the Town of Claverack, Philip Mossman, who was also employed by the Town of Claverack Highway Department for many years as well as the Mayor of the Village of Philmont 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 previous meeting of March 14, 2019. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Snow fence taken down and put away for another year. Also, plow wing and sander have been removed from one truck.

Department has been sweeping in all zones and will finish when new engine comes in for sweeper.

Ditching has been completed on Schoolteacher Road and now ditching on Orchard Road. Gravel has been spread on gravel roads to repair rough spots.

Cleaning has been started in the Town Park and boards replaced in pavilion and dugouts.

**Dog Control Officer's Report for March** has been received and on file in Town Office for review.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Claire Ackerman – e-mail – Thank You to Highway Superintendent  
Pam Banks – Re: Proposed Commercial Event Venue Law  
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Re: webcast meeting – April 22, 2019 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. –  
Animal Regulation Issues for Local Government  
Ryan Biggs – GIS Collection & Mapping information  
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq. – e-mail – Re: Special Events Law to County Planning – No quorum  
to be able to consider Venue law at March meeting  
Ian Nitschke – e-mail to Bonnie Nightingale-Buckley – Re: Shaw Bridge  
Ian Nitschke – e-mail to Ken Flood – Re: Visit by Michael Lynch to Shaw Bridge  
Guterman Shallo & Alford PLLC – Re: Town of Hillsdale Local Law #1 of 2019 amending definition  
of a Minor Project as that term is defined in the Zoning and Land Use Control Law  
Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Help support Habitat for Humanity to build in Philmont –  
April 16, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. at Philmont Village Office  
Columbia County Industrial Development Agency Executive Director – Michael Tucker – Re:  
Public Hearing April 15, 2019 – 8:30 a.m. at A.B. Shaw Firehouse – Re: Drumlin Field ventures, LLC and  
Drumlin Field Land LLC  
Faith Benson – Secretary of Philmont Public Library – Thank you for support  
Philmont Neighbors – Re: Dog attack in Village  
Cindy Nichtberger – Marshall & Sterling Insurance – New York State Election Law revised to  
allow all employees to request up to 3 hours of paid time-off to vote for any election. Employee must  
notify employers at least two working days before the election

### **Committee Reports**

None received in Town Office.

### **Supervisor's Report**

Thank you has been received from Ockawamick Little League for work that Town does on the ballfields.

Need to contact A.B. Shaw and Mellenville Fire Companies regarding West Ghent Fire District boundaries.

Discussion on Fish & Game Road update. Dean Knox, engineer from Columbia County Highway Department sent letters to residents along that road. This is not a Town Road – it is a County Road and any decisions made are determined by the County. Mr. Knox can be called any time to discuss concerns. County will be prepping area this year for repaving next year. Resident asked why does the road have to be widened and straightened. Supervisor Weigelt explained that the road has to be brought up to road specifications. Lowering the speed limit has been turned down by the State twice.

County has new employee for Weights and Measures Department – former employee retired.

County has purchased four new buses used for various transportation needs for residents.

Meeting this Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. regarding Summit Lake dam. Meeting will be held at COARC building.

Power line thru Claverack now picked and will be upgraded. Not doing anything out of their right-of-way. A lot has yet to be figured out.

### **Town Board Members Reports**

**Councilwoman Lee** – Attended Monthly Planning Board Meeting where Rich Michael, member of the Planning Board and Rezoning Committee, gave overview of draft Event Venue Law.

Tara Dinardio, contact for Clean Energy Program, has received one year's worth of data prior to 2016 and has received data from Valley Energy regarding the old furnace that had to be replaced in March of 2017 at the Town Hall/Town Court building. Forwarded to her also for her review was a copy of an Energy Efficient Proposal by Lime Energy Services Company in January 2018.

National Grid is offering an Opt-In Program to municipalities to replace streetlights that go out with energy efficient LED's. They will remove the failed high intensity discharge lights (HID) and install new LED lights. They will continue to own the lights and be responsible for the operation and maintenance. There is no capital cost for National Grid to perform this upgrade to LED under the Opt-In Program. For each existing HID light that reaches an end-of-life state, Town would use the comparable LED choice or select a replacement LED light choice.

Contacted Tara Dinardio to see if Opt-In Program through National Grid is approved by the Town Board, how it will affect the LED Streetlight high-impact actin. She said we would have to convert at least half of the cobra-head municipal lights. The Town would not qualify as quickly and we could always go with something else in the future. She will be sending a detailed report shortly.

Zoning Review Committee is working on solar energy systems and looking at other communities to see how they have handled their solar energy projects.

Along with Councilwoman Cashen, met with Rich Nesbitt of Johnny Walker Insurance to go over property limits for the Town buildings and add Martindale Cemetery. Also spoke with him about the new playground equipment, which has not been added to the Town's property coverage yet. Based on the replacement value of \$80,000., it would be approximately \$100. per year for the coverage.

Building Committee has met twice during the month and are compiling information to bring back to the Board. Took a tour of a Morton Building in Greenport (Mulhern Gas building) and Kevin Caughey was there to answer questions.

Dave Fingar from Mid-Hudson Cable reported they are still waiting on pole licenses that were applied for in August of 2018.

Employee Handbook is completed and a meeting was held to go over changes, additions and new State and Federal regulations. Human Resource specialists from Hudson Valley Resource Group were present to answer any questions.

Master Gardener, Timothy Kennelty, from the Cooperative Extension is scheduled to speak on invasive species at the May Town Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. He will also be speaking on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Claverack Free Library.

**Councilman Keeler** – Employee Handbook is complete, except for adding information due to new Election Law. Times will be set up to meet with all employees to explain new parts of the handbook and answer any questions. All will be given copies of the handbook and will have to sign that they have received it.

Will be trying to set up meetings with Fire Companies in the Town's jurisdiction to see how they stand and what the Town can do to assist in any way. This was done a couple of years ago and feel that it needs to be done again.

New electrode pads and batteries for adults and children have been received for the four AED's that are in the Town owned buildings. They will be installed this coming month.

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Followed-up with residents who had questions regarding the Fish & Game Road resurfacing project.

Along with Councilwoman Lee, met with Rich Nesbitt of Johnny Walker Insurance to go over building contents information for the 2019-2020 Town insurance renewal.

Continued to gather information for a sign for the Hamlet Park to be presented to the Town Board for input and approval. Discussed a volunteer day for painting the posts in the Hamlet Park.

Met with Build Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, "Jay" Trapp, regarding questions from residents regarding the "Draft" Event Venue Law.

Attended a 2020 Census meeting sponsored by Claverack and Philmont libraries.

Contacted Assemblywoman Didi Barrett's office regarding announcement about the Consolidated Communications Rural Broadband service expansion and opportunities for Claverack and also the status of the Rte. #23/Rte. 16 no passing zone line painting.

Sent out notice to residence on Hazardous Waste Day on May 11<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Columbia County.

**Councilman Hook** – Assisted Mellenville/Philmont Food Pantry with monthly food pick-up and taking cardboard for recycling. Also removed cardboard and bags that were left when residents came and shredded material.

Met with bookkeeper to discuss Human Resource job description.

Went with Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Office, "Jay" Trapp for home inspection. Also discussed problem with Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer regarding house on Rte. #217 being condemned until repaired. Notices of violations taken down by unknown person.

Attended County Planning Board Meeting, meeting with S&F Communications regarding camera system twice, Village of Philmont Community Day meeting, Town Monthly Workshop, Zoning Committee meeting, meeting with State Labor Representative Joe Cook in reference to adopting a workshop violence policy for the Town.

Attended meeting at Town Hall/Court for dog complaint case update and also met with Dog Control Officer and Deputy Sheriff regarding same complaint.

Met with Councilwoman Lee, Ian Nitschke and Michael Lynch in reference to Shaw Bridge.

Met with Dog Control Officer to discuss updating Town Dog Control Law.

Took planters from Town properties, including Hamlet Park to Holmquest for spring planting.

Met with Highway Superintendent to discuss Town Park work.

Met with County IT techs along with Town Clerk and Deputy for Town website information. Webmaster used by Town previously has closed his business.

Met with contractor, John Campeta, regarding new building and also toured a Morton Building in Greenport.

End of reports.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to roll-over bus contract for Summer and Winter Youth Programs to Michael S. Johnston LLC. Carried.

After brief discussion, motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to purchase a wand through Pine Plains Veterinary that reads dog chips. This was suggested by Town Dog Control Officer. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to install cameras at Town buildings and Town Park as recommended by the State. Carried.

After discussion, motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to obtain and install time clocks in the Highway Department and Town Office. Carried.

Discussion on updating Dog Law. Attorney Fitzsimmons is working on this.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to approve opt-in program for outdoor lighting by National Grid. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution to put old Highway Department trailer into reserve equipment so that it can be sold. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept draft January – March 2019, draft March 2019 and draft January – March 2018 Financial Statements. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Ian Nitschke spoke and asked questions regarding Shaw Bridge. This program is now being directed by County.

Gentleman involved in problem with dogs attacking his cats, which has been in the Town Court requested a copy of the Dog Control Officer's Report.

Jim Brady, employed by the Highway Department handed out information on salaries of County Worker job under Civil Service. Also, commented that Highway Department employees should have had more input in the new Employee Handbook.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$19,322.45 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$286.84 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$63,070.19 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$3,353.88 were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Cloverview Escrow account bills, totaling \$585.00, were audited and order paid from the Escrow account.

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 Cashen, meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Cashen: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Hook: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Keeler: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Lee: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_