

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**May 09, 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 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Brian Keeler	Councilman
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Supervisor Weigelt introduced Timothy Kennelty, who gave a very excellent informational presentation on Identifying and Managing Invasive Species. He provided information for the Town and said that the information would be available on the County website.

After the presentation, Supervisor Weigelt, called upon Bob Considine, who has approached the Town with information about "Pickle Ball". A court needed would be approximately the size of a badminton court. A slab 90' x 75' would be space enough for 3 courts. A 3' fence between the courts is nice but not necessary. The Board will look into this further. He presented the Board with a drawing using one of the tennis courts as an example.

Supervisor Weigelt then started the Regular Monthly Meeting by calling for a moment of silence in memory of Carl Calvin, a retired principal of Ockawamick Central School and well-known community member and also Councilman Stephen Hook's sister-in-law. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of the April 11, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting, March 25, 2019 Workshop Meeting and April 29, 2019 Workshop Meeting. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Department completed ditching on Orchard Road and are ditching on Bate Road. Cold patching being done in all zones.

Girls' Softball and Little League dugouts painted - Rewired Park pavilion where squirrels chewed wires in panel box. All fields have been tilled up to get ready for games. Water has been turned on in Park for the season.

Cemetery in Martindale mowed for the first time by the Town after taking over responsibility.

Mr. LaMont would like to set up a meeting with the full Town Board, bookkeeper Sue Meddoff and Hudson Valley Resource on Town of Claverack's time within ten days.

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

### Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Katie and Chris Cashen – e-mail – Softball and Baseball fields schedules  
NY Energy Solutions – Project information & Notice of Survey & Field Work  
Shannon Baxevanis – e-mail – New Energy Solutions Project update  
Hudson Valley Office Equipment – Contact information  
Minkler-Seery American Post #252 – Invitation to participate in parade on Monday, May 27, 2019. Request for Supervisor to say a few words.  
Claverack Free Library – Request \$10,000. increase in next year's budget  
Tara Donadio – Update on Clean Energy Upgrades  
Insurance Services Office, Inc. – Sent to Honorable Clarence Speed, Mayor of Philmont and a copy to the Town of Claverack – Re: Public Fire Protection  
Columbia County Office for the Aging – Honoring Volunteers – Requesting waiver of fees for using Town Park on May 16  
Philmont Matters – e-mail – Re: Youth Voices Matter at Purpose Making – April 29 – 5:00 p.m.  
Matt Murell – e-mail – AIM Funding update  
Rob Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq. – Re: Power line upgrades information  
Susan Roberts – Treasurer – Claverack Library – Explaining finances  
Columbia County Environmental Management Council – Natural Resource Inventory  
Kerri Surrano – COARC Representative -Requesting waiver of fees for use of Park on September 6<sup>th</sup> for a picnic  
Columbia Opportunities – Head Start – Request waiver of fees for use of Park on June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Mike Gordon – Re: New York Executive Budget – Also offering two webinars

### Committee Reports

"None" received in Town Office

## Supervisor's Report

"Fair Housing and Tenant's Rights" pamphlet on file in Town Office an on-line.

E-mail received regarding power lines – upgrading towers.

Meeting today with solar company – there will be an open house, the date and time to be determined. Have to do solar law first. Will also do a mailing. Eden Renewables would like to do locals first.

## Town Board Members Reports

**Councilwoman Lee** – Attended Zoning Review Committee on April 17<sup>th</sup> – Committee continues to work on developing draft law for Solar Energy System. Discussion included how to manage permitting process for solar energy development, including clarifying types of solar systems and the decommissioning of solar panel systems.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, George Keeler, past Fire Chief of A.B. Shaw Fire Company, spoke to Zoning Review Committee members on fire safety and solar systems. Some concerns brought up were what controls need to be considered to ensure safety, shutting down electrical power, natural firebreaks in field, containing the perimeter, access roads, security to the site and annual fire department check.

New playground equipment was added to Town's Inland Marine Policy. Thank you to our Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer for providing itemized list of the new equipment for the insurance carrier.

Dave Fingar, Mid-Hudson Cable reported they have received some licenses. Courts Lane, Wentzel's Lane and parts of Gahbauer Road should see construction beginning within next two weeks.

Clean Energy Communities Outreach Coordinator, Tara Donadio, continues to be in touch regarding the Town becoming a Clean Energy Communities Designation. Town Attorney has been included in correspondence regarding the possibility of the Town taking ownership of one of the charging stations to be installed on property owned by Claverack Free Library. Another option to be considered could be the Town holding an event to educate and encourage residents to sign up for NYSERDA Solar for All, a community solar subscription, which is available to low income resident. Event should be as soon as possible and ten signups would be needed in order to qualify for the action item, as well as show to Town support, which she can guide us through. Tara currently has the Energy Star Portfolio Manager e-mail in her name and she would like to move this to a Town representative so the Town can have access going forward. Energy Star Portfolio Manager is a tool that allows for tracking and assessing energy use, which may be the person handling the utility invoices and Town Bookkeeper, Sue Meddoff, has agreed to manage this. Tara will give an update on how the program works.

**Councilwoman Cashen** – NYSDOT responded regarding Rte. #23 and Rte. #16 intersection and the request for a "No Passing" lane. Did not accept the request to close the passing zone because the sight distance is sufficient and there is no accident pattern to/from the intersection.

Will be planting the zebra grass in the Hamlet Park on Saturday morning. The “One-Way” signs have now been installed on Park Street.

Worked with Clerk’s Office updating Summer Youth Program on website.

Attended meeting on 2020 Census sponsored by both Philmont and Claverack libraries and will be attending Mid-Hudson Library Association webinar on the 2020 Census on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Attended the Summit Street Dam EAP Tabletop exercise.

Attended the “Youth Voice Matters” meeting in Philmont. This is a group designed to help youth and young adults in recovery of substance abuse.

Worked with other Town Board members to finalize the Employee Handbook.

Sent out reminder notice to residents regarding May11th Hazardous Waste Day sponsored by Columbia County.

Received request from Jeff French to post notice regarding Memorial Day Parade on Town website.

**Councilman Hook** – Met with County representatives regarding installation of time clocks.

Took recycling twice from Mellenville/Philmont Food Pantry to Solid Waste in Greenport.

Had meeting with cemetery officials regarding Martindale Cemetery and the purchasing of a mower and trailer for use in the cemetery.

Met with Roma Fence representative regarding repair of fencing around tennis courts in the Town Park.

Met with representatives from Keeler Vaults regarding repair of stones in the Martindale Cemetery.

Attended County Planning Board Meeting and Town of Claverack ZBA Meeting.

Met with representatives from Eden Renewables.

No further Town Board member reports.

Supervisor Weigelt reported that Mr. Wheeler used a drone to follow the creek from the Philmont Dam. There is a digital version available for anyone to view if interested.

There was a discussion on motels that house sex offenders and guidelines. A law regarding this is being considered.

It was also reported that Mr. Pinsky said that there has been some progress made with the Churchtown Fire District and A.B. Shaw Fire District boundary problem.

Meeting opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman – Hazard Waste Day – Suggestion to mix paints together for use. Councilman Hook said collection is done by private entity and cans are not opened. County has no say in this matter. Also, different types of paints cannot be mixed together.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss West Ghent Fire District contract. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to appoint “Ellie” Esselstyn to fill vacancy on the committee of the Office for the Aging. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to waive Park Rental fee for Office for the Aging when they have ice cream social for volunteers. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to waive Park Rental fee for COARC for their use of the Park facilities. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to waive Park Rental fee for Columbia Opportunities for their use of the Park facilities. Carried, with Councilwoman Cashen recusing.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to advertise for Summer Playground Counselors. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to reappoint Robert Preusser to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for Resolution adopting FEMA rates, after explanation by Superintendent of Highways LaMont. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept draft January – April 2019, draft April 2019 and draft January – April 2018 Financial statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to gift \$75.00 to Cornell Cooperative Extension for visit by Tim Kennelty for his informative program on Identifying and Managing Invasive Species. Carried.

Local Law #1 of 2019 – Event Venue Law – Attorney Fitzsimmons read thru the SEQR. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to declare Negative Declaration. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to adopt Local Law #1 of 2019, Event Venue Law. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for Attorney Fitzsimmons to draft Sex Offender License Law. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$87,310.80, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,453.10, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$7,943.94, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$2,372.50, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Clover Hill Escrow account bill, totaling \$735.00, was audited and order paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

