

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

June 13, 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. #2`7, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of previous meeting of May 19, 2019. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Completed ditching on Decker Road and moved to Madonia Road and Manor Rock Road. All gravel roads have been graded.

Some men in Department have been working in the Town Park on the bathrooms.

Mowing roadsides in all zones.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Habitat for Humanity – Information
Information on rehabilitation of Fish & Game Road
K.I.S.S. – Shredding Program from 06/10/2019 – 06/28/2019
Hali Northtop – e-mail – Opening of Senate Daphne Jordan's District Office
Invitation to celebration of Stan Koloski's life

August 17th Lori Anderson - Columbia County Pathways – Request waiver of fees for use of Park on
Andrew Zampariolo – Re: Magnus and Cornerstone
Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Meeting our Makers Social Hour at Purpose Meeting
Ian Nitschke – e-mail – Re: Short Visit to the Shaw Bridge by Michael Lynch (OPEHP) –
Friday 3:00 p.m. – May 24th
Jeane LaPorta – e-mail – Barton’s Mill Historic Marker Dedication – Friday, July 26th –
11:00 a.m.
Columbia County Historical Society – First Columbians 2019 celebrating Agriculture in
Columbia County – Saturday, June 8th
Archdiocese of New York – Ribbon cutting with His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan -
Monday – June 17^t
Pamphlet on Women’s History in the Hudson Valley – Ten stories from Columbia and
Dutchess Counties
Warren County Board of Supervisors – Resolution opposing NYS Assembly bill to amend
the general municipal law in relation to prohibiting firearms as prizes in any Games of Chance
Columbia County Community Arts Grants Reception – June 19 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Time
& Space, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson
NYS Department of Taxation & Finance – Final Equalization Rate – 91.00

Committee Reports

Historian Report – Jeane LaPorta – Barton’s Mill sign marker proposed ceremony set for July 26th. Town Board will be invited. Mr. Formel has been in touch with Louis LaMont, Superintendent of Highways.

Working with Rebecca Walker, Communications and Grants Manager Greenport Conservancy, on an educational kiosk on the Claverack Mastodon for along the trail. The area was within the Town of Claverack in 1705 when the discovery was made by a Dutch farmer. The kiosk will be about 18” x 24”, color, weather resistant acrylic on a post. The designer is Kara Alderisio, graphic designer, conservationist for environmental signage and rail maps, New York.

Proposes that the Town consider something similar to place in a visible location for its historic relevance to the Town.

The historians of Columbia County have formed a group to help each other with both historical and logistical topics and are meeting quarterly, with next meeting being in September. There is a group of volunteers to start a historian’s news column in the Columbia Paper.

Has been participating in workshops and “field trips” to help historians tackle the archives and other research tools. Also, served with Chris Akin, Historian from Hillsdale, to create a map, The Path of the Columbia Turnpike (1799 – 1907), which identifies many historic properties along the former Turnpike Route #23B, to the Massachusetts border.

Has been maintaining and documenting Claverack historian resources, clearly identified and portable.

No further Committee Reports

Supervisor's Report

On the County level, letters have been sent to property owners along Fish & Game Road.

Reassessment by the County is to begin by the end of this year. Presently, ours is 91% and will be done by the County as "shared services".

New York Energy Solution Project is planned from Schodack to Pleasant Valley. In the Town of Claverack, the plan is to rebuild and expand existing Churchtown 115kV Switching Station on existing utility-owned land, the miles being 0.9. All the work will stay within existing utility rights-of-way and on utility property. They will rebuild a new switching station in the Town. The estimated timetable for the complete project will be construction to begin in 2021 and be completed by the end of 2023.

The Town water tower has been cleaned and needs to be resurfaced on the inside. Philmont has to do this also and possibility of having both done at the same time and save both monies. May have to go out for bond.

Town Board Members Reports

Councilwoman Lee - Met as part of the Zoning Review Committee and went over draft copy of the large-scale solar law. Attorney Fitzsimmons was sent a copy for review. When finalized, Planning Board and ZBA will receive a copy for their review.

Attended monthly Planning Board Meeting.

Library Trustee, Michael Sullivan, has been asked to be point of contact for the Claverack Free Library, regarding the EV Charging Station project. As requested, he has been in touch with Tara Donardio, Clean Energy Communities Outreach Coordinator. Town is currently discussing with the library to work out taking ownership of one of the EV Charging Stations, which is planned to be installed shortly. Mr. Sullivan has provided a report which explains the procedure that could be followed to make this happen. It has been forwarded to Attorney Fitzsimmons for review.

Steve Hook, Sue Meddoff, and I, on request of Superintendent of Highways, Louis LaMont, held a meeting with the Highway Department, to go over concerns/questions regarding the new Employee Handbook.

Dave Fingar, Mid-Hudson Cable, reported both Wentzel Lane and Courts Lane have had the fiber optic cables installed. They should be spliced by end of the week. Then a salesperson will go to each residence, advising that the service is available. They are still waiting for pole licenses for Stevers Crossing Road and Roxbury Road.

New job description has been created for the new Human Resource position. Copy was forwarded to Board members for their review and forwarded to Attorney Fitzsimmons for his input. Sue Meddoff, Town bookkeeper and new Human Resource contact, has requested a meeting with Councilman Hook and Councilwoman Lee to go over questions that she has concerning New York State and Town guidelines.

Health Insurance annual review will be coming up within the next couple of months.

Councilman Keeler – No report at this time. Was away, revisiting Normandy.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended a Mid-Hudson Library Association webinar on the 2020 Census. Also attended a Complete Count Census meeting sponsored by the Claverack and Philmont Libraries. A Census representative will be at the Philmont Community Day festivities to distribute information about the 2020 Census and information about jobs for local residents to assist in the collection of data for this Census. Count is to begin next year. A problem is that those not having P. O. Box numbers will not be receiving cards.

Attended Philmont Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service.

Reviewed and gave input on the job description for the new Human Resource position in the Town.

Worked with Town Clerk's Office on updates for the Town website.

Councilman Hook – Took recycling materials from Town Office and Mellenville/Philmont Food Pantry to Transfer Station. Also, picked up monthly order for Food Pantry.

Met with Highway Department several times.

Spoke with Mid-Hudson Cable representative in reference to complaints of lost channels.

Met with Mr. Visconti of NYS Highway Department and also met with State DOT representatives on Rte. #23 regarding the storm drain and washout near turnoff to Rte. #217.

Met with S & F Technologies, regarding cameras.

Attended County Planning Meeting and Town Planning Board Meeting.

Met with County representatives twice regarding time clocks.

Participated in Philmont's Memorial Day Parade.

Met with Dog Control Officer several times.

Met with bookkeeper and Human Resource Administrator.

Went to transfer station to exchange garbage bags that were defective after complaints received from purchasers.

Along with Deputy Clerk, picked up old County Map, already framed, from the Hess home.

End of reports.

Supervisor Weigelt has asked that everyone watch out for people riding bicycles. Saw a very close call recently.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to waive Park Rental Fee for Columbia County Pathways to Recovery, who have a program scheduled in August. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution declaring old air conditioners (3) as surplus to be sold. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to waive August Park Rental Fee for Mellenville Volunteer Fire Company wet-down for new fire truck. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to waive August Park Rental Fee for Philmont Volunteer Fire Company Barbecue. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept Summer Playground Counselor Positions as recommended by Director, Brett Holmes. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept draft May 2019, draft January – May 2019 and draft January – May 2018 financial reports. Carried.

After discussion, motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to keep position of Human Resource Administrator as Town Bookkeeper. Carried

Meeting opened to public:

Lisa Bowe – Would like trash cans added in Town Park for recyclables.

Also, bench in Town Park in the Hamlet is in poor condition. Highway Superintendent LaMont stated he will fix the bench.

Ian Nitschke – Map finally okayed. State and Town now working together. Supervisor Weigelt stated he spoke to County for update on project. The project is being carried out through the County.

James Brady – Regarding Mellenville Union Cemetery – Working on purchase of copy machine and laptop. There is also funding to repair stones, etc. in the Martindale Cemetery.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss West Ghent Fire District. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go out of Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set up Public Hearing for Law adopting a Hotel and Motel Registered Sex Offender Occupancy License Law. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$44,871.31, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$67.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$33,653.80, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$1,140.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further bills to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____

