

Workshop Meeting
June 24, 2019
91 Church Street, Mellenville, NY 12544
6:00pm

Attendees:

Clifford Weigelt –Supervisor	Stephen Hook	Councilman
Katy Cashen Councilwoman	Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee Councilwoman	Louis Lamont – Superintendent of Highways	
William Michael Deputy Town Clerk		

Shannon Baxevanis from Transco NY along with Nicole Marron spoke about the new transmission lines upgrade in the Town using existing right of ways. Construction is scheduled for 2021-2023. 2019-2020 will be the permitting period. Transco will have a website to keep citizens informed of the projects progress. Councilwoman Lee asked about safety concerns. Ms. Baxevanis said the current towers are at the end of their useful life and new towers are much better built. Councilwoman Lee then asked about living next to the high tension wires. Ms. Baxevanis stated they will be doing a study and will be sharing the information with the citizens. It's not known at this time. Ms. Baxevanis said links will be sent out to access information. Councilwoman Cashen asked about a comment made earlier concerning new jobs. Ms. Baxevanis stated there will be construction jobs but no specifics at this time, but some jobs will consist of local sales of fuel, concrete, rock, etc. Councilwoman Lee asked about any anticipated increased traffic. Ms. Baxevanis stated they will be doing a traffic study.

Supervisor Weigelt asked if the lines would be live when they are being worked on. It was stated there will be outages but no interruptions. Ian Nitshke from the audience asked about poles such as color. It was stated that color has not been finalized, but they should look like galvanized steel or rusted steel. Mr. Nitshke then asked about maintenance, it was stated there will be a schedule but its details are not known as of yet.

Ray Jurkowski of Morris Associates spoke about the repair of the Towns water tower. Mr. Jurkowski stated after an inspection of the tower, it needs to have its interior and exterior re-painted. Mr. Jurkowski said to do this, the tower would need to be taken out of service for approximately four to six weeks. He also stated that the tanks interior could be painted while submersed but the coating would only last one to three years, rather than the 12 to 18 years that is the usual life span.

Mr. Jurkowski said once the painting is done, the tank would be filled, then drained and water samples taken to make sure everything is clear before use. Mr. Jurkowski stated that the Towns' tank is 200,000 gallons and the cost to refinish it would be between 190 and 300 thousand dollars. Supervisor Weigelt asked if the quotes would be available by fall for budget time which Mr. Jurkowski replied yes.

Mr. Jurkowski stated that the Village of Philmont may need to have their tank done also and if it were lined up at the same time, it could result in savings to the Town. Mr. Jurkowski said the while the tank is out of service, water would come from Brookwood and some from Greenport.

Supervisor Weigelt asked how close water from the City of Hudson comes to the Town. Highway Superintendent Lamont said it comes to Webb Road. Highway Super Lamont stated it is possible to get a portable treatment center and connect to Hudson's water.

Tom Williams, District 4 Representative of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation spoke about new proposed gun laws in NYS. One considered was a law prohibiting games of chance which gave away firearms as prizes. Mr. Williams gave an example of a County that passed a resolution opposing the law arguing that anyone who wins a firearm still needs to go through a background check before being given the firearm. Mr. Williams again stated that anyone winning a firearm would still need to go through the same NICS check that anyone would that bought a firearm.

Mr. Williams then spoke about another law which would require anyone who lives with someone under 16, or knows that someone under that age may have access to the firearm, either have it locked in a safe or have a trigger guard lock when not in use. Mr. Williams stated this law could impact 4H events where safety with firearms is taught as well as shooting competitions at schools. Mr. Williams stated he is urging upstate New York Town Boards to take a leadership position for when legislation is being considered concerning responsible people who would be impacted. Mr. Williams stated this type of legislation should be talked about with the Towns and its citizens and not just made law.

Supervisor Weigelt asked if information could be forwarded so the Board is aware of what is being proposed. Mr. Williams stated "yes" but wondered how much could be sent because it could be an enormous amount.

Mr. Williams then went on to speak about ADA compliant websites. Mr. Williams stated that the Town should be concerned with this issue and provided the Board with a printout with possible issues.

Discussed where Workplace Violence Incident Reports would be kept if filled out. It was decided that one copy would be kept at the department where the employee file is kept, and the original at the office of the Bookkeeper.

Discussed an agreement to have Columbia County give mandatory Sexual Harassment training which the Town would then take over the training in the coming years. Motion to sign the agreement made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, all in favor, carried. Agreement signed by Supervisor Weigelt.

Discussed having injury reports for employees. Councilwoman Cashen read from the employee handbook which states there should be a form used to report injuries. Councilpersons Hook and Lee will look into a form to use.

Discussed having credit cards for the Town. Bookkeeper Suzanne Meddoff explained that the cards need someone's name on them and not just the Town of Claverack. Councilman Hook proposed having a three thousand dollar limit on each card. Councilman Keeler stated that all receipts should go to the bookkeeper.

Resolution to purchase portable speed signs from Elan Signs. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, all in favor, carried.

Discussed Magna 5 phone service. Bookkeeper Suzanne Meddoff explained the savings from the prior service. Councilwoman Cashen asked if the service was still needed. Supervisor Weigelt suggested looking into exactly what the service is providing and table it until a later date. Councilman Keeler suggested comparing it with S&F communications.

Motion by Councilman Hook to re-appoint Charles Brewer as sole Assessor as of October 1, 2019. Seconded by Councilwoman Lee, all in favor, carried.

Councilman Hook discussed the proposed Commercial Event Venue Law fees. Motion by Councilman Hook to approve fees, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, all in favor, carried.

Councilwoman Lee discussed the possibility of putting street lights on VanWyck Lane. She stated possibly putting them on every other pole. She will check into it further.

Councilwoman Lee discussed the possibility of putting in pedestrian crosswalks around the library area in the Hamlet. Supervisor Weigelt suggested to Councilwoman Lee to draft a letter to send to NYS and also check into possible turning lanes at the stop light.

Councilman Hook discussed having a separate time clock at the Town Court if feasible. Motion by Councilman Hook to purchase another clock, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, all in favor, carried.

Discussed summer playground counselor pay rates. Bookkeeper Suzanne Meddoff explained that with the minimum wage increase, there were two counselors making less than the minimum wage. Councilwoman Lee stated that the two should be brought up to minimum wage. Bookkeeper Meddoff suggested bringing up the bottom two and tabling the rest of the counselors pay until budget time.

Councilman Hook discussed training taken by Bookkeeper Meddoff and William Michael to help with the Town's human resource duties. Bookkeeper Meddoff spoke of upcoming classes that would also be to the Town's benefit. Councilman Hook made a motion for the Town to send Bookkeeper Meddoff and William Michael to more training, seconded by Councilman Keeler, all in favor, carried.

Councilman Hook discussed the need for a small dumpster at the Town Office. Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook, all in favor, carried.

Councilman Hook discussed the fire prevention contract of the West Ghent Fire Department and if the entire board should sign a letter to send to them.

Councilwoman Lee discussed a car charging station grant and will have the Town's attorney look into it.

Councilwoman Cashen discussed a grant to benefit High Falls in the Village of Philmont and it needing a resolution to send a letter of support signed by the board. Motion by Councilwoman Cashen to send the letter, seconded by Councilman Hook, all in favor, carried.

Discussion by Supervisor Weigelt to review the salary and benefits of the Town's employees. Councilman Keeler suggested a payroll analysis and asked Bookkeeper Meddoff to provide a report for review.

Discussion by Supervisor Weigelt of the new employee handbook. Highway Super Lamont brought up because of a part of the handbook and overtime rules, during the Memorial Day weekend, a tree was down and when he called workers, no one would respond. Highway Super Lamont stated he went to remove the tree. Councilman Hook asked Highway Super Lamont who he called. Highway Super Lamont responded he called three workers. Councilman Hook stated that he heard that Highway Super Lamont only called one worker, John Howard, who was out of town. Highway Super Lamont stated that the first person he called was Deputy Highway Super Berry. Highway Super Lamont went on to say due to the rules of overtime in the handbook, and the Highway workers losing overtime, the Town may have to hire all new workers. Councilwoman Cashen stated that the information in the handbook was compiled from information from other Towns and audits.

Councilwoman Cashen brought up a part of the handbook which prohibits Town employees from smoking on Town property or while Town highway workers are working roadside. Highway Super Lamont stated that County highway workers smoke all the time. He went on to say he would not let the workers smoke in Town vehicles but when working such as flagging on the roads, if workers were smoking he would look the other way. Highway Super Lamont stated he had a list of concerns with the Town's handbook. Councilman Keeler suggested looking at the list to see if any changes would be warranted. Supervisor Weigelt suggested looking at the list provided by Highway Super Lamont and talking about it again at a later date.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilman Hook at 9:15pm, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, all in favor, carried.