

Workshop Meeting
July 29, 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 R Michael	Deputy Town Clerk	Suzanne Meddoff	Bookkeeper

Barbara Sagal from the Village of Philmont board spoke about a requested letter from the Town earlier in the month. Ms. Sagal stated the letter is for a grant for a study on dredging the reservoir. Ms. Sagal said the State required the Village get support from the Town. Councilwoman Lee asked Ms. Sagal to keep the board updated on any progress.

Discussed upcoming sexual harassment training. Deputy Clerk Rich Michael explained to the board an email from the County offering a block of dates to give the training to Town employees. Councilwoman Lee suggested two different sessions, one day and one evening to make it easier to accommodate schedules. Councilwoman Lee also suggested contacting the trainer to ask how many persons can attend a training at a time. Councilman Hook suggested finding out if the sexual harassment training received by Councilpersons Lee and Keeler at their jobs would be acceptable to the State. The board will start to consider dates for training.

Discussed upcoming open enrollment of employee health benefits. Supervisor Weigelt suggested that some members of the highway and other departments should attend the meeting to hear options and be able to pass it on to other employees in their departments. Councilwoman Lee suggested that benefits representative Karen Landau attend the meeting to explain the different options and plans.

Discussed new Town office plans. Supervisor Weigelt stated there are two options being discussed. A possible new building or an addition to the current building on Church Street. Councilwoman Lee expressed her concern that if the Town office were to move from its current location, it would leave the park and activities at the park unattended.

Councilman Hook explained the possible layout of the addition to the current building. Judge Michael Brandon expressed his concern of the court portion of an addition be on the lower level for safety reasons. Supervisor Weigelt suggested the building committee present a list of pros and cons of the two possibilities to evaluate. Judge Brandon went on to say that in the future there may not be a need for a criminal court due to the State possibly going to a centralized court system. Councilwoman Lee spoke about the baseball field being considered for parking and that it may have been formed through donations and may not be able to be used for said parking and that she will research further. Supervisor Weigelt asked if more information could be available for the next workshop.

Discussed the Town's rezoning committee. Councilwoman Lee spoke about a solar draft law that is ready for review as well as some ongoing revisions being considered. Ms. Lee spoke of the solar law having either a P.I.L.O.T agreement or a Host Community Benefit Agreement and described them. Supervisor Weigelt spoke of businesses he knew that had these types of agreements and described them as well. Councilwoman Cashen stated a concern with the solar law, specifically regarding prime farm land. A definition describing prime farm land was included but nothing further protecting the farm land. Councilwoman Lee then spoke of the rezoning committee working on reducing the zoning laws five acre parcel requirements for certain districts and having to review the Town's comprehensive plan. Ms. Lee stated there is a person who could review the comprehensive plan in regards to possibly changing the required minimum acreage. Councilwoman Cashen stated the plan could be updated but she would like to see the community given the opportunity to express concerns. Supervisor Weigelt stated that the plan should be looked at but not take years to complete the review. Michael Brandon from the audience wondered if variances could work instead of changing the comprehensive plan.

Discussed the paying of businesses used by the Town's summer playground program. Councilman Hook stated currently the businesses are paid when approved at the Town's monthly board meeting but thought they could be paid any time after an event. Councilwoman Cashen asked Bookkeeper Suzanne Meddoff if even though families typically pay prior, would all of it be covered by the time to pay the business. Ms. Meddoff stated she was not sure at this time. Supervisor Weigelt said he did not see why it would have to wait to be paid being the Town already received payments prior from parents. Councilman Keeler suggested it be paid the same way monthly utility bills are paid and then provide the board with the invoice at the next board meeting for review.

Discussed Water Department issues. Highway Superintendent Lamont stated that two employees are being trained to be licensed to do water duties. HS Lamont said that the employees should now be paid for those duties. The amount would be the current rate until a new budget is adopted. The amount allotted would be split between the two employees. Until licensed, the two employees will work under HS Lamont's license.

HS Lamont advised the board that the Health Department checked the water tower and said that VOC levels in the water are acceptable at this time and it will be checked again in six months.

Discussed employee vacation hours. Supervisor Weigelt stated he heard from other towns and how they give employees who have many hours of vacation an extended period to be able to use hours before losing them and stop them from accruing. After the extended period, the hours would be lost. Highway Superintendent Lamont stated he spoke with a retired county highway superintendent who said the Town of Claverack should have negotiated the hours carried over.

Councilman Keeler asked if the board should go into executive session to discuss employee handbook concerns. Highway Superintendent Lamont stated that the board could not go into executive session to discuss the issues. Councilwoman Cashen stated that the Town Attorney said it is permissible to go into executive session to discuss the issues. Supervisor Weigelt stated that the board should go into executive session.

Motion by Councilman Hook to go into executive session at 7:30 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, all in favor, carried.

Motion to end executive session by Councilwoman Cashen at 7:58 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, all in favor, carried.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, all in favor, carried.

Adjourned 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
William R Michael – Deputy Town Clerk