

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**August 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 by Deputy Stephen Hook, with a moment of silence for John (Jack) Race, a former Assessor for the Town for many years and a community volunteer. The moment of silence was also to remember Albert (Al) Brousseau, a longtime Town resident and supporter of the Village of Philmont and the Town of Claverack. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There was also wishes for a speedy recover for Supervisor Weigelt, who underwent surgery today.

Present:

Stephen Hook	Deputy Supervisor/Councilman
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr. Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of previous meeting of July 11, 2019. Carried

**Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont** – There was no report due to absence of Highway Superintendent.

**Report of Dog Control Officer for July** received and on file in Town Office for review.

**Correspondence**

Including, but not limited to:

Philmont Public Library – e-mail – Museum passes available
NYSDEC – e-mail – Making Waves – Grants, HAB's
Draft Local Law – Amending the Zoning Law to regulate large scale solar installations
Maryanne Lee – e-mail – Re: EV Charging Station

NYS Department of Public Works – Re: Public statement hearings for NYSEG and RG&E rate increases

NYS Public Service Commission - Re: Meeting held on July 11, 2019 regarding Alternating Current Transmission Upgrades

Mellenville Volunteer Fire District – Wet down for new Brush truck and Tanker – August 18, 2019 – Claverack Town Park – 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.

NYS Department of State – Local Government Innovation Conference – October 17 – 18, 2019 – Empire State Plaza

Columbia Economic Development Corporation – August 2019 Newsletter

NYS Energy Solution – Project update – Summer 2019

### **Committee Reports**

“None” received at the Town Office

### **Supervisor’s Report**

There was no report due to absence of Supervisor.

### **Town Board Member’s Report**

**Councilwoman Lee** – Attended the Barton Mills Historic Marker ceremony at the home of Stephen Formel.

Worked on employee open enrollment for health insurance 2019-2020. Reviewed options available, provided by Karen Landau from Nicholas J. Marion Company. Coordinated informational meeting for this and is scheduled for Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be for all eligible Town employees.

Attended monthly Planning Board meeting.

Met with Building Inspector, “Jay” Trapp, to discuss some items. He will be following up on the grant received from Kathy Marchione for work on improvements in the Town Park.

Dave Fingar, from Mid-Hudson Cablevision, reported no changes since the last update. They are still waiting for pole licenses for Roxbury Road, Schroeder Road and Gahbauer Road.

Zoning Review Committee has been working on new laws that were not considered at the time the Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2007 and included the Event Venue Law and Solar Law and AirB&B’s. They will be meeting again on August 14th.

They will also be reviewing zoning that needs to be adjusted in the Comprehensive Plan since the update in 2007. Supervisor Weigelt has recommended Elizabeth Axelson from CPL, formerly Morris Associates, be contacted and ask if she would consider reviewing the Plan and make

recommendations. She has recently completed reviewing the Plan for the PDD Law and is familiar with its' contents. New adjustments would be subject to Public Hearings.

Attorney Fitzsimmons has completed the draft lease agreement for the EV Charging Station. A copy has been forwarded to the Claverack Free Library.

Had a request from a resident asking if a letter had been sent requesting a speed limit reduction on Fish and Game Road. Clerk will review minutes and Supervisor Weigelt, being on the Transportation Committee on the County level, will be ask for more information when he returns.

The new building project, including adequate parking, continues to be worked on and researched. Building Inspector, "Jay" Trapp has been assisting and, thanks to Assessor, Charles Brewer, have learned the Claverack Park covers 16.12 acres.

**Councilman Keeler** – Looked into changes to the Employee Handbook. Analyzed Renewal for Health Insurance and options for employees.

Had questions on lease with Claverack Free Library and the Charging Station – There will be a charge of \$1,300. Annually for operation and maintenance. Will be looked at again in one year. There will be two dual ones at each station.

Reviewed Zoning Law.

Spoke with Summer Youth Park Director, Brett Holmes regarding the extreme weather during the daily program.

**Councilwoman Cashen** –

Followed up with Mid-Hudson Cablevision regarding status of high-speed internet for Thielman Road and Roxbury Road.

Received and responded to complaint by resident of trash left by guests of AirBnB on Dunbar Road.

Attended the unveiling of the historic marker at the Mills at Green Hole.

Attended the Philmont Community Day.

Attended opening of the Hudson Office of Congressman Antonio Delgado.

Attended Transmission Power Line briefing with Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition members.

Worked on Town website updates for public hearing notice with Deputy Clerk, Rich Michael.

**Councilman Hook** – Attended Philmont Community Day.

Installed new blinds at Town Hall/Town Court Building.

Attended Town and County Planning Board Meetings.

Met with Almstead Nursery twice.

Did monthly pickup for Food Pantry and took care of recycling of the cardboard for them during the month.

Met with Philmont Trustees for CFA letter.

Met with a contractor in reference to a new Town building.

Contacted County Outhouse in reference to the portable toilets in the Town Park.

Attended ceremony at Green Hole sign unveiling at Stephen Formel's.

Also gave information on the transmission lines. They will be going door-to-door next week to owners of properties abutting the project. Mid-October is the next filing date with the State. May be a reduction of towers in some areas involved, but Claverack will have one extra.

Would like additional discussion on the Comprehensive Plan. Feels it can be done quicker and cheaper. Not sure Liz Axelson understands the process and would also like public input and bids on updating the Plan.

No further Reports.

Short discussion on upcoming Sexual Harassment training dates. Working on second or third week in September.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for resolution to reappoint Charles Brewer as Town Assessor. The term is six (6) years to September 30, 2025. This term for Mr. Brewer will begin on October 01, 2019.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft January – July 2019, draft July 2019 and draft January – July 2018 financial statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to authorize Supervisor Weigelt to sign lease for EV Charging Station with Claverack Free Library. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler authorizing payment of necessary supplies for AED's. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler, to pay remaining bills outstanding for the Summer Youth Program as they are received. Carried.

Opened to public:

**Gretchen Stearns** – Regarding Comprehensive Plan, feels Nan Stolzenburg should be contacted. It may be cheaper and she did a lot of work on the Plan years ago and feels Town would get a “good deal”. Plan does not have to be revised completely. AirBnB can be allowed, but regulated. Should not hold up on AirBnB discussion – can go on simultaneously and need to go ahead with it and not wait.

**Councilman Keeler** – New York Planning Federation is leaving process up to home-rule (standardized regulations). County only looking into taxing.

**Stephanie Sussman** – Has read 2007 Comprehensive Plan from cover to cover. Is a document with depth and a vision of what the Town is and could be. Should have multiple consultant RFP's. Also need tax base and infrastructure. Time for a new document.

At this point, meeting turned over to advertised 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing on the Local Law adopting a Hotel and Motel Registered Sex Offender Occupancy License.

At 7:15 p.m. Regular Meeting resumed.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve the Local Law adopting a Hotel and Motel Registered Sex Offender Occupancy License. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons will work with Building Inspector, “Jay” Trapp to set fees.

In Other Business, **Julius James**, a resident on Route #23B, is concerned about speeding pf dump trucks more than cars that go by his property. must be going 60 – 65 mph. **Councilwoman Lee** said that a letter has already gone to the State. **Ian Nitschke** complimented Councilwoman Lee and Supervisor Weigelt on the letter. Also stated that there are many historic homes in the area that are affected.

**Attorney Fitzsimmons** explained the self-storage unit expansion by Conrad Coon that was brought up at the July meeting. Could be easier for him to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for the expansion. Neighbors would be able to give opinions at ZBA and Planning Board Meetings. He will advise him of this.

General A bills, totaling \$27,517.99, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$259.75, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$55,014.81, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$1,929.50, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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