

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

October 10, 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 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor, Clifford Weigelt, who led in a moment of silence in honor of James Cashen, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for many years, prominent member of the community and father of Board Member Kathleen Cashen. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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

Librarians from both the Philmont Public Library and the Claverack Free Library gave updates on the programs that were offered and will be offered to the community. They work together and separately to provide materials and programs. Both work separately in summer reading programs for children, story hours, book clubs and having museum passes available for patrons to use. They have a BOOK IT! Road race (5K), participate in a community read with the Roe-Jan Library and Taconic Hills School District, have a complete count committee for the upcoming census and participate in the Teen Battle of the Books Competition as a joint team, where about twenty libraries are involved and twelve or more children participate on each team.

Claverack Free Library has Battle of the Books pertaining to engineering for middle school, have fifteen every week for a Harry Potter Club, story hour for adults, graphic novel book club, a Dungeon and Dragons Club for High School students, Mahjong, Tai-chi, knitting and crocheting for charity and Homeschool Book Club. In the future, they will be hosting many programs with the increased space of the new library facility. The new library building opening is scheduled for October 26th at noon.

The Philmont Public Library offered free lunches twice a week during the summer for all children under the age of 18, have a a Cookbook Club, Meditation Classes, Repair Café', movie series, craft workshops, Video Gaming Club. They host AA Meetings, the Rotary Club and many other community group activities. In the near future, they will be holding calligraphy and handwriting workshops, monthly

community story hours, art and journaling of a Nature Club with Columbia Land Conservancy and a birding workshop.

Both libraries are working to let people know about the upcoming census and to assist whenever necessary.

End of presentation.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous meeting of September 12, 2019. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department has chip-sealed Tishouser, Waldon, Schroeder, Mountainview and Van Deusen Roads. Grader patched Justice Road and Meltz Lane and replaced a driveway pipe on Stottville Road and also one on Gahbauer Road.

Department has started hauling road sand for the winter.

Committee Reports

“None” received in the Town Office.

Dog Control Officer’s Report for September received and on file in Town Office for review.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Columbia Economic Development Corp. – October 2019 Newsletter
Ian Nitschke – Re: Shaw Bridge – List of contacts
Joe Vining – e-mail – Regarding his new proposed services
Claverack Free Library – Invitation to grand opening
Schmidt’s Wholesale, Inc. – Prices for new reader, software, etc. for Water Department
Columbia County Planning Board – Re: Adoption of Local Law #3 of 2019, amending the zoning law to regulate large scale solar installation
Stephen King – Re: Assistance for using A.B. Shaw firehouse for Columbia County Office for the Aging meetings
Hudson Valley Rugby Club – Inquiring about use of Town Park to field a Rugby Tournament
New York State Comptroller – As of August 30, 2019, their review of the 2018 Annual Update Document (AUD) has been completed
Livingston Concerned Citizens - - e-mail – Planning Board Meeting October 03, 2019 – Re: Global Partners construction of mega station at Bell’s Pond intersection
NYS Building Officials Conference – e-mail – Re: 7-hour in-service training
Marianne Lee – e-mail – Karen Landau – Health Insurance representative – moved to HMS Agency

Shannon Baxevanis – e-mail – New York Energy Solution update

Supervisor's Report

On the County level, authorization given to Columbia County Sheriff's Department to proceed with Second Chance Grant.

County will have a Shared Services Plan.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Thanked the community for their support on the death of her father.

Attended the Boston-Albany Rail Trail Open House and Presentation at A.B. Shaw firehouse.

Attended Town 2020 Budget Meetings.

Followed up with Mid-Hudson Cablevision officials on status of broadband installation on several roads in the Town.

Councilman Keeler – Worked on 2020 Budget with other Board members. Taxes will be kept at current rate.

Noted that the water tower is in need of attention and has been discussed.

Attended Boston-Albany Rail Trail Open House.

Claverack Free Library new facility will be opening on October 26, 2019.

Councilwoman Lee – Read Letter received from New York State Department of Transportation to Senator Jordan regarding the installation of crosswalks at Rtes. 9-H and 23. Basically, at the present time sidewalk facilities and ADA requirements do not exist at the signalized intersection and therefore NYSDOT cannot accommodate the request to install crosswalks at the traffic signal. Also, NYSDOT only restricts right turns on red if there is a pattern of crashes in vehicles turning right on red, sight distance restrictions that would prohibit a safe right turn on red if the traffic signal programming where a right turn on red would conflict with another movement. The most current available crash history showed that there were no crashes involving vehicles making a right turn on red.

Zoning Review Committee sent finalized law for large scale solar fields to County Planning. Per their recommendation, a definition for a Vegetation Management Plan, has been included. Now copies will be forwarded to Planning and Zoning Board members for their review.

Contacted NYSDOT regarding letter sent to them on July 07, 2019 requesting review of the intersection of Rte. 9 – H and #23. Spoke with Gayle Sutter, who e-mailed a copy of a letter dated October 7th from Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez in response to the request. (The letter is explained above).

Attended Open House and presentation on the Boston & Albany Rail Trail Feasibility Study, hosted by Columbia Land Conservancy and Columbia Economic Development Corporation.

Attended Rural Broadband Field Hearing at Columbia/Greene Community College, hosted by Congressman Delgado. Discussion was on needs in rural upstate New York. Commissioner Geoffrey Starks from the Federal Communications Commission was there to hear what people had to comment on. He spoke on the importance of libraries and how they are instrumental in providing internet access to local communities. There were discussions on closing the digital divide of those who have access to computers and those who do not, on how small business families, schools and healthcare providers are faced with consistent, high-speed broadband internet across upstate New York and the negative impacts on these communities. Chief Medical Officer Clifford Belden, M.D., spoke about the impact that broadband internet access has on the delivery of healthcare in rural areas. Middleburgh Superintendent, Brian Dunn, spoke on the importance of broadband access and how not having it puts students at a disadvantage, not only compared to their peers in class, but against students in other parts of the State.

Some of the important issues/challenges discussed were inadequate broadband maps and the need to invest in more accurate maps. Census blocks are unreliable and can vary within internet access. Just because a neighbor has broadband doesn't guarantee that you will have it. There was also mention of pole permit problems and the need for public funding.

Contacted health insurance broker from Nicholas Marino to provide insurance rates for 2020 and attended two budget meetings.

Contacted Claverack Free Library Trustee, Michael Sullivan, asking to be provided with information on new EV Charging Unit that has been installed. A Clean Fleet Certificate will be submitted to NYSERDA for the designation.

Councilman Hook – Met with S&F twice regarding cameras.

Picked up and delivered food for food pantry and did the recycling for both the food pantry and office.

Attended meeting and monthly workshop – discussed 2020 Budget.

Attended County Planning Meeting, Town ZBA Meeting, Town Re-Zoning Meeting.

Met with Columbia County Deputy Sheriff at Town Office.

Met with County representative at Town Office regarding time clocks.

Completed Town mandatory Sexual Harassment Training at Town Hall Building.

Attended Rail-Trail presentation at A.B. Shaw firehouse.

Met with Town Water Department.

End of Town Board Reports.

Attorney Fitzsimmons explained Next Gen property on Rte. #23B and what they are requesting to do so that the property can be sold. Map was erroneous – Was Highway Commercial and should be Hamlet Business 1. He explained the difference between Hamlet Business 1 and Hamlet Business 2. In order to change the line on the map, Attorney Fitzsimmons will have to prepare a law, which will have to go to Columbia County Planning. A nearby resident had a complaint. The property should blend in and be compatible with nearby properties and he feels that it does not. Feels area will deteriorate.

Attorney Fitzsimmons also spoke on “Tiny” houses, which are becoming popular. They do not meet the parameters of a residential house.

Meeting Opened to Public:

West Ghent Fire Company representatives requested that the Town reinstate their contract. Stated their reasons and presented the Board with “Petitions to Reverse Town of Claverack Decision to Drop West Ghent Volunteer Fire Company Northern Fire Protection”. Councilman Keeler recused himself from the discussion. They were told by the Board that there was not enough manpower to respond to calls. They reported that there were five new members added to membership. Will that not make a difference? Attorney Fitzsimmons covered the financial records needed and what had been received. Supervisor Weigelt stated that their decision was what is best for the people that are covered by this fire company now.

Stephen King – Reported that the charging station at the Claverack Fee Library will be active when the c/o is received and the library is staffed.

Councilwoman Lee reported that the Town did not receive the energy grant that was applied for. There may be another chance in the near future for the application to be considered.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept the 2020 Tentative Budget as the 2020 Preliminary Budget as presented to Town Clerk. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set Public Hearing for discussion on accepting the 2020 Preliminary Budget as the 2020 Final Budget for 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2019, before the Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution to approve new Building Department fee Schedule for Certificates of Occupancy as per information from Building Inspector, "Jay" Trapp. The fee would go from \$35.00 to \$50.00. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook, for approval for Building Inspector to attend Building Officials Annual School Conference to be held in November. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee for resolution approving Hotel/Motel Sex Offender License Application Fee. The fee will be \$3,000., all inclusive, including all necessary inspections. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept draft September 2019, draft January – September 2019 and draft January – September 2018 Financial Reports. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$10,729.67, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts

General B bills, totaling \$1,061.25, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$100,971.22, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water district bills, totaling \$10,318.37, 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 Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____

