

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

December 12, 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. #21`7, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order after the closing of the Public Hearing for the 2020 contracts for Mellenville and A.B. Shaw Fire Districts and for Churchtown Fire District and the Public Hearing for Local Law #4 of 2019 – Amending Claverack Zoning Law and Map. Meeting opened by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, with a moment of silence in honor of Pearl Harbor Day, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
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Supervisor Weigelt introduced Senator Daphne Jordan from the 43rd Senate District. She recognized the Town of Claverack as a Purple Heart Community, honoring our Nation’s heroes. She gave a short presentation, explaining that this honors members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served in wars in which this Country’s freedom was at stake. By adopting a resolution to become a Purple Heart Community, the Town of Claverack continues to display the patriotism and pride that our Upstate communities have for men and women of our Armed Forces.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the Purple Heart Medal, and it is the only veterans service organization comprised strictly of combat veterans. It is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and to make sure we never forget their service to our Country.

Senator Jordan said that she is proud to commend the Town of Claverack as they become a Purple Heart Community to honor the service and sacrifices of our Nation’s heroes who were wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. A Proclamation from the New York State Senate was presented to the Town for display.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of November 14, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting and Public Hearings of November 14, 2019. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department worked ten snow and ice events with the men doing a great job due to soft road conditions. Continue cleaning trucks and keeping them ready for storms.

Department made adjustments to two trailers for speed control signs that Town purchased.

Gave each Board member a folder with:

Hours that Highway Department worked in Park in 2019

Shared Services with other Towns, Village of Philmont and City of Hudson

Information from five Towns in County, by road mileage. Town is the third largest Town and would like Board members to review information and report back within 30 days.

Supervisor commended Highway crew for good work during storms.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

NY Energy Solutions – Project update

Columbia County Real Property – Suzette Booy – e-mail – 2020 Revaluation Project

Pine Plains Veterinary Associates, Inc. – Re: Contract

NYS Department of Public Service – Energy costs

Columbia County Bd. of Supervisors – Resolution No. 453-2019 – Distribution of Mortgage Tax monies

Claverack Free Library – Newsletter

Bob Preusser – Re: Churchtown Fire Company Information

Michael Chameides – Re: Environmental issues important for Claverack and all Columbia County

Jennie Wiese – Office of Stat Comptroller – Re: Tax Cap review

NYS Service Commission 0- Re: New York Transco LLC

Committee Reports:

“None” received in Town Office

Supervisor's Report

Meeting was last evening. District Attorney explained what is coming up next year for courts in State. County is sending a resolution to the Governor's Office in opposition to this. Other municipalities are also doing this. At the present time, Judge Brandon is continuing to do arraignments, but this could

change drastically for judges and law enforcement on January 01, 2020. With the new law, many of those arrested will be released upon arraignment. This was explained more by Attorney Fitzsimmons.

Compared to many other Towns, Claverack is in good financial shape.

Amedore back on docket. Waiting for Town of Greenport sewer project. Also looking at different options than when Town was approached before.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilman Keeler – Worked on changes in Employee Handbook. Changes will be voted on this evening.

Working with others to get playground equipment installed for this coming season.

Working with other members on information for new Town building.

Councilwoman Cashen – Going over and following up on Hillsdale’s proposed Short-term Rental Law.

Worked on minor revisions for Employee Handbook, which was adopted in April 2019.

Worked with Town Office staff to update items on website and also did research on website security and accessibility coverage that will be discussed with Town Board members in the future.

Responded to questions from a Town resident regarding the large-scale solar law that was passed at the November 2019 Monthly Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Hook – Assisted in picking up monthly food pantry order and did many trips with recyclables for food pantry and Town.

Attended Planning Board classes at Columbia-Greene Community College.

Attended Columbia County Planning Board Meeting.

Met with Town Superintendent of Highways.

Attended Town Rezoning Committee Meeting.

Met with Mellenville and A.B. Shaw Fire Companies personnel at Ginsberg’s facility.

No further Town Board Member reports.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution to pay all bills covering goods and services as received for the remainder of 2019. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution to prepare and all appropriate budget transfers as necessary in the 2019 Town Budget. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution to approve Churchtown Fire Department to participate in the Columbia County Fire Mutual Aid Plan. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to approve 2020 Mellenville, A.B. Shaw and Churchtown Fire District contracts. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to adopt Local Law #4 of 2019 – Amending the Zoning Law and Map. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept changes to the Town Employee Handbook, as e-mailed to Board members and included nine changes. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to approve new computer purchases as per the Town's replacement schedule. Carried.

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

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to change the time of the December 30 Monthly Workshop to 1:00 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler, for the Town of Claverack to become a Purple Heart Community, honoring our Nation's Heroes. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for transfers in the 2019 Budget as per request from Superintendent of Highways. Carried.

After explanation from Attorney Fitzsimmons, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt for Negative Declaration for Local Law #4 of 2019, amending the Zoning Law and Map. This change was due to an error in the original map. Carried.

Opened to Public:

A resident commended Supervisor Weigelt and the County Board of Supervisors for their support in the continuing efforts to clean-up the Hudson River.

"Mike" Brandon stated that plastic is a viably recyclable.

Stephen King

Ian Nitschke stated he spoke with Charles Vieni and he is a good resource when dealing with the State Department of Transportation. Supervisor Weigelt said the Town will see where we go next because the State has no money.

Mr. Nitschke said h also spoke with someone in the Town of Hillsdale and they received a grant for sidewalks. The Supervisor said that he has also spoken with someone there and the difference is they already have sidewalks in place that have been there for a long length of time.

Mr. Nitschke gave a draft presentation to the Board that he will use on his trip to Japan which, he stated, will be good international recognition for the Town.

A resident of the Town referred to the letter sent by the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the letter sent to Senator Jordan answering the letter with requests for the Hamlet, including sidewalks and crosswalks. He also questioned the speed limit on State Rte. #23B. As far as the speed limit, the State has been requested by the Town to lower it several times over the years and received the same reply and did not agree. Councilwoman Cashen suggested holding a public forum for the Hamlet to discuss ideas to make the pedestrian "traffic" more friendly.

Tome Delaney, an employee of the Town Highway Department, asked who will oversee the new playground equipment installation. There will be a representative from the company the equipment was purchased from to direct the in installation. The Village of Philmont will be of assistance, along with volunteers and also members of the Town Highway Department. Insurance has already been checked with the Town Insurance Agent and there is coverage for any volunteers. The Town Building Inspector has been in contact with the Company representative and they are working to set up a date in April.

Jim Brady, an employee of the Town Highway Department, said that Maryanne Lee did a great job as a Councilwoman and that the Board should recognize her for the work she has done. It is noted that she chose not to run for re-election this past November election.

General A bills, totaling \$12,147.75, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$3,156.14, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$27,812.09, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DA bills, totaling \$12,147.75, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Water District A bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Town Clerk: _____