

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

January 09, 2020

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held at the Town Hal, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order immediately following the Organizational Meeting by Supervisor Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of December 12, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting and December 30, 2019 Workshop. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Crew has done a good job working six Snow and Ice events, considering soft road conditions and being short-handed..

Have been spreading gravel over rough spots on gravel back roads and cold-patching in all zones.

Ditching being done on Schoolhouse Road.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Bonnie Becker – e-mail – New Member Communication for NYS Legislative Session
Philmont Library – Re: January Happenings at the Library
Catholic Charities – Re: Thank you for donation in honor of James Cashen
NYS Energy Solution – Re: Upcoming Agriculture event
Meg Cashen – Re: Thank you for Catholic Charities donations in honor of her husband,

Jim

Jenifer Prusinowski – NYS Office of General Services – e-mail – Environmentally Preferable Lighting
Mitzi Vanetten – e-mail – STOP New York Bail Reform
Richard Juliano – e-mail – Invitation to Hudson Valley Counties Cybersecurity Summit at Marist College – 01/15/2020

Committee Reports

None received in Town Office

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Weigelt requested information from Attorney Fitzsimmons regarding The A.B. Shaw and Churchtown Fire District Boundary problem. Neither district representatives agree with Mr. Pinsky's research. Representatives from both companies need to get together and bring Mr. Pinsky to meet with them and see what parcels are in question. The Town Board actually has the final authority if an agreement cannot be reached. Councilwoman Cashen wants to know what the initial fee for his work was and wants each company ahead of time to express what they disagree on. Attorney said that this will take another two months. He will coordinate this and send letter to each company. It was also brought to the Board's attention that technically Councilman Duntz and Councilman Keeler cannot vote, but they can participate.

Supervisor Weigelt reported that Ginsberg's thanked fire company representatives from Mellenville and A.B. Shaw for coming to the business and going thru the warehouse to become acquainted with the facility should the need arise for their assistance. Both companies will respond to any calls that were covered by West Ghent Fire Company.

Supervisor Weigelt reported that the County, at 1.8% is once again under the tax cap.

Supervisor Weigelt brought up the idea of taking this building (Town Hall/Town Court) down and building a new one in the same place. A place for the Town Court would have to be found and he wants to see if there is a possibility to have water power to tap into and may be able to put a generator in.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilman Hook – Met with representatives of Drumlin Fields

Attended County Planning Board, Zoning Committee, Monthly ZBA and Monthly Planning Board meetings

Picked up monthly Food Pantry order in Hudson and took recycling three times for the Town Office and Food Pantry

Working with Dog Control Officer on problems

Worked with Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, "Jay" Trapp on projects being worked on

Stopped by the Town Office almost daily to see if anything needed or any problems

-Councilwoman Cashen – Continued working on Employee Handbook revisions and/or additions to version adopted in April 2019

Worked with Town Office staff on updating website

Contacted Town of Hillsdale's Broadband liaisons regarding for east side of Claverack

Attended January Monthly Planning Board Meeting. Drumlin Fields will be quite a facility

Will be attending workshop at new library

Met with a Town resident regarding Columbia County Environmental Management Council

Councilman Keeler – Worked with Councilwoman Cashen on revisions and/or additions to Employee Handbook

Attended Fire Commissioners' Meeting. Will be willing to sit down and discuss boundary problem. Their meeting is the first Monday of each month.

Councilman Duntz – This is first meeting and listening, learning and will be getting more involved

Supervisor Weigelt reported that the bond on the purchase of trucks will be paid off next year. He also would like to meet before the monthly workshop, if possible, and take a look at the last budget (2019). The Monthly Workshop is Monday, January 27th.

Brought up unemployment payments that have been filed with a couple of the workers in the Town Park and one of the wingmen in the winter. Will be taken into consideration in next budget, but will come out of reserve this year. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to take funds for unemployment out of "Reserve" this year. Carried.

Councilman Hook reported e-mail received from Attorney Barry Sack regarding his client, owner of Yorkshire Motel and new law. Information will be sent to the attorney.

Attorney Fitzsimmons reported information from Dean Knox of Columbia County Engineering Department. Roxbury Road is a user road and they would like the Town to transfer bridge abutments to the County. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve this. Carried. Plans are for this bridge to be replaced this spring.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for the North Claverack area to be covered mutually by the A.B.Shaw/Mellenville Fire Districts. Carried, with Councilman Keeler, and Councilman Duntz abstaining.

Councilwoman Cashen has issue with waiver request for Music in the Park. Money is being made on food those nights. This can be deferred to the County Board of Ethics, but they usually handle personal cases. This was tabled for the present time.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt for resolution to transfer funds in the Highway Department from DB5110.4 Repairs to DB5142.4 Snow Removal as per Superintendent of Highways. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to add language to Employee Handbook on Longevity Payments and prohibitions against employment discrimination based on reproductive health decisions. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft January – December 2018, draft December 2019 and draft January – December 2019 Financial Statements. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

“Mike” Brandon – Has had to attend training sessions because of new State bill passed. Requires training and more work for judges and Court clerks. County Board of Supervisors is asking for legislation to repeal the bill.

Stephanie Sussman – After questioning, was told that combining the Philmont and Mellenville Fire Companies has been turned down by both companies. Supervisor Weigelt said consideration is being given to take down present building and construct new building, which will be occupied by all Town Offices, Town Hall and Town Court.

Jim Brady – Congratulations to County Fire Coordinator, George Keeler.

General A bills, totaling \$12,087.08, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$502.72, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling 23,769.28\$, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$1,175.98, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Bond Payment – 4th payment - \$25,730.81

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 Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____