

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 12, 2020

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 called to order by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt at 7:00 p.m. with 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.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
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Supervisor Weigelt introduced **Rich Nesbitt** from Johnny Walker Insurance. Mr. Nesbitt explained the Town's insurance coverage and any changes that will be happening in the new policy coverage. The coverage for the Town is thru Selective Insurance and is subject to very few changes. An information sheet was given to all Board members. Will be doing a "risk assessment and property inspection" this year. Last time this was done was three years ago. Premium increase is \$2,390. Policy rate increase is about \$700.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous meetings of February 13, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting, December 2019 and January 2020 Workshops. Carried.

There was no Superintendent of Highways report.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

John Bradley – E-mail – Re: February EMC Report

Philmont Library – Re: Census 2020 mailings
Assembly member Barrett – E-mail – Re: Comptroller’s Audit of Public Service Commission
New York Energy Solution – Re: Geotechnical Field Investigations Update information
Everlasting Hope Animal Rescue, Inc. – Re: Park Fee waiver for July Fundraiser
Thea Schopp – E-mail – Re: Poster contest for Census at the Claverack Library
New York State Comptroller’s Office – Re: AUD extension approval
Columbia County Board of Supervisors – Re: Resolution No. #43-2020 – Appointing representative of the Town of Claverack to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council
Public Service Commission – Re: Case 19-T-0684 – Application of New York Transco LLC
Public Service Commission – Re: Case 19-T-0684 – Transco public comment request
Public Service Commission – E-mail – Re: Case 19-T-0684 – Subsequent Filing
Daniel Duthie – E-mail – Subsequent filing regarding case 19-T-0684 Transco Commission lines

Committee Reports

None received at the Town Office

Supervisor’s Report

Bridge closure on Roxbury Road is slated for March 20th and will be closed for at least four months. Work is contracted out by the County.

Short discussion on coronavirus. County has 4 or 5 confirmed cases with 3 of them having been traveling. Numbers and information change every day. There is a screening process – Rapid Care facility, local Health Department, then State Health Department.

County doing census with \$170,000. Grant.

County looking for election workers – gave Town Clerk pamphlet describing duties for anyone interested. Early voting at the present time is planned for 401 State Street, Hudson, but may be changed.

Board Member Reports

Councilman Keeler – Attended Monthly Planning Board meeting.

Working on coronavirus information.

Councilwoman Cashen – Working on Town insurance for renewal policy with Mr. Nesbitt, our Insurance broker.

Finalized and submitted party status for the Town on Transco Powerline LLC project.

Met with bookkeeper and Councilman Hook regarding Employee Manual and personnel issues.

Drafted requests for quotes for security and maintenance of the Town website.

Did research on PILOT agreements and Community Host agreements for the largescale solar projects.

Contacted National Grid representative regarding streetlights for Van Wyck Lane, which is in the existing lighting district.

Attended March Planning Board Meeting.

Attended meeting with A.B. Shaw and Churchtown Fire Companies regarding boundary issues in question.

Councilman Hook – Picked up delivery for food pantry and took care of recycling for offices and food pantry several times.

Met with County IT Department regarding time clocks.

Attended County Planning Board meeting, Town ZBA and Planning Board meetings and Tuesday Town Court.

Meeting with Grange officials regarding possibility of Town taking over Grange property.

Attended workshop with A.B. Shaw and Churchtown Fire Companies regarding boundary problems.

Met with Town Court and Claverack Library officials for possible use of former library building for Court use during possible construction of new building.

Met with Mayor Speed, Stephen King and bookkeeper Sue Meddoff on various subjects.

End of reports.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to authorize Town to process renewal of Town insurance coverage with Johnny Walker Insurance. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution to move funds in 2019 Budget from Equipment Reserve to Machinery & Equipment in the amount of \$17,100., for purchase of truck body, by request from Superintendent of Highways. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to waive Park fees for Everlasting Hope Animal Rescue. They are holding a fund raiser on Saturday, July 18, 2020. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept draft January – February 2020 and January – February 2019 Financial Reports. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution to make amendments to 2019 Budget, as per request from Town accounting firm representative. Carried.

Short discussion on telephone company problems. Magna is very hard top contact when questions or problems arise. Have been approached by Spectrotel - On a 36 month agreement a savings of approximately \$103. per month as per information sent to the Town. Tabled for more discussion before making decision.

Meeting opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman – Asked how the food pantry was doing and were there changes in the number of residents needing assistance. As yet, there has not been an influx of new residents needing our help, but that most likely will change in the coming weeks due to present circumstances.

A resident from the Town stated that the 2020 Census forms are online as of March 11, 2020. Will be a big help in getting the data information.

Jim Brady – Questions regarding property across from the Mellenville Firehouse. Supervisor Weigelt stated that there are a lot of issues to tie up before any changes can be made.

Supervisor Weigelt heard good news on the Mellenville and A.B. Shaw Fire Companies coverage of the West Ghent Fire Company area. There was an accident that needed their assistance and the man power was significant in taking care of the situation.

Ian Nitschke – Re: Shaw Bridge – Dean Knox has taken over work on the project that was formerly done by Ken Flood.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Keeler to go into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss personnel compensation and also Town Court during possible construction of new building.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to go out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

Discussion on possibly using former Claverack Free Library building for Town Court while possible construction of new building.

General A bills, totaling \$12,546.78, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,326.85, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$28,471.82, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District 1 bills, totaling \$540.57, 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 Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____