

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 14, 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 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Per Executive Order from the New York State Governor, because of COVID-19, the meeting was held remotely, with the public having the ability to listen, comment and ask questions.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town (via remote)
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
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Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of March 12, 2020 and Workshop Meeting of April 27, 2020. Carried.

There was no Report from Superintendent of Highways. Article 284 for work on roads this year by the Highway Department needs to be approved and signed. After short discussion, it was decided that the Highway Superintendent would have to make a couple of choices that really need to be done from the several projects that were listed because of the pandemic and the question as to how funding might be this year. The Article will not be signed until these choices are made. CHIPS is separate and the project on Dunbar Road is part of last year's project and can be completed. The County is being and suggests that everyone be on the conservative side for the present time. Work on the water tower is on hold for the time being. Nothing can be done, not even going out to bid. Three part-time workers will be working on an "as needed" basis. This information will be brought to the Highway Superintendent.

The Town Park is open for walking and tennis, no group activities. There was some discussion on the restroom facilities and it was suggested by Attorney Fitzsimmons to check with Building Inspector, "Jay" Trapp.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Minkler-Seery American Legion Post #252 – Cancellation of Memorial Day Parade and services due to COVID-19

Rebecca A. Brodeau – e-mails – on different days regarding 2020 census Response Rates for Columbia, Greene and Delaware Counties

Columbia Economic Development Corp. – e-mail – Re: Reopening updates from Governor

Stephen King – e-mail – Re: Columbia County Office of Aging – No meetings until Fall

Eddie F – e-mail – Reported Executive Order sought by Columbia County requesting summer camps remain closed during COVID-19 pandemic denied

Eddie F – e-mail – Letter from Senator Daphne Jordon to Governor regarding Columbia, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties (43rd District)

AnnaLee Dragon – Columbia County Library Association – Re: Resilience & Recovery Resources

Claverack and Philmont Libraries – Thanking Town for support

April Monthly Meeting Report – No actual meeting due to COVID-19 – Bills audited and signed by 3 Board members at Town Office

April Workshop Meeting

NYSAC – Information on how coronavirus pandemic may impact sales tax receipts to counties outside New York City

NYSTCA – e-mail – Governor’s Executive Order relating to marriage applications during COVID – 19

NYS Comptroller DiNapoli – Launching of COVID 19 Financial Survival Toolkit

Eden Renewals – Re: Addressing Solar Permitting and Inspection during XCOVID-19 Health Crisis

Katy Cashen – e-mail - to Historian – Re: Timeline/Announcements regarding information to document our Town’s response to the pandemic

Robin Slemph – e-mail – Re: Taconic Hills putting together map of WiFi hot spot locations for students, families and staff to access due to limited or no internet connections – Wondering if free WiFi available for them to use

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: No Mow May

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: May programs

Committee Reports

None received in Town Office

Supervisor’s Report

Reported at Columbia County Board of Supervisors Meeting that there could be a 40% loss on Sales Tax, which means we could lose \$400,000. The Court system has been closed since March and could face a 50% reduction in revenue. Towns were told to plan for the worst-case scenario. It was agreed that no CHIPS work be done this year until discussion at a later date.

The County is working on a program for employees, without using sick or personal time. Attorney Fitzsimmons will send us what County is doing.

Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Drafted several website announcements related to closure of Town facilities and meeting postponements due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Conducted meetings with Town staff on personnel issues and drafted follow-up memos.

Helped coordinate and distribute hand sanitizer and masks to Town residents, senior citizens apartments and food pantry customers.

Researched virtual meeting options for Town meetings and worked with Attorney Fitzsimmons to put Town Board Meeting together.

Sent out notice to Claverack residents encouraging them to complete 2020 Census.

Responded to questions from residents regarding AirB&B locations in the Town.

Sent announcements to residents regarding temporary closure of Roxbury Road and County Rte. #16 for bridge work.

Observed balloon test for proposed solar farm on Humane Society Road.

Provided timeline to Town Historian, Jeane LaPorta, of Town's COVID-19 for historical record.

Made arrangements for Supervisor's signature on Town's insurance policy for 2020-2021.

Helped coordinate delivery of food pantry items to residents at Yorkshire Motel.

Met with residents in areas of the Town regarding broadband service and followed-up with Assemblywoman Didi Barrett's office regarding same.

Councilman Keeler – Been in contact with County Treasurer regarding analysis of revenue and its' effect on Towns in the County due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Met with Mike Bucci of Town's accounting firm regarding several issues.

Thanks to all fire districts involved in the Main Street, Philmont house fire. Companies worked well together. There was also a fire on Old Lane Extension with many working together. Task Force have put companies' personnel together and all are working well together.

Councilman Duntz – Along with **Councilwoman Cashen**, handed out masks at the Claverack Library.

Watched some zoom meetings and attended staff meetings.

Still interest for a business at the former McNamee property on Rte. 23B.

Little League and Travel Team – Nothing until at least end of June.

Councilman Hook – Town personnel still under regulations set by Governor – not yet in Phase 1.

Picked up and delivered food for food pantry and took care of recycling for food pantry and office.

Stopped by Town Office several times to see if there were any needs or concerns, especially with regulations due to COVID-19.

End of reports.

Discussion on Mellenville Firehouse – Land across from the property. County owns on both sides and Town owns in middle. Attorney Fitzsimmons will speak with County regarding this. Fire Company has 100-year lease from Town at \$1.00 per year.

Discussion on lease agreement with A T & T for equipment on water tower. Building Inspector, "Jay" Trapp is working on this.

Discussion on possible new payroll services – Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to get three bids before any decision is made. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution to proceed with formal discussion with Claverack Library Board to temporarily move the Town Court to the former Claverack Library building. Carried.

Town will go to day-to-day operations during the pandemic.

Opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman – Did Town receive letter regarding School District Budgets?

Thanked Attorney Fitzsimmons and Councilwoman Cashen for setting up meeting this evening.

No further comments.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss personnel. Carried. Town Clerk was excused.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook to go out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$18,087.40, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$223.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$6,111.74, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District 1 bills, totaling \$874.52, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

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 Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____

