

Workshop Meeting
June 29, 2020
836 Route 217, Philmont, NY 12565
6:00pm

Attendees:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor	Stephen Hook	Councilman
Katy Cashen	Councilwoman	Brian Keeler	Councilman (remotely)
George Duntz	Councilman	Louis Lamont	– Superintendent of Highways
William Michael	Deputy Town Clerk		

Meeting started at 6:05 with board members present and also accessible via zoom.

Discussed a request from AT&T to put a cell tower at the current Town water tower location. Supervisor Weigelt stated he spoke with a representative who said according to drawings, there are power lines running inside the fenced area where it was planned to put the tower and after seeing this, they would now like to place the tower outside of the fenced in area. The area of the new tower would then be fenced in. Supervisor Weigelt suggested the Board get more information and discuss everything with the Town CEO.

Discussed the County reopening of its office buildings. Supervisor Weigelt stated the County will be opening up at one hundred percent on July 6, 2020. It was recommended that anyone who was working from home may continue if they wanted to. Supervisor Weigelt went on to say that all County meetings have restarted and members may either attend in person or in not comfortable, via zoom.

Discussed the restarting of Town Planning and Zoning Board meetings. Both Councilwoman Cashen and Councilman Duntz expressed the importance of restarting these meetings as quickly as possible. Councilman Hook read off the long list of applicants both which have already started the process as well as new applicants eager to move their projects along. Councilman Hook suggested first checking with both the Towns Attorney and Engineer to see when they would be available for the meetings. Councilman Keeler and Councilwoman Cashen suggested the possibility of needing two meetings in a month to help assist applicants moving forward with the process. Councilwoman Cashen stated if a larger space were to be needed, she would check with the Claverack Library to see if they could have use of their meeting room. Councilwoman Cashen stated that if any public hearings were coming up, the meetings would also need to be on something like zoom to accommodate the public due to continued limited access. The Board suggested a tentative date for the next Planning Board meeting of July 20, 2020. Tentative date for Zoning Board of Appeals meeting set for July 22, 2020.

Discussed Planning Board vacancies. The board has one opening, possibly two at this time. Councilman Keeler suggested putting the openings on the Towns website which board members agreed. Councilwoman Cashen suggested looking back at the last list of interested candidates to see who may still be interested. She went on to say that this is a long commitment so it's not surprising to have occasional openings.

Discussed maintenance at the Hamlet Park. Councilwoman Cashen stated that with concern of up keep of the new plantings at the park, she had a proposal from the Claverack Democrats to handle the maintenance. Supervisor Weigelt stated that with concerns that came out at an earlier board meeting of the Summer Concert Series and it having political affiliation, he thought this would fall under the same scrutiny and would rather see a group of town residents maintain it. Councilwoman Cashen suggested maybe then putting something on the Town website to look for volunteers. Supervisor Weigelt then brought up the possibility of just using Town park employees due to the possible increased work load in the future if the Town were to also take over the Churchtown Cemetery.

Discussed Town employee health insurance. Councilwoman Cashen went over newly received information regarding any new changes. Councilman Keeler asked if there were any feedback from employees about the current policy. Board members responded they had not heard any feedback. More discussion will take place at the July Board meeting.

Highway Superintendent spoke of his wanting to change jobs on the 284. He spoke of wanting to do different roadwork due to time issues with the late start. He said he is now planning to pave Bate Road Extension instead of chip sealing it. Highway Super LaMont stated he will write up another 284 and it will be gone over at the July Board meeting. Councilman Keeler brought up his concern about receiving CHIPS funding which Supervisor Weigelt and Councilwoman Cashen responded that they had a signed letter from the State in front of them.

Bookkeeper Suzanne Meddoff spoke to the Board about employee sick time.

Discussed the areas where staging areas will be going up for the construction equipment and materials for the power line upgrade project. Supervisor Weigelt stated there was concern from a resident that had property next to the proposed location and wondered if there would need to be town approval. Councilwoman Cashen answered that she felt with this being a project that bettered the community through the Public Service Commission, that the town would not have much influence as to what was decided.

Supervisor Weigelt asked about the status of the Town Court moving to the Claverack Library. Councilman Hook stated he would be following up with library officials the next day.

Highway Superintendent LaMont addressed a complaint from a citizen who lives on Stickles Road. The citizen complained of trucks going past his house often and was wondering if the town could put up no truck signs at the beginning of the road.

Supervisor Weigelt asked what type of trucks and expressed that if they were local delivery trucks, garbage trucks etc, he did not believe it would even be legal to prevent them from going onto that road. Highway Super LaMont then stated a resident of Preusser Road asked if there could be speed limit signs put up.

Councilwoman Cashen brought up a concern of a citizen on Fish and Game Road who complained about a culvert issue. It was determined that it was a county issue and found that Dean Knox from the county had already communicated with the resident.

Motion by Councilman Hook to enter into executive session, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, board into executive session 7:37 p.m.

Board out of executive session at 7:50 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
William R Michael – Deputy Town Clerk