

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

August 13, 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. As in past months, 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. Also, four residents were allowed to attend, using safe distancing, and six were at the meeting remotely.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Robert J. Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town (Remotely)
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk
William Michael	Deputy Clerk

Absent:

Brian Keeler	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous Regular Monthly Meeting of July 08, 2020 and Workshop Meeting of July 27, 2020. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Changed the intersection of Catskill View Road and County Rte. #27.

Received a quote from Roma Fence for replacement of fence in Park in Claverack at Rte. #23 and 9 – H for \$2,000.00. Some of the posts are rotted off and fence needs replacing. Suggestion of maybe a different type of fence or is there a need for a fence at all? Attorney Fitzsimmons told the Board that that would be a question to ask the insurance agent.

Completed paving of Dunbar Road.

Changed two driveway pipes – one on Calico Lane and one on Stone Mill Road. Changed two road crossing pipes – one on Tin Horn Lane and one on Schoolteacher Road.

Paved Bate Road Extension and cold patching in all zones. Cleaned debris from recent storms.

Mowing roadsides in all zones.

The two men have been working two days a week, keeping Town Parks and cemetery mowed and trimmed.

Met with Gregory Storms from Suez on July 30th to get estimate to paint water tank.

Questioned who is responsible to collect delinquent water bills? At the present time there is a total of approximately \$11,246.00 delinquent. Attorney Fitzsimmons said that by law the water can be shut off or relieved. The Village of Philmont does shut off for nonpayment. The committee will get together and set up a plan.

Dog Controller Officer's Report for July 2020 was received and available at the Town Office for review.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Rebecca Bordeau – e-mails – Re: Census information
Philmont Neighbors – e-mails – Several regarding Village information
Stephanie Sussman – e-mail – Re: Claverack history on website plus personal view
E-mail – Statement from U.S. Census Bureau Director
Todd Diorio – e-mail – Re: Danskammer facility project
Columbia Comeback – e-mail – Re: Upcoming meetings
NY Energy Solutions – Transmission Line Update
East Light Partners – Intent to construct solar energy facility (ELP Claverack Solar) within the

Town

Jock Winch, Jr. – Resignation from Planning Board – Moving from Town
Shepherd's Run Solar Project – Seeking authority to construct a 60-megawatt solar photovoltaic electric generating facility in the Town of Copake
Philmont Public Library – e-mail – Re: Programs
Michael Schwab – Letter requesting speed limit reduction on Stottville Road
Denis Riley – Regional Advisor – NYS Archives – Model resolution for retention and disposition schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1) – Will be put into use officially on August 01, 2020 and replaces MU-1 as well as 3 other existing manuals used by other authorities, and consolidates them into one volume – needs to be adopted by Town Boards by January 01, 2021. Records cannot be disposed of if the manual is not adopted.

Committee Reports

"None received at the Town Office"

Supervisor's Report

The County Supervisors' Meetings are still held virtual due to the COVID-19. At last night's meeting there was a discussion on the Fish & Game Road project. Now on hold for the month. Four parcels where there is a need for strips of 2 or 3 feet of land and has to be settled with landowners. This is needed so that road can be brought up to specs.

Other road projects will be billed upfront and then reimbursed.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Reviewed budget and impact from COVID-19 on Town finances and budget. Second quarter numbers for Sales Tax and Mortgage Tax, even though not as much as usual, is better than expected.

Followed up with Planning Board solar applicants regarding PILOT proposals to Town Board consideration.

Followed up on Climate Smart Community information for Town Board resolutions.

Finished requests for website maintenance, hosting and security. As of today, we have received two quotes.

Provided input on request for quotes for payroll services for the Town.

Followed up on electronic speed sign for Stottville Road.

Along with Councilman Hook, met with representatives of Claverack Library to go over items needed to be done to the former Claverack Library for using the building temporarily for the Town Court and other Town meetings.

Followed up with Health Insurance representative to discuss new rates for Health Insurance for employees. September 1st is the renewal date.

Worked on virtual meetings for Town Board, Planning Board and ZBA meetings.

Notified new Planning Board members of their appointment and worked with Deputy Clerk to update website information on Planning Board members.

Provided information to legal counsel for union negotiations.

Councilman Hook – Made 3 trips to Harbor Freight for various items

Went to NexGen for dividers for Town Court and installed them another day

Met with Judge Brandon at the Former Claverack Library and another day met there with Supervisor and Stephen King, a trustee of the library, regarding the bathroom facility that has to be done at that building before its' temporary use as the Town Court.

Signed checks at the Town Office.

Took care of recycling materials for the Food Pantry and the Town Office

Worked with Dog Control Officer to pick up stray dog

Attended Town Planning Board, County Planning Board Meeting and Town Monthly Workshop Meeting

Met with head of Facilities Shared Services regarding work on former Claverack Library building to be used as Town Court facilities and other Town associated meetings temporarily

Met with KoolTemp at Town Hall/Town Court Building

Met with State Police regarding a returned check given to the Town

Met with Labor Attorney

No further reports

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for Climate Smart Community Resolution. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution for the retention and disposition schedule for New York local government records. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept draft January – July 2019, Draft January - July 2020 and draft July 2020 financial reports. Carried.

There was no discussion on Town website quotes – will be discussed at workshop on August 31.

Discussion on In-Motion program for Town website which is a two-year program. Will ask if we can do it for one year. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt to pay either way as it is necessary for the website. Carried.

It was brought up that the Town has had no place for dogs that are picked up by Dog Control Officer and, so far, haven't needed a place. Dog Control Officer has been able to locate owners. Town can sign a contract with him so that he can harbor dogs that are picked up and owners cannot be located. NYS Agriculture and Markets will allow this with a contract. Town Attorney will be asked to write up a contract for Town Board to go over and approve.

Supervisor Weigelt brought attention to the fact that there is a PILOT request regarding a solar project within the Town by Eden Renewables. If the Town is interested in considering this, response has to be made within 60 days. The County and Hudson City School District have not responded. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated it is not too late for them to respond. For 5 mega-watts it would amount to \$25,000. per year in tax amount and would have to be shared if they do answer in the affirmative. Per Attorney Fitzsimmons, he has shared a draft that was provided from other Towns. The Town has lead agency and the PILOT standard is 15 years. NYSERDA wording would be in the agreement. After 15 years, the property would revert back to regular taxation. PILOT begins when project is put into operation and construction would be after the winter months. In answer to a question, the plans may be able to go to Columbia County Planning on Monday. In the Town the Public Hearing will probably be set for October.

John Bradley gave a short presentation on Climate Smart Communities, which is a sister to the Clean Energy Program that the Town is part of. Has planning grants for building and can apply for other projects in the grants also. Other residents could volunteer to be a part of the program. Suggested that a motion be made to appoint a coordinator. Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to appoint John Bradley. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons said that he knows other Towns are participating in the program and he recommends it. Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for approval of resolution for participation in the program. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Hook to write letter to Columbia County board of Supervisors encouraging them to participate also. Carried.

Opened to public:

Ian Nitschke – (virtual) – New York State Historic sign now at the Barnard House on Route #23.

Donna Davi – (virtual) – Resident residing on Stottville Road – Glad digital speed sign set up. Has had some effect as about one-third of the vehicles have slowed down. Can sign be turned around to check vehicles traveling in other direction? Residents in area would still like to see speed limit to 30 or 35mph. Maybe speed bumps would help – have been used in Dutchess County. The road has no sidewalks along the road and is very dangerous.

Supervisor Weigelt – Maybe the next step is for law enforcement to be involved. Will speak to New York State Troopers and the Columbia County Sheriff's Department to get involved. Will also ask the County what the next step would be necessary to change the speed limit in the area.

On question about the opening of the bridge on Roxbury Road by **David DeSanto**, Supervisor Weigelt said that the two bridges now closed in the Town will be open for use within a few days. The one on Roxbury Road blocks the short distance to High Falls.

Stephanie Sussman – Wanted information on the Police Reform Panel by the County. What is composition, how many applicants, how panel will be constituted, diversity, interviews and by whom? Who has the authority to inform? **Supervisor Weigelt** stated within two or three weeks those questions will be answered by the County – need time yet to get things together. Will be put on Town website and also County website when available.

Brenda Weigelt – Court Clerk – Requesting guidance for the reopening of Town Court and rules that are needed to be followed due to COVID-19. The Columbia County Health Department would be a great help in directing this.

No further questions or comments.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations and insurance at 8:15 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$9,956.94, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,090.14, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$7.56, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Water A bills, totaling \$228.95, 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 9:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Town Clerk: _____

