

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

July 09, 2020

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #835 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 last month, 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
George Duntz	Councilman
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Brian Keeler	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to accept minutes of previous Town Board Meeting of June 11, 2020 and Workshop Meeting of June 29, 2020. Carried.

Superintendent of Highways Report – Louis LaMont – No report in absence of Highway Superintendent.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Debra Gitterman – e-mail – Re: In need of 30 masks and would like community dinner at Town Park

Rebecca A. Brodeur – e-mails – Several regarding Census 2020 information

Suzette Booy – e-mail – Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency – Update on status of 2021 REVAL project

Sherwood Bradley – Senior Project Manager-US Army Corp of Engineers – Re: Claverack Creek Solar, LLC

Several letters from residents on Stottville Rd., requesting lower speed limit

Jeane LaPorta – Town Historian – Re: Photos to be used on interactive map – WGP Foundation

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: One-on-One Virtual Job Search Help

Town of Claverack Contact Numbers

Blue Shield of Northeastern NY Notice of Renewal

Philmont Public Library – e-mail – Summer Reading 2020

Weekly News from State Comptroller DiNapoli

Philmont Neighbors – Narcan Overdose Prevention Training – Free NARCAN kit included

Philmont Public Library – Curbside Book Pickups

Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq. – e-mail – Re: Information for Planning Board and ZBA Meetings

Committee Reports

“None” received at the Town Office

Supervisor’s Report

Town’s new playground equipment installation on hold due to COVID-19. Company where representatives will come from to give guidance still on shutdown.

Information on Dunbar Road work – Highway Superintendent LaMont stated only chip-sealing – included in last year’s CHIPS funds and can be completed this year.

County Offices are open with approximately 50% of workforce still working from home. County Supervisors’ Meetings are done virtual only.

Columbia County Treasurer, Paul J. Keeler, Jr. told Supervisors that financial status doesn’t look great.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilman Duntz – Nothing to report.

Councilwoman Cashen – Worked with Deputy Clerk on website announcements regarding Town Building Office closings and meeting postponements due to COVID-19.

Reviewed impact of COVID-19 on Town Budget finances and did research on unemployment insurance payments.

Met with resident regarding a request for use of Town Park for dance performance that would be socially distant. Followed up with Town Insurance Broker on insurance questions regarding the event.

With Councilman Hook and Judge Brandon, met with representatives of Claverack Library Board regarding temporary use of old Library building for Town Court and other Town meetings and work that will be needed to be in compliance.

Met with health insurance representative to discuss new rates for employees. September 1st is the renewal date.

Worked on getting virtual meetings set up for Planning Board and ZBA.

Councilman Hook – This includes June and July –

Worked at Town Hall/Town Court Building fixing water in bathroom

Signed checks for bookkeeper on several days

Picked up shields for offices from NexGen

Met with NexGen for protective shields for court

Met with Judge Brandon regarding court moving and reopening court

proceedings

Met with contractor to have doors in Town Office Building cut – then adjusting hardware so doors would close and be able to be locked

Picked up food in Hudson from Northeastern NY Food Bank and delivered to Food Pantry at Town Office Building

Took care of recycling for food pantry and Town Office

Picked up hand sanitizer for Town Departments

Met, along with Superintendent Weigelt, with Superintendent of Highways

Met with Richard Schumann to discuss old Town Hall demolition

End of reports

It was noted that the Planning Board would be meeting on July 20th and have several projects, including large solar projects on the calendar.

After discussion, explained by Councilman Duntz, motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt, to approve use of baseball field, pending receipt of insurance.

Meeting opened to public:

John Bradley - Members have copies regarding Climate Smart. This is not Clean Energy Program. Should get into program early. There are multiple funding sources. Getting County Board of Supervisors involved and hiring coordinator important. Should build support, thru letters, before going to County Board of Supervisors.

Stephanie Sussman – Plan for Police Strategies due by April 2021. Must go to Board of Supervisors and wants to know what steps have already been taken. Has Safety Committee been working on this? Supervisor Weigelt stated that first meeting will be next week.

Thanks for setting up zoom meeting.

Jim McCabe – Stottville Road resident – Regarding several letters written regarding speed on Stottville Road. Would like speed limit lowered from 40 mph to 30 mph. **Councilman Duntz** said that the speeding is a law enforcement issue. **Supervisor Weigelt** said that it involves law enforcement, but Town has purchased speed signs and will put them on that road to see if it will help deter speeding.

Ian Nitschke - why aren't masks being used? Town Meeting members are practicing safe distancing. All are at least 6' apart.

What progress on Shaw Bridge? This is now being worked on at County level. Presently there are two bridges that need mandatory work and are a priority.

Paul Freeman, Esq. – Representing persons interested in developing property across from Salem Tractor. Would like to have a deli, outdoor space, general store and café. Now zoned Commercial Industrial Park. Multi-use Commercial would be an accepted use here. Asking Town Board to change area from Commercial Industrial to Highway Commercial. This information was forwarded to Attorney Fitzsimmons. The property contains six acres and expands in the back to the Industrial Park. Would be great for this type of use. If no other alternative, will come back next meeting and ask for the change. Attorney Freeman will keep working with them and keep Board informed.

No further questions or remarks.

Mandatory Yearly Training Schedule received from Town Bookkeeping Office and will be given to appropriate departments

Discussed Highway 284 Contract, which Superintendent of Highways has changed.

Short discussion on Town Employee Health benefits. New contract is September 01, 2020.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to go into Executive Session at 8:11 p.m.
Carried

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook to go out of Executive Session at 9:47 p.m.
Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to sign 284 Contract. Carried

General A bills, totaling \$10,023.31, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$519.45, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$4,065.56, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District 1 bills, totaling \$4,493.46, were audited and ordered paid from their 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 Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____

