

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**November 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 Deputy Supervisor, Stephen Hook, at 7:00, leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag following a moment of silence in recognition and respect of Veterans Day. As in the past meetings and also the Public Hearing prior to this Regular Monthly Meeting, 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: Virtual – All from home or office –

Stephen Hook	Deputy Supervisor/Councilman
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman
Robert J. Fitzsimmons, Jr. Esq.	Attorney for the Town
William R. Michael	Deputy Clerk
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Keeler, to accept minutes of previous Town Board Meeting of October 08, 2020 and Workshop Meeting of October 26, 2020. Carried.

There was no report of the Highway Department, due to absence of Superintendent of Highways.

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

**Correspondence**

Including, but not limited to:

Tom Bertels/Shannon Dailey – e-mail – Re: Van Deusen Rd. – Supposed to be “Local Traffic Only”

Philmont Public Library – Monthly news

Rebecca A. Brodeur – e-mail – Several regarding census

NYS Environmental Protection Fund – Climate Smart Communities Grants available  
John Bradley – e-mail – Climate Smart Communities  
Pam Kline – e-mail – Elizaville Food Pantry in need of critical food staples  
Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress – e-mail – Roads for People  
Mellenville Fire District 2021 Proposed Budget  
Village of Philmont Fire District 2021 Budget  
John Bradley – Climate Smart Community Workshop Report  
NYS Energy Solution – Transco – Information on PSC Case #19-T-0684  
Patrice Perry – e-mail – Land Use Training Webinar  
Eric De Feo – e-mail – Speed limit on Rte. #217 – Residence is 144 State Rte. #217

### **Supervisor's Report**

There is no report this month due to absence of Supervisor.

### **Town Board Member Reports**

**Councilman Duntz** – Along with **Councilman Keeler** attended combined Planning Board/ZBA Meeting.

Expressed credit to **Councilman Hook** and **Deputy Town Clerk Michael** for assisting with the Planning Board Public Hearings, which were quite lengthy.

Attended ZBA Meeting virtually.

**Councilman Keeler** – Attended Monthly Workshop.

Attended Planning Board Public Hearings, which were lengthy and also thanked **Councilman Hook** and **Deputy Town Clerk Michael** for their assistance.

Worked with other members of the Board on the 2021 Budget.

Questioned whether some of the invoices on supplies might be able to purchase under State contract. Feels some of the supplies are extremely high priced.

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Worked with Deputy Town Clerk and new company on new website and final changes before being launched. Also worked with updates regarding meetings and announcements.

Worked with Claverack Library liaisons on draft lease for the former library building to be used for the Town Court and other Town meetings during construction of new building for Town Hall/Town Court, with some more work yet to be decided. Note also from Library Board member Stephen King – this is also budget time for the Library.

Hosted and staffed virtual meeting for Town Board, Planning Board and ZBA.

Provided information to legal counsel for union negotiations and participated in several meetings with **Councilman Hook** and Town Highway employees. Now finished and will meet in December for final approval.

Worked on various personnel issues.

Attended meetings with Board Members to finalize 2021 Budget.

Followed-up with Catamount Ski Area regarding Claverack Youth Winter Ski Program for 2021 season.

**Councilman Hook** – Took recycling for Town Office and Food Pantry several times.

Met with Highway Superintendent – a.m. conference call with Union negotiator – p.m. conference call with Union negotiator.

Picked up envelopes from the County for office.

Signed checks at Town Office several times.

Attended Union negotiations with **Councilwoman Cashen** and Highway members.

Met with Dog Control Officer.

End of Reports

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Duntz to approve 2021 Final Budget. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for authorization to file Tax Cap Calculation. Carried.

After explanation by Councilman Hook, motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Duntz for resolution to request lower speed limit on the Claverack side of the Taghkanic/Churchtown Road. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept draft January – October 2019, draft January – October 2020 and draft October 2020 Financial Statements. Carried.

Short discussion on Youth Ski Program. Waiting to hear from Catamount. This program is no expense to the Town.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Duntz to accept proposal from Farm Credit for payroll processing. Carried.

Discussed court request for next customer alert buzzer, which will also be used for Planning Board and ZBA meetings. This program will assist in people who will be entering the building during COVID-19 regulations. Decided that this was a good idea.

Meeting opened to public (virtually):

Stephanie Sussman – Spoke on Law Enforcement Program being instituted in County, which the New York Governor has stated has to be completed by April 2021. Unhappy with some panelists who just offered praises to law enforcement. What are the next steps after tomorrow’s meeting? Attorney Fitzsimmons then spoke and said comments are coming back and are on both sides. There will be improved policies and procedures. There will be a plan review on Law Enforcement to work together.

Jeane LaPorta – Town Historian – Sent Town Board members e-mail year-end report of activities. Has developed a file on COVID-19 for historical reference in the future. She was thanked by the Board for all her hard work.

John Bradley – Climate Smart 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on Tuesday. Information also available on IMBY.

General A bills, totaling \$14,217.47, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$681.74, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$85,511.51, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water A bills, totaling \$1,611.11, 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 Duntz, meeting adjourned by Deputy Supervisor at 7:43 P.M.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Hook \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Cashen: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Keeler: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Duntz: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_