

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

December 10, 2020

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held remotely, at the Town Hall, #368 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Per Executive Order from the New York State Governor, due to COVID-19, the public having the ability to listen, comment and ask questions.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman (Virtual)
George Duntz	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town (Virtual)
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Supervisor Weigelt introduced Shannon Baxevanis, who gave a presentation on TRANSCO project. The project will go from Schodack to Pleasant Valley. There will be a switching station in Schodack and rebuilding a switching station in Churchtown. The Town of Claverack will be the start of the project as the station needs to be built in Churchtown first. This project will be in service in 2022. Equipment and supplies will be in laydown yard off Baker Road. There will be an Agricultural inspector available. J. Frick will work with Agricultural Committee. Seven additional structures will be added in the Town of Claverack. There was a question regarding traffic while working on project. Work hours will be 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. If for any reason hours will be longer, door hangers will be put on properties nearby that would be affected by the traffic. Town Supervisor and Town Clerk will be notified if work will be done after hours.

A power point of this presentation will be sent on a pdf.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to accept minutes of previous meeting of November 12, 2020. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Removed six dead trees on Catskill View Road.

Hauled sand for the Village of Philmont.

Serviced all of the plow trucks.

Cold-patched in all zones.

Graded dirt roads.

Put up snow fence.

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

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Information on New YORK State Deferred Compensation Plan

Columbia County Office of the Aging – e-mail – Robotic Pets available and Caregiver Program

Classes

Jim O'Neill – e-mail – Possible to plow walking/jogging trail during winter, as expecting gyms to be closed due to COVID-19

Concerned Citizens for Rural Preservation (CCPR) – e-mail – Re: Recent changes to NYS Land Use Regulations

Jeane LaPorta – e-mail – Historian Report for 2020

NYS Town Clerk's Association – Request to Governor to suspend annual renewal requirement for Senior and Residents with Disabilities to receive these exemptions due to COVID-19

Pamela A. Helming – Senator – 54th District – Request to Governor Cuomo to suspend requirement for Seniors and Residents with Disabilities to receive their exemptions this year due to COVID-19

Thank you from Census Program

Eddie F – e-mail – Handcrafted rustic hiking and walking sticks available

Claverack Free Library – Contribution or volunteering request

The Social Security Star for December – Information

Warren Dorsch – e-mail – Problem on Roxbury Road near bridge

John Bradley – e-mail – Climate Smart Update Report

Supervisor's Report

County – 1.5% increase in 2021 Budget. Two million borrowed due to COVID-19 for use in case it is necessary.

Town – Water tower – Will have to be bonded – Have a plan to paint the tower inside and out. This would make it good for at least 15 years. Also talked to Keyser Well Drilling about possible options as Greenport has raised rates again. Will check into what rates have been paid since beginning.

Discussion on changing time of Monthly Board Meeting for next year at 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. This will be decided at the Organizational Meeting.

Discussion on plans for cemetery in Churchtown, if necessary, for Town to take it over.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilman Duntz – Spoke with two clerks. No ZBA Meeting this month.

Attended Planning Board Meeting.

Spoke with Brett – Summer Youth Program n standby. Also spoke about Ski Program.

Councilman Hook – Meeting at Highway Department. Met with Highway Superintendent.

Attended County Planning Board Meeting (virtual) and Town Planning Board Meeting.

Attended Court Audit with Councilwoman Cashen.

Met with Town Supervisor.

Met with Town Attorney, Dog Control Officer and Code Enforcement Officer.

Did recycling for Town and Food Pantry several times and also did Food Pantry monthly food order pickup.

Signed checks at Town Office several times.

Attended virtual meeting with Claverack Free Library.

Councilwoman Cashen - Met with Claverack Library liaisons, along with Councilman Hook, regarding costs for renovations and lease issues for temporary housing for Town Court and other Town meetings.

Worked with Catamount Ski area and Claverack group leader regarding Claverack Youth Winter Ski Program and plans for the 2021 season. Finalized paperwork and drafted website announcement. Will be 6 Saturdays – no program on weekend of Martin Luther King Day or President’s Weekend. No tables in lodge this year – want to keep most outside.

Hosted and staffed virtual meetings for Town Board and Planning Board.

Worked with legal counsel on 2021 fire department contracts and resolution for Churchtown and West Ghent Fire Department area, covered by A.B. Shaw and Mellenville Fire Companies.

With Councilman Hook provided information for union negotiations and finalized all paperwork for the final union contract with the Town Highway employees.

Worked with counsel on PILOT agreements for the solar projects in the Town and related issues.

Worked on various personnel issues.

Worked with bookkeeper on payments to Claverack Free Library for electric car charging station, located at the library parking lot.

Responded to question from Town Historian regarding question from resident in Hamlet area.

Assisted office staff with updates to the website regarding meetings and announcements.

Attended Court Audit Review with Councilman Hook.

End of reports.

Gillian Black – PILOTS for Solar Projects reviewed by Attorney Fitzsimmons. They will be four-way agreements. Michael Tucker – 4-way agreement – School 50%, County 25% and Town 25%.

Councilwoman questioned when this will begin. It will begin once operational, hopefully by September 2021. Beginning project is planned to start the first of the year.

Councilman Hook stated the third Eden Renewable Project has not come to Planning Board yet.

On Human Society Road Solar Project has requested a discontinuance of about 1400 feet of road. There will be turnaround access for Highway Department.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution for Court Records. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution approving conditions of PILOT Agreement with Claverack Creek Solar Project. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution approving conditions of PILOT Agreement with Catskill View Solar Project. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution approving payment of 2020 bills as they are received in January 2021. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution abandoning the portion of Human Society Road as requested. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution ageing to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local #294 for certain employees, covering the period of December 11, 2020- December 31, 2023. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution abolishing the Office of Deputy Town Highway Superintendent. This was explained by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution approving Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by and between the Town of Claverack and Teamsters Local #294, affiliated with International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehouses and Helpers of America and Anthony Barry. Carried.

After explanation by Attorney Fitzsimmons, motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution adopting a hiring policy for the Town. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to accept draft December 2019, draft January – December 2019, draft December 220 and draft January – December 2020. Carried.

A resolution adopting a policy for submission and payment by voucher for the Town was tabled.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for reappointment of Lisa Bowe to the Planning Board from January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2027. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for reappointment of Steve Melnyk to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) from January 01, 2021 – December 31, 2025. Carried.

Short discussion on Deferred Compensation Plan – Other Towns do offer this to employees, including the County. Councilman Duntz explained that it is pretax money taken out of employees pay each week. It is a form of retirement. Deputy Clerk will get more information on this.

Short discussion in sign requirement for Planning Board applications. Explained by Attorney Fitzsimmons that after 2012 the Planning Board took over much of the business that was formerly brought before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Many other towns do not require signs to be placed on property where a Public Hearing is going to take place regarding a project on that property if it is brought before the Planning Board. If this is changed, the signs would only be required for a Zoning Board of Appeals application. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to change the sign requirement to Zoning Board of Appeals applications only. Carried.

After discussion, it was decided that the Organizational Meeting will be on Thursday, January 07, 2021, at 6:45 p.m., followed by the Regular Monthly Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman – Regarding Police Reform. This is on the County level. Has attended all meetings to date. Concerned. Feels ability hampered and hardly any data. Critical constituents not involved or included. Should be providing a plan. **Supervisor Weigelt** stated that the strength is in the panel discussions. Better if she brought this to the panel discussion. She also feels there lacks data from Sheriff Bertram, no year-to-year comparisons, no data about training.

John Bradley – Regarding Climate Smart. Meeting held on November 17, 2020.

Susan Bame – Regarding Police Reform. No information about racial injustice. Would like to come to workshop.

No further comments.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. To discuss Union Contract. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$12,994.65 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,194.46 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$10,455.47 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Water A bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz, meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____

