

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 08, 2021

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held virtually as it has been for many months due to rules set forth by the Governor of the State of New York. Meeting opened at 6:00 P.M. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in a moment of silence in memory of Reginald Conklin (Reggie), Dog Control Officer for the Town and Village of Philmont for many years, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Katheen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
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Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous Town Board Meeting of March 11, 2021 and Workshop Meeting of February 22, 2021. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department sweeping roads in all zones. All snow fence is down.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve ordering of salt for next winter season before the price goes up in June. Carried.

Dog Control Officer's Report for March on file in Town Office for review. Kyle Miller is the new Dog Control Officer.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

NYSDOT- Regarding the segment of 9-H in the Hamlet area near Park Street and 9-H. Area has been examined many times. The letter was addressed to Charles Vieni with the Town cc'd in.
Taconic Hills Little League – Ron Slemph, President – e-mail Re: 2021 Safety Plan to be strictly enforced.

Aiden Paul – e-mail – Re: Claverack Town Park proposal for skateboarding.

Notice of receipt of Uniform Code and Energy Code Administration and Enforcement Report for 2020.

Eligo – Re: Green Power Community.

Abbe Futterman – Re: Large trucks traveling on Baker Road between Millbrook Road and 9-H. Assessment information for Town owned properties.
Philmont Neighbors – e-mails – Several regarding a dog problem in the Village of Philmont.
Philmont Public Library – April newsletter.
Philmont Neighbors e-mail – Hiring part-time Customer Service for Philmont Market & Café Cooperative.
Information regarding New York Energy Solution project.
Columbia County Habitat for Humanity – e-mail – News release.
Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Families affected by April 6th fire in Village.

Supervisor's Report

On Monday attended a retirement meeting for “Skip” Speed, mayor of the Village of Philmont for many years. A good crowd attended at the Village Hall.

Letter received regarding work on the electric line. Amazing what is being done. Mats around tower and surrounding area. Looks like about a two- year project. There was a complaint about truck traffic in the area. Went to them and told that they have to use Rte. 9-H – cannot use Millbrook Road as it is not constructed for constant heavy trucks. There is information on the project on the web-site. Company doing work has been very responsive.

Spoke on the extensive fire in Philmont on Block Street. It was very intense and destroyed an apartment building and heavily damaged a nearby home. Thanked the many fire companies and their crews for all their assistance, which got the fire under control, saving nearby structures.

Little Leagues will be playing at the Town Park this year. They have presented an approved Safety Plan and are ready to play ball next month.

Reval for the Town has been completed by the County. All of the County would have been completed by now, but due to the Pandemic have 3 or 4 more Towns to complete.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Worked with Attorney Fitzsimmons on final PILOT agreement for solar project on Stottville Road.

Worked with Deputy Clerk, Rich Michael, to post Claverack Emergency Disaster Plan, which had been approved, on the website. A notice about assistance for homebound seniors within the Town was also posted.

Worked with Councilman Keeler and Attorney Fitzsimmons to update Town Employee Handbook because of recent State law changes and the union contract.

Worked with Attorney Fitzsimmons on various issues pertaining to Family and Medical Leave Act.

Along with Councilman Hook, interviewed candidate for Assistant to the Building Inspector.

Spoke with local architecture firm on perspective new Town Hall building. Some ideas will be presented at next workshop.

Finalized 2021-2022 insurance renewal for the Town with Johnny Walker Insurance Agency.

Responded to questions and complaints received from residents on the TRANSCO power line project and the Town revaluation of properties.

Hosted Zoom March ZBA Meeting and April Planning Board Meeting

Councilman Hook – Ordered signs for Town Park – Masks at all times. Colors are Red, White and Black. Some will be ready next week.

Along with Councilwoman Cashen, interviewed candidate for Assistant Building Inspector.

Took care of recycling several times for Town Offices and food pantry.

Picked up and helped deliver monthly food pantry order.

Councilman Keeler – Attended ZBA Meeting.

Worked on upcoming Insurance, with renewal of April 1, 2021.

Worked with Attorney Fitzsimmons on the A.B. Shaw/Churchtown boundary line.

In process of getting information from Staples and State Contract pricing – should be significant savings.

Remarked on structure fire in Philmont. Thank God there were no injuries. Search and Rescue team responded in case needed. Task Force, battalion also responded. It was a very stubborn, hot fire and weather was very windy. 20 – 25 companies in battalion. Many companies on standby.

Councilman Duntz – Fire in Philmont was very difficult. Brings up concerns in the County as a whole. All companies in the County are volunteers. Need to press for more volunteer services.

Attended ZBA Meeting and Monthly Town Board Workshop.

Spoke with Jordan Hoose, Director of Summer Youth Park Program.

Spoke with “Derby” Shutts regarding Baseball fields and all are ready for playing.

Met with those involved in establishing the Skate Board Park in the Town Park, including Aiden Paul who brought the project to the Town and Rich Nesbitt from Johnny Walker Insurance Agency.

No further reports.

Councilman Duntz spoke on a problem with feral cats. Dog Control Officer does not handle this. Suggested Town reach out to other Towns to see how they handle this situation. There is an organization named Animalkind that takes in cats. Wendy Guntert may be another point of contact or she may know of someone.

Regarding the updates in the Employee Handbook – they were to comply with New York State Law - now the Town has a Union in the Highway Department. Several references were taken out. The day after Thanksgiving was added because Election Day was taken out.

Discussion on proposed skate board park. Councilman Duntz discussed using the pad that is already there. Rich Nesbitt from Johnny Walker Insurance Agency sat in on the discussion. There are rules and regulations that need to be done. There has to be a fence and inspected weekly. There is a lot to partake before opening. Expense and liability in question and also safety. Whole Park needs to be fenced in and insurance would be \$930. Helmets and pads would be mandatory. Mr. Nesbitt will speak to underwriters. Can just the Skateboard Park be fenced in?

Waiting on two grants – Shaw Bridge and the Park. Building Inspector, Larissa DeLonga, has information left by former Building Inspector, Jay Trapp. Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Councilman Hook will see where these grants stand.

Councilman Duntz stated there was a Taconic Hills Little League Meeting. Can't wait too long to put everything in place.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to sign shared services agreement with Columbia County MIS. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook to approve 284 Form for Highway Plan of work for 2021. This would be covered under CHIPS. Supervisor Weigelt mentioned roads to be worked on. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to hire Kyle Miller as Dog Control Officer. He works with Columbia/Greene Humane Society. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to have Columbia/Greene Humane Society house dogs for the Town. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to hire an assistant for the Building Department. Carried.

After explanation by Councilwoman Cashen, motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve new Employee Handbook updates. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft March 2021, draft January – March 2021, draft January – March 2020 Financial Statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook to waive park fees for Everlasting Hope for their fundraiser on July 21, 2021. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Duntz to approve adding Town Clerk's Licensing Program on Deputy Clerk's computer. Carried.

Opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman – Disappointed more people do not show up at Town Board Meetings. There should be a newsletter from the Town.

Ian Nitschke – Spoke on Shaw Bridge Project and questioned where it stands. County has taken over, but with the death of Dean Knox, someone in the County will have to be assigned to the project.

He also spoke on lowering the speed limit on Rte. #23B in the hamlet. Many large trucks on this road. Feels a reasonable speed limit would be 30mph.

He also mentioned the daffodils, which celebrate Dutch heritage.

Julius James – Also spoke on the speed limit on #23B. Large trucks going much too fast. Mr. Nitschke said that the speed of the trucks is causing damage to homes along the route. Mr. James said that is true even to his house.

Stephen King – Consider initiating study of the traffic.

Brian Yorck – Need signage at the Park. 40+ basketball players plus spectators with no masks or distancing. What is Town going to do?

No more comments.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to go into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go out of Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

General A Bills, totaling \$13849.48, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$600.28, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$12595.11, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$1182.84, 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 Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____

