

Workshop Meeting
May 24, 2021
Virtual Meeting
6:00pm

Attendees:

Clifford Weigelt Supervisor	Stephen Hook Councilman
Katy Cashen Councilwoman	Brian Keeler Councilman
George Duntz Councilman	
William R Michael Deputy Town Clerk	

John Bradley, Chair of the Claverack Climate Smart Committee, spoke about LED lighting in the town. He received information from NYSEG for replacing 45 street lights. He stated that the town attorney did review the agreement and thought things looked good but to look carefully for any additional charges because it would fall back onto the town for payment. Mr. Bradley said he spoke to someone at NYSEG and they said that something like that is very rare. Councilwoman Cashen stated to the board that there are two lighting districts in the town. One in the hamlet which is under National Grid and one in Mellenville which is under NYSEG. This would be in Mellenville. She went on to say that NYSEG could replace the lights this year but would need a signed agreement from the town by June 1st, 2021, per their letter. Councilwoman Cashen explained that the town qualified for a five thousand dollar grant for energy efficient projects and this would pay itself off within around six months. She stated that the cost would be approximately fourteen hundred dollars. John Bradley stated that if the agreement was not signed and returned by June 1st, then the project would most likely not get done until next year.

Motion to sign the agreement made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, all in favor, carried.

Supervisor Weigelt spoke about possible changes to the building code as to parcels of land that are not usable because they do not have required road frontage, therefore not able to build on the property. Councilwoman Cashen asked if anyone had any idea of how many parcels have this issue. No one was sure and she then stated she would check to see with the county to see if they were able to give any information to help in deciding. Supervisor Weigelt went on to say that he has talked with the town attorney and would like to start the process. He said that Attorney Fitzsimmons stated any changes would be a four month minimum process.

Discussed a request from the Churchtown Fire Company to have a new digital light sign. Supervisor Weigelt stated he has seen the same type of lighted sign at the Livingston Fire Department and it was very nice looking at not overly bright. Councilman Hook stated his concern saying that if that were approved then there were others, some who were already denied, that also requested having a lighted sign. The board will speak with the town attorney and follow up further.

Discussed an interest in having rental cottages in the area of State Route 23 and Old Barrington road. Per Attorney Fitzsimmons, at this time the area in question is not zoned for this type of project and could be considered spot zoning.

Councilwoman Cashen discussed previously approved grants for the town and their status. She spoke with Assemblywoman Didi Barret's office and they will look into them and work on getting them through to the town.

Discussed a proposed Hamlet park sign. Councilwoman Cashen stated that she had sent an email with a sketch of the sign to Nextgen signs for a quote but has not heard back as of yet.

Discussed the Summer Youth Program and if the town would be offering the program this year. After discussion there were several factors making it difficult having the program. Issues were not enough counselors with only one returning from prior years. Other issues at this time were there was no medical director and that combined with an approximately 23 pages of State guidelines to follow, it would be too difficult manage.

Councilwoman Cashen discussed concern from a group of neighbors in the hamlet area on State Route 23B and their concern with trucking in the area. They would like to share some information and make some suggestions to the board in hopes it could be relayed to NYSDOT.

Discussed Juneteenth public holiday, newly recognized by New York State. Councilwoman Cashen stated according to legal counsel, the closing of town offices is discretionary and the town is not legally obligated to close offices on this day. This year the holiday falls on a Saturday. At this time, the Town Board decided not to close offices on this public holiday.

Councilman Hook updated the board of the timeline for installing new playground equipment at the town park. He said that a company will be coming the week of June 21st to install the equipment and it should take approximately two days. Councilman Hook stated that the park will be closed during the time of installation.

Discussed price increases in bottled water for town offices from Berkshire water. Councilman Hook stated that he has asked the town bookkeeper to look into other businesses offering water and to get pricing.

Motion to enter into executive session made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, all in favor, in executive session 7:05 p.m.

Motion to exit executive session made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz, all in favor, out of executive session at 7:52 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, all in favor, meeting adjourned 7:53 p.m.