

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**July 08, 2021**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held virtually for the public as in the past year. The Town Board members were present at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in a moment of silence for those involved in the building collapse in Surfside, Florida and in respect to the family of Pat. Moseley, wife of former Town Supervisor, former Town Board member and a pillar of the community for many years.

Present:

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

Absent:

Brian Keeler	Councilman
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Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous meeting of June 10, 2021. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Paved Christman Road.**

Replaced two culvert pipes on Patroon Street.

Completed drag boxing on Snyderstown Road, moved to Miller Road II and completed to prepare for oil and stone.

Borrowed the screen from the County Highway Department and screened all millings to use on Old Barrington Road.

Screened a pile of topsoil to use for shoulder material.

Installed a water line to the Hamlet Park and did a tap for Pulcher's Bus Garage.

Put topsoil around rides in Town Park and mulch under new Park playground equipment and met with Rick Cartwite to hydroseed topsoil around the new equipment.

Dug out a clay section of 400' on Orchard Road and installed road fabric, 12" of gravel and blacktop to prepare for chip-sealing.

Supervisor Weigelt thanked Highway Department for all their assistance in the Town Park when the company was setting up the new playground equipment.

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

### Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. – e-mail – State Revolving Funds Webinar – June 16 – 2:00 p.m.

NYS Department of Health – Interim Guidelines for Camp Programs during COVID-19.

Marron, Nicole – New York Energy Solution – Sunday work on 05/23/2021

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – Re. – Permit Application #NAN-2019-01444-USH by New York Transco, LLC

Airosmith Development – Re: Verizon Wireless modification to the existing wireless facility located of Old Lane.

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance – State Office of Real Property Tax Service – Final State equalization rate is 100.00%

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Three Volume Cultural Resource Survey

Columbia County Planning Department – Nomination of John Bradley as Claverack's representative on the Environmental Management Council for a two-year term

Photo of sign for Hamlet of Claverack

Claverack residents' statement on Hudson Traffic Study – June 07, 2021

Ian Nitschke – e-mail – Shaw Bridge

### Supervisor's Report

The County Board of Supervisors' Meeting will be next week. Report on County business will be at next meeting.

Time to begin working on Town Budget for next year.

### Town Board Member Reports

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Sent in application for Federal funding for American Rescue Plan grant for the Town to New York State Division of Budget. Amount is around \$450,000. and will receive half within thirty days.

Spoke with representative from DASNY regarding status of Town Park Improvement grant. No new information on funds.

Grant application submitted to NYSERDA for LED streetlights conversion Grant for Mellenville.

Interviewed candidate for Town Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer.

Hosted July Planning Board Meeting via Zoom.

Worked with legal counsel regarding Employee Manual changes on sick leave credit towards fully-funded employee insurance for full-time employees that retire.

Worked with Health Insurance Broker regarding health insurance renewal for Town employees.

Participated in Claverack Library Community Conversation.

Contacted TRANSCO regarding complaints of their trucks exceeding the 40mph speed limit going from the laydown yard near ADM on Rte. #23-B and thru the hamlet.

**Councilman Duntz** – Saw that Park in hamlet is being cleaned up.

Received positive feedback from Little League.

Complaints with no “stopping” at STOP sign at Old Lane and Rte. 23-B.

Discussed mandatory trainings to be scheduled at Town Offices.

Tentative ribbon cutting date for playground – July 26, 2021 – Theme is “Think DIFFERENTLY”, a resolution passed by the Town Board in March of 2018 promoting awareness and acceptance of all people, and advocating for the inclusion of all individuals living on the Autism Spectrum and with special needs.

**Councilman Hook** - Will give report next month.

Thanked Highway Department for their help in both of the Town Parks. Thanks to J. R. Contracting and also Almstead’s for donating part of the mulch needed for the new playground equipment when it was installed.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution for approval of PILOT agreement between the Town of Claverack/County of Columbia/Hudson City School District and Claverack Solar 1, LLC. This would be for fifteen years with 25% to the Town, 25% to Columbia County and 50% to the Hudson City School District. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to hire new Building Inspector at \$28.00 per hour. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook to approve Staff Salary Adjustments, retroactive to June 26, 2021. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Duntz to approve changes to Sick Time Provisions on page 24 of Employee Handbook. Hours can be used for COBRA or Medicare Advantage Plan. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to change CEO Clerk’s hours. Carried.

There were no Financial Statements.

**Other business discussed:**

Claverack/Churchtown Fire Boundary – After discussion with the companies, it was decided to leave it the way it had been decided. There will have to be a joint public hearing, which has been postponed two months. Attorney Fitzsimmons will check with County Planning to see if they can do the necessary mapping.

Court update – Need electrical inspection. Met with library representative, Stephen King. Okay to put storage container at location (former Claverack Library building) for court documents and storage.

Request for speed limit signs for 30mph on Van Deusen Road – There are no speed limit signs presently. Have to be a Town of certain size. You have to go to County Traffic Safety, then to State. Will look into this.

Employee Health Insurance – Slight increase, so will continue with present plans. Same two plans to choose from and employees will continue to pay 10%. Plan renewal is September 01, 2021. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to continue with present plans. Carried.

Request for “Children at Play/Speed signs” on Old Lane. As with the request on Van Deusen Road, this will be looked into.

Ribbon cutting at playground – Planned for Monday, July 26, 2021, between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The theme will be Think DIFFERENTLY Movement, which was instituted many years ago by Marcus Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive.

After discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt to authorize signing of AT&T contract for antennas placed on water tower. They will have to go thru the planning process and a lease agreement. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

**John Bradley – Climate Smart Coordinator** - Gave report and recommendations on Claverack Climate Smart – ‘Pathway to Bronze’ plus spreadsheet. After explanation, the Climate Smart Committee, as an advisory committee, offered two recommendations:

1. Support an ongoing Climate Action Planning process:
  - a) Consistent with the guidelines in the Certification Framework;
  - b) Establish subcommittee to include more Town Staff and volunteer experts;
  - c) Help coordinate with Town Hall project;
2. Engage a design firm to lead a planning process for the Town Hall project:
  - a) Provide for multiple stakeholders interests to be voiced and heard;
  - b) Assure design to the highest level of energy efficiency feasible;
  - c) Good planning and design can only help to better attain project goals.

The Climate Smart group is still a small group. To implement the “Path to Bronze”, the Committee needs to keep building.

A copy of the report and recommendations will be available in the Town Office for review.

**Ian Nitschke** – Status of Shaw Bridge project – Per Supervisor Weigelt – State needs stamped plans and specifications from an engineer. This project is in the County directive and because of the retirement of one person and the untimely death of another, plus COVID-19, there have been many delays in many programs.

**Stephanie Sussman** – Zoom – Wants continuation of remote access in addition to in-person.

**Stephen King** – Okayed by the Claverack Library to put an Alvarez shed by the former library building for the storage of Town Court documents while the court and other Town business is conducted during construction of the new Town building.

**Brenda Shufelt** – As discussed earlier, something should be done on Van Deusen Road.

No further comments or questions.

**Supervisor Weigelt** reported that his nephew, Justin Bell, a State Trooper who has a trained bloodhound, has had four saves recently.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to go into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go out of Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

There were no vouchers to be brought before the Board to be audited this evening. The bookkeeper was on vacation and will complete them when she returns.

07/23/2021:

General A bills, totaling \$35,557.94, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$360.30, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$81,186.65, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$7,365.10, 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 Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m..

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

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Councilman Hook: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



