

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**August 12, 2021**

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 opened 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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

A public comment time was opened regarding a residential party event on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 on Rte. 9 – H. Many of the homeowner's were present and stated noise was unbelievable, language disgusting and went on for hours into the night. Supervisor Weigelt went there to see what was going on and had spoken to State Troopers and Sheriff's Department earlier to see what could be done. Councilwoman Cashen had also gone there with State Troopers to see what was going on. There was a cover charge for admittance, which is against the law in the Town of Claverack. A problem is there is no noise ordinance, but can be given a summons for disturbing the peace and if cars are parked on private property can be towed away. There was parking by homes in the development and driving of vehicles on their property. There were cars parked on the property belonging to Farm Credit. There was also garbage all over after the gathering was over. Advertisements were in Albany and New York. This was not the first time this has happened at the same property, which is only .069 acres. A letter had been to the homeowners last year from the Code Enforcement Officer stating the problems at that time.

A letter was read from homeowners who had recently moved into the development are putting the property back on the market.

Other points brought up were that the owners do not live on the property. This is not just a family event and a legitimate business in the Town years ago couldn't have music past 10:00 p.m.

Supervisor Weigelt said that this type of business is not allowed for many reasons and the Town will do whatever is necessary to stop it from happening again.

It was asked whether there could be a noise ordinance for something like this. The problem is that here has to be someone would have to be trained to read the decibels. If the noise is stopped or turned down when the reading is taken, nothing can be done. But the Town will work with law enforcement and do whatever is possible so that this doesn't happen again.

It was also stated by a resident that the Code Enforcement Officer should also have some control over this matter.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept minutes of previous meeting of July 08, 2021. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Paved a section of Orchard Road to prepare for chip sealing. Replaced a culvert pipe on Thielman Road and cleaning ditches.

Department has been cold patching in all zones and mowing roadsides in all zones.

Department has been short-staffed due to vacations.

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

### Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Coarc Fusion – e-mail – Re: Use of Park facilities on August 20, 2021 – already okayed by Board to waive fees

National Grid – Joseph Pallone – e-mail – Re: Town of LED Streetlight Conversion price

Philmont Public Library – e-mail – Library events

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Common Hands Farm – 40% discount for Philmont residents for small share (5 items weekly) - \$250.00

John Bradley – e-mail – Re: Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Nancy J. Brousseau Park workdays – 8/14 – 3-5 p.m. and 08/15 – 10.00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Dog Control Officer's Report – Kyle Miller – e-mail – Report for July

Joe Vining – e-mail – Re: It Service renewal

George Duntz – e-mail – Re: Town Park information to add to the ThinkDifferently website

New York Transco – Complaint Report

Lisa Bowe – e-mail – Re: Claverack Party on Route 9 – H

Andy P. Aubin – Project Manager, Crawford & Associates Engineering and Land Surveying for Philmont Partners LLC – Re: Temporary use letter – Ockawamick School

Steven Amendola – e-mail – Re: Claverack Party – Rte. 9 – H – Confusing on who to contact with the problem and also will be selling home after owning it for 5 weeks because of this

### Supervisor's Report

Received \$223,292.90, which is the first half of the COVID Relief funds. Report stating nothing be done with money at this point. Will be sending instructions.

AT&T will be putting antennas on water tower. They are aware that the tower will be painted and the antennas will have to be removed and reinstalled when painting is complete.

Arrangements will have to be made for garbage and recyclables when moving to temporary site at former Claverack Library building.

Sales Tax has been very good and also Mortgage Tax is up.

## Town Board Member Reports

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Checked on application for Federal funds for American Rescue Plan grant to the Town. Town received \$223,992.80 on July 22, 2021.

Followed up on grant application to NYSERDA for the LED Streetlight Conversion Grant.

Met with bookkeeper, Superintendent of Highways Louis LaMont and Deputy Supervisor, Stephen Hook, to discuss highway budget and monthly reports.

Hosted August Planning Board Meeting via Zoom.

Finalized Health Insurance renewal for Town employees and worked with Health Insurance Broker and Town Human Resources staff to distribute new policy information to employees. The rate for the health insurance decreased just slightly for 2021-2022.

Met with Town residents regarding loud party on August 7-8, 2021 on Rte. 9-H. Followed up with nearby neighbors on parking issues and communicated researched steps the Town can possibly take to prohibit that type of activity.

Reviewed Climate Smart reports, provided edits to Mr. Bradley and recommended next steps.

**Councilman Keeler** – Worked on Workplace Violence program. Deputy Town Clerk, Rich Michaels will be doing the class for employees along with the Sexual Harassment program.

Working with Attorney for the Town, “Rob” Fitzsimmons on adjustments to the boundary lines in question between Churchtown Fore Company and A.B. Shaw Fire Company.

**Councilman Duntz** – Worked on improvements to the new playground. After ribbon cutting and discussion with those who attended, including Marc Molinaro, it was suggested that there be a paved path to the equipment for those in wheelchairs or other disabilities, making it easier for them to get to the equipment.

Spoke regarding Little League and the possibility of funds to help with the upkeep of the fields. This is done in some other leagues.

Attended ribbon cutting for the new playground equipment.

**Councilman Hook** – This report is for two months (July and August). Signed checks at Town Office multiple times.

Met on library business several times (former Claverack Library to be used for Town Court and other Town business while new building is constructed), including contractor several times, dumpster company, National Grid to move meter. Also met with County at the Old Claverack Library building for necessary electrical work under shared services.

Did recycling for Town Office and food pantry several times. Also picked up and delivered monthly orders for the food pantry from the distributor in Hudson.

Met with locksmith several times regarding changing locks on buildings and also cabinet locks for Building Department.

Met with Building Inspector and George Schmidt.

Worked with contractors at the Town Park for new playground equipment and also removed cardboard and garbage from the park left from putting up the new equipment.

Met with Supervisor Weigelt and Councilman Keeler.

Attended meetings at old Claverack Library Building 07/31/and 08/02/2021.

Attended monthly Planning Board Meetings.

Met with bookkeeper, Councilwoman Cashen and Superintendent of Highways on 08/04/2021.

End of reports.

Supervisor Weigelt turned meeting over to John Bradley, Climate Smart Coordinator, to give Climate Smart Report. National Grid proposal for the conversion of the 137 streetlights to LED is \$19,834.53. Applying the remainder of the grant plus an Energy Efficient Incentive, the estimated cost would be \$9,269.77.

In 2019 the Town paid \$15,114.00 for streetlight charges. Assuming a 45% efficiency reduction for LED's, the Town could expect an annual cost reduction of \$6,801.00. The payback for this would be just over one year.

The NYSEG portion (17) lights was already approved by the Town Board as part of the spending under the Clear Energy Community grant of \$5,000.00 from NYSERDA. From that grant \$3,558.31 remains uncommitted.

There are some unresolved issues with the implementation. Still trying to reach National Grid contact, Joe Pallone, to review details of executing the alternative proposal. Also exploring the opportunity to use American Rescue Plan Act funds for this and other Climate Smart projects.

Recommendation is to pursue the National Grid Conversion offer, subject to the review of contract details and to resolve the timing and cash flow issues.

Mr Bradley handed out an Executive Summary of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report, dated August 12, 2021 to Town Board members and 2019 Summary Report of Greenhouse Inventory for Municipal Operations.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution setting speed limit on Van Deusen Road to 30 mph. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz for approval for Superintendent of Highways to trade-in two excavators for the purchase of one new excavator. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to authorize the Town to enter into an agreement with the Vincelette Law Firm for defense of tax grievances. This would include the Pine Haven project and the County will also be a part of this. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to accept draft January – August 2020, draft August 2021, and draft January – August 2021 Financial Statements. Carried.

Short discussion on upcoming 2021 Budget and information from Department heads.

Discussion on requiring a returnable deposit for Town Park rentals. If grounds and kitchen are cleaned up as required the deposit would be returned. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to set the deposit at \$150.00. Carried.

Councilman Duntz brought up the possibilities of Little League fees for the Spring 2022 season. It could be a per season or per game. Will get more information on this.

Short discussion on Claverack/Churchtown Fire Boundary. Per Attorney Fitzsimmons, meeting set with Columbia County Planning and Real Property Department regarding a map of the boundaries.

Mass mandates may be coming back and we have to be prepared for this happening.

Discussion on removal of old Town Hall/Town Court building. Is it possible for the Highway Department to take the building down? Is the property in a flood plain?

There is nothing new to report on the park grant status.

Short discussion on the possibility of a pickleball court on the concrete pad in the Town Park. The surface would need to be done, but a good use it and also would be an addition for adults. This will be looked into.

Meeting opened to public:

Resident complained about junk yards in the Town – 4 major ones. What can be done about this? Could be contamination of water systems.

Mr. James asked about a list of priorities in the Town – said that it would be helpful to the residents.

Another resident spoke regarding Park Place being one-way. Since the Claverack Market has reopened there is a lot of congestion with the post office also being there.

Mr. Nitschke said that there were vibrations in his home from the traffic on Rte. 23B. This was also brought up at the July meeting. Councilwoman Cashen said that sidewalks may help curtail speed on that road. There is a lot of truck traffic and an influx of any traffic and population.

He also stated that the Shaw Bridge project has basically been at a standstill or 5 years.

The Town no longer has a Resident Deputy since the Sheriff's Department staff is low staffed right now. Ms. Sussman wants someone from the Department come and speak to the Town residents.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$33,855.71 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$622.60 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$40,383.09 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$4,277.45 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 Duntz, meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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