

Workshop Meeting
November 29, 2021
836 Route 217, Philmont, NY 12565
6:00pm

Attendees:

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

The meeting was virtual through zoom to the public. Board members were present.

The meeting started with John Bradley from the Claverack Climate Smart Committee (CSC). He provided the board with a list who have been involved with the committee since its start. He also advised the board the necessity to have a resolution that describes the role of the CSC coordinator. The board will discuss this again at the next board meeting.

Discussion of the opt-out of marijuana on-site consumption sites within the Town of Claverack. It is currently required that if a municipality wishes to opt-out of on-site consumption or sales of marijuana, it would need to be done by December 31, 2021 or not have the option. If a municipality were to opt-out of one or both by the end of the year, it then could later choose to allow. The board will speak to the Town Attorney to follow up with a public hearing on the issue as well as draft law allowing such and discuss at the next board meeting.

Discussed the refinishing of the old library/new court wood flooring. Councilman Hook advised the board the floor will be done the first week of December and the contractor wished to be paid after it was completed rather than after the board meeting. The amount is \$3600 and will be reimbursed by NYS but most likely not until next year.

Motion to pay made by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, all in favor, carried.

Discussed a request of having speed limit signs on Dunbar Road. Councilwoman Cashen stated that at this time there is no posted speed limit on the road and wondered why if it were a dead end town road, although it is required, why would NYS have to approve first. The board will follow up but it is very difficult and through experience, is usually very difficult to be approved by the state. The board also discussed other same requests on Van Deusen Road and by Morning Star Farm on Rt. 9H.

Discussed parking complaints received from citizens in the area of Filli's bakery and the post office. The board expressed its concern about the issue and at this time does not have a definitive answer. With the parking lot being partially owned by NYS and the Town of Claverack, it makes it difficult for the town to come up with any one answer.

Discussed a request from Hugh & Hanna from Philmont who have a barn on Roxbury Road, to use the lower parking lot at the town hall to park vehicles and shuttle people to the barn for a children's Christmas Festival on December 5th. The board found no issues with the request and granted permission.

Discussed the car charging stations at the Claverack Library. Councilwoman Cashen explained that the town currently pays \$1300 per year per a two year lease agreement. This is not a requirement that the town pay every year. The library has now asked if the town is going to continue to pay that portion after the lease expires this year. The cost in total is \$2600 which the library pays half and the town pays half. Councilwoman Cashen advised the library to send the town an invoice and the board decided to continue the payment of \$1300 for the coming year.

Discussed the proposed new Claverack/Churchtown Fire district. Supervisor Weigelt advised the board that he has spoken with Town Attorney Fitzsimmons who stated he was waiting for more information from Columbia County Real Property before it can be completed.

Discussed Fire Protection budgets which usually require a public hearing around this time. Councilwoman Cashen explained that Town Attorney Fitzsimmons advised her that again, more information is required from the county until a hearing can be held.

Discussed upcoming term expirations for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Discussed coming up with a date to hold the annual organizational meeting. The board suggested checking with the town clerk to see when it needs to be done by and then schedule something accordingly.

Supervisor Weight gave an update on the current power line and pole changeover. The project will be ongoing through 2023.

Discussed giving either hams or gift cards to town employees. Councilwoman Cashen and Councilman Hook suggested giving gift cards rather than the hams. The board agreed to give \$25 dollar gift cards. Motion made by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook, all in favor, carried.

Discussed the demolition of the current town hall and the building of a new one. Supervisor Weigelt advised he has spoken with Crawford & Associates who under a contract, could give demo estimates, oversee the upcoming work and do a survey of the property. Supervisor Weigelt will follow up with them and bring the information back to the board at a later date.

Councilwoman Cashen spoke of a recently signed amendment to a law concerning open meetings. She explained that changes were made making meetings more accessible to persons. An agenda should be posted on the website along with any resolutions and related documents the board will be considering. She will speak with the town attorney again to make sure the town meets any requirements.

Highway Superintendent LaMont updated the board on CHIPS funding. He advised the board he is now finishing gathering the required paperwork and will be soon be submitting it all.

Highway Superintendent LaMont also advised the board again of a need to hire a person. He has been told a highway employee is planning retirement next spring and he would like to hire someone prior to have training time before the person leaves. It was suggested the person submit a letter to the board of his decision to retire. The board will discuss more at a later date.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz, all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Michael – Deputy Clerk