

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

October 14, 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. This meeting was held “virtual” again to the public as in many past months, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Meeting opened at 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 (Virtual)
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept minutes of previous meeting of September 09, 2021 and Workshop minutes of September 27, 2021. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Replaced 2 culvert pipes for the Village of Philmont and helped the Town of Taghkanic pave with the use of our trucks.

Replaced a 30” culvert pipe on Harder Road and removed a clogged culvert pipe on Stickles Road.

Gravel roads have been graded. Grader patched and drag-boxed Schoolhouse Road from Millbrook Road to Rte. 9-H.

Installed 110’ of drainage on Maple Avenue.

Questioned whether there was any information from Ray of Crawford & Associates regarding the water meters? Said that bids for water meters and painting of water tower were ready months ago, but has heard nothing. Also, all paperwork for Decker Road was given to him and has heard nothing.

Dog Control Officer’s report for September received and on file in Town Clerk’s Office for review.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Mellenville Fire District – Request to increase fees for fire protection service to North Claverack Fire District

Claverack Fire District – Request to increase fees for fire protection service to North Claverack Fire District

Churchtown Fire Co. 1 – Proposed 2022 Budget

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity – e-mail – Guide to accepted items and how to donate

Sherwood Bradley – e-mail – New Nationwide Permit letter – Transco
Philmont Public Library – e-mail – Library Happenings for September
Risk Management Association – Postcard – Education Conference – NYS Legalization of Marijuana
Rebecca Wolff – member of Common Council in Hudson – Re: Short term rentals
Marissa Ball – e-mail – Resident of Dunbar Rd. – Re: Bus and Town turn-around – Will no longer be available for School District Bus or Town vehicles to use
John Bradley – Items for 2022 Town Budget
Audrey Lyndon – Re: Information to Claverack Town Board and Columbia County Board of Supervisors – Re: Broadband access report for Columbia County prepared by Columbia Economic Development Corporation, pointing out discrepancies and signed by residents of Thielman Road
Victoria Rosenwald – e-mail – for Claverack Library – Request Town to subsidize classes for seniors, Tai Chi and Yoga. Also request for Town Highway Department to keep a right-of-way clear for sports and walking paths in power line corridor
Justin Weaver – Re: County Shredding Program
Samuel Brewster – Hollowville resident – Issues with individuals in rented residences across the street and further up County Rte. 16
Letter to Regional Director, Department of Transportation – Re: Speed limit request for 30 mph on Van Deusen Road
Erin Gryniak – National Grid – Will be installing telecommunications facilities for approximately 2 miles in existing electric transmission corridor near Hudson Substation, located in Towns of Claverack and Greenport. Will begin in October and completed by January 2022
Philmont Neighbors – Water Service Interruption in Village on Tuesday, October 19th at 9:00 p.m. with anticipated restoration on Wednesday, October 20th at 5:00 a.m.
K.C.ACT. – e-mail – Re: Redesigned Social Security Statements
Linda Hannigan – e-mail – U.S. Treasury extends ARPA Reporting Deadline
NYS Department of Public Service – Re: Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act amended Public Service Law.
Philmont Neighbors – New Recycling Schedule in Philmont – Adding 5th Friday during months with five Fridays.
Philmont Neighbors – Philmont Library October News

Supervisor's Report

County is working on 2022 Budget.

County is getting close to filling position held by Dean Knox, but may be in a different capacity.

No tax increases in either County or Town for 2022.

County is working on Fish and Game Road and hope to be able to go out for bid next year.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilman Hook - Did recycling for Town Building and Food Pantry.

Signed checks at Town Office several times.

Had several meetings at former library to be used temporarily for Town Court and other Town business.

Picked up materials for painting for former library building.

Attended meeting regarding 2022 budget and also COVID funds.

Worked on bathroom at Present Town Hall.

Councilman Keeler – Worked on 2022 Budget.

Reviewed information on demolition of Town Hall/Town Court building.

Councilman Duntz – Attended meeting for working on 2022 Budget.

Spoke with Building Department regarding Lucas Lane. Problem with contractors.

Received call from neighbors regarding lights out on Maple Avenue and Old Lane.

Councilwoman Cashen – Drafted letter to National Grid for LED Conversion for Hamlet.

Zoomed October Planning Board Meeting for public.

Received final Pilot Agreement for Clover Meadows Solar on Humane Society Road. Town will receive \$4,375. The first year of the 15-year agreement (after field is built) and will increase to \$5,772. In the final year of agreement.

Contacted Catamount Ski Area regarding 2022 Winter Program for youths signed up in the Town.

Attended meeting with Claverack Library trustees and Councilman Hook to discuss details on the move of the Court/Town Hall to the former Claverack Library building.

Participated in webinar hosted by New York State on grant funding for infrastructure projects.

Participated on a site tour of the Town Hall property and surrounding land near Agawamuck Creek.

Met with Broadband Consultant who authored the Columbia County report to review areas of Claverack that still are not covered.

Met with Hudson official to go over the Truck Route Study to understand the impact on Claverack. It is down to two options. **Supervisor Weigelt** said that more studies are being done and NYS Department of Transportation has not yet been in on this. More grant funds are needed to further study this.

No further reports.

Supervisor Weigelt reported that a survey is necessary for the new Town Hall/Court building. Attorney Fitzsimmons said this does not have to go out for bid as it is a professional service. Motion by Supervisor Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution to proceed with the needed survey. Carried.

Work on the former Claverack Library for the temporary use by the Town for the Court and other Town activities is continuing. Bathroom is set. Motion detector will be set at the corner of the building. Stephen King, library representative will ask Library Board if flooring in back room can be replaced with both the Town and the Library sharing the cost.

Proposed Motions and Resolutions

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept 2022 Tentative Budget as the 2022 Preliminary Budget. Carried.

After discussion -Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt to set a Public Hearing for the 2022 Preliminary Budget for Wednesday, November 03, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at a place to be decided. There will also be a Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2021 amending the zoning law to add section 7.3 to allow Private Road Subdivisions. This was explained by Attorney Fitzsimmons. If passed it will then go to Columbia County Planning. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution to approve agreement with National Grid for LED Streetlight Conversion. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for approval of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement for Solar Energy Systems between Columbia County, Town of Claverack and Hudson City School District and Clover Meadow Solar LLC. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution to transfer \$52,761.18 from Equipment Reserve to Equipment Purchase (DB5130.2) to cover new excavator purchase. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution to move \$32,420.00 from General A Fund Balance to A7140.4 to cover installation of playground equipment. Originally \$2,000.00 was budgeted for that. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft January – September 2021, draft January – September 2020, draft September 2021, draft January – December 2020 financial reports. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz to have carpets cleaned at the Town Office Building. Carried.

Opened to Public:

John Bradley – Gave copy of Climate Smart Monthly Report to Board members.

Mr. Bradley reported on Columbia County Climate Smart Committee's recent meeting of all town Climate Smart Committee (CSC) coordinators. Several towns are collaborating on a series of Repair Cafes, where volunteers repair household items. Programs like repair and reuse cafes, and free stores reduce the waste that go to landfill, saving money for both citizens and the County.

The County Climate Smart Committee is also initiating a Solar Campaign, to enroll more families and businesses for solar electricity. The enrollees receive a 10% discount on their electric bills, and receive a \$100. Signup bonus. The County and participating town also receive a bonus that can be used on energy saving projects. The Claverack Climate Smart Committee is considering the Town's participation in this program.

Opened to public: (Virtual)

Stephanie Sussman – Suggested that participation by children in the Town of Claverack who are interested in the winter ski program, but cannot afford to, will be paid by the Town. Councilwoman

Cashen said something to look into. The paperwork is due soon and doesn't know if it would be feasible this year. She also stated that it is not cheap and where would the money for this come from?

Ian Nitschke – From Supervisor Weigelt – Making some progress on Shaw Bridge project. No information yet from the State. Working on necessary engineering services. Mr. Nitschke stated he is very frustrated.

Lisa Bowe – Has Town investigated short-term rental? Councilman Duntz reported that he is scheduling a meeting for the Board with Rebecca Wolff, a member of Hudson Common Council who worked on the ordinance which is now in force in the City of Hudson.

Would also like a sign like “Local Traffic Only”, “Beware of Children”, “Pedestrians”, for Van Wyck Lane. It is used as a cut-off to Route 9-H. Highway Superintendent LaMont will inquire as to what is legal to post.

No further questions or comments.

General A bills, totaling \$74,366.23 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,464.41 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$46,227.88 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District bills, totaling \$295.22 were audited and ordered paid from their 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 7:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____

