

Workshop Meeting
January 31, 2022
6:00pm

Attendees:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor	Stephen Hook	Councilman
Katy Cashen	Councilwoman	Douglas Colwell	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman	William R Michael	Deputy Clerk

The meeting was virtual through zoom for both public and board members.

The meeting started with a discussion about short term rentals with Rebecca Wolff from Hudson who was involved with the passing of regulations concerning such rentals. Ms. Wolff went on to explain different aspects of the law and what the thoughts were behind them when putting the law together. Ms. Wolff explained that one requirement is that someone who offers a short term rental must be a city resident. She went on to say that a main goal of the regulation is to keep a community feeling and not let it be out of town investors buying homes and just renting them out short term. The board will continue to discuss the subject.

Discussed re-appointment of a Board of Assessment Review (BAR) member. This will be addressed at the regular monthly board meeting in February.

Discussed ARPA COVID relief funds that the town received and what it can be used for. Councilwoman Cashen discussed information that she had learned from a webinar sponsored by the Association of Towns which Councilman Colwell also attended. The town has received about half of the amount now and will receive the balance around April of this year. Reports will need to be completed and submitted by April 2022 whether funds were spent or not and need to be completed yearly. Supervisor Weigelt suggested board members should gather together soon and compile a list of what the funds would best be used for under the required guidelines.

Discussed a requested Anti Hate / Inclusion Resolution that had been adopted by Columbia County in July of 2021. The request was to adopt something similar at the local town level. Councilwoman Cashen explained the resolution and shared a draft for consideration. Supervisor Weigelt responded by saying the county resolution already states, and is written in the resolution, that it covers all county residents. Supervisor Weigelt, who had voted for the resolution at the county level, thought it would not be necessary because town residents would already be covered in the county resolution. Councilwoman Cashen stated that she understood what the supervisor was saying but thought if it were passed at the town level, it would show the town itself also recognizes it and supports the intent and not just residents.

Councilman Colwell stated that he agreed with Supervisor Weigelt and that town residents are already covered in the county resolution, and that Supervisor Weigelt already represented Claverack residents when he voted for it at the county level and that they should move on and not re-invent the wheel. Councilman Duntz asked Town Attorney Fitzsimmons if there would be any added benefit to the town recognizing the resolution. Fitzsimmons stated the town could pass a similar resolution but as mentioned before, it would not add any affect or take away any affect to the county version.

Discussed purchasing laptops for town planning board and zoning board of appeals members. Councilwoman Cashen stated there was a request from Planning Board Chairman Scott Cole for laptops. She stated she had spoken to the town IT person who stated it is a real challenge to purchase laptops at this time due to a shortage. She stated that as more and more electronic documents are being used, there will be more of a need for them. Councilman Duntz asked how many laptops would be needed. Councilwoman Cashen stated one for each member. Councilman Duntz wondered if laptops were going to be needed to just read emails. He also stated his concern as far as security measures when issuing out laptops. The board will discuss the request further.

Councilwoman Cashen discussed having an email option added to the town's website. She explained there would be an email option on the home page of the website and that if someone wished, they could sign up on the website by entering their email and they would then receive a notification whenever a new Announcement or public notice was added to the website. The board was in agreement. Councilwoman Cashen will contact the company who oversee the website and have them add the option.

Discussed Climate Smart Committee Task Force appointments and terms of the members. Board members received information by email of the appointments and all found no issues with the appointments and agreed that a two-year term was appropriate. Councilman Duntz advised the board that they had not included any board members as liaisons with the passed resolution and that it should be added at the next board meeting. More will be discussed at the next monthly board meeting with two added resolutions which will help the town receive funding for future building projects and related energy-saving measures.

Councilman Hook gave an update of moving the town court from its current location to the new location at the old Claverack Library. He stated the move has been made and that the new office will be up and running very shortly. The new location will be used for the town court as well as town, planning and zoning board of appeals meetings until a new permanent location is built. Supervisor Weigelt explained that the process of having the old building is on-going at this time.

Highway Superintendent LaMont requested from the board permission to advertise for a position of an equipment operator/laborer. He stated one employee is planning on retiring in the spring and has started using accumulated time off and the need for another person has become more important. Councilman Colwell suggested the process of hiring another person be started now. Councilwoman Cashen stated they are required to provide the board with a letter of their intention to leave.

Councilman Hook stated LaMont had permission before to look for someone. Highway Super LaMont also requested permission to hire a clerk for the highway department. The board again stated he had permission prior to hire a person.

Highway Super LaMont advised the board a need to have garage doors serviced at the highway department. He stated he had a contract he brought before the board two years prior from Madsen Overhead Doors and asked if he could have it revised and accepted. Supervisor wondered the need for a contract and why the company could not just come and fix them and just be called if needed in the future without a contract. Supervisor Weigelt suggested LaMont have the company come back and write up a new contract with specifics and the board will review. Councilman Duntz suggested in the meanwhile, he have someone to come fix the issues with the doors that need immediate attention.

Highway Superintendent LaMont also advised the board that when they look to purchase water meters, it would not have to be put out to bid for prices which this was confirmed by Town Attorney Fitzsimmons. LaMont advised the board the current quote he has is approximately sixty thousand dollars. Councilwoman Cashen suggested this may be something that can be paid for by ARPA funds.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Hook, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:11p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Michael – Deputy Clerk