

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 10, 2022

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held remotely for the public due to the COVID restrictions, at 629 Rte. #23-B, Claverack, New York, the former Claverack Library, which is the temporary location for the Town Court and other Town business meetings. 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
Douglas Colwell	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell to accept minutes of previous meeting of January 06, 2022, Organizational Meeting of January 06, 2022 and Workshop Meeting of January 31, 2022. Carried.

Dog Control Officer's Report of January, 2022 – Kyle Miller - received and on file in Town Office for review.

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont – Worked 10 snow and ice events with men doing a good job. Men have been putting in a lot of hours due to being short-staffed. The last two storms have used 550 tons of salt and about 600 tons of sand.

Men have been cleaning and repairing trucks.

Loader is still at Nortracs getting brakes repaired - Cost is \$15,500. for repairs. The loader we have leased is at a cost of \$10,000. per month - Looking to get prices on a new loader. A new one can be purchased under State Contract but not a used one. **Councilwoman Cashen** suggested speaking with "Mike Bucci", accountant for the Town.

Getting prices on a lean-to (40' x 100') to store equipment that has to be moved from Town Court/Town Hall Building that is going to be replaced. Would be at the Town Garage and have blacktop floor.

Readers for water district residents' properties should be good for twenty years with no cost for updates. Does not have to go out for bid. It will take about 6 months before getting them and the Town will be responsible for installing them.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Mid-Hudson Cablevision – e-mail – Job receipt for work at former Claverack Library Building

Tanya Curtis – e-mail – Funding available to help law enforcement and other government agencies with traffic calming needs

Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Job openings in Philmont at Philmont Capsule Supplies

Thank you to Supervisor from Virginia Ambrose for gift card at Christmastime from Town Supervisor and Town Board

E-mail from group regarding concerns of the cellphone tower above Pine Haven

Organizational Meeting

January Town Board Minutes

E-mail – Stephanie Sussman – Re: Town Clerk duties

Supervisor's Report

County needs Veterans' van replaced. Found one in Indiana – 17 passenger – Accommodates 2 wheelchairs.

Fire Companies voted down to join together. Mellenville opted out to go with A.B. Shaw Fire Company. This is their decision.

Short discussion on Town Hall/Court Building. Did survey and maps of the property. **Councilman Hook** said that heat should be left on. There will be certain things for anyone interested in purchasing. Speed signs have to be covered. Time to start planning for the building and the move. Cancel company used for pest control at old building.

Received a complaint by a neighbor of water seeping on the ground surface on 10 Fish & Game Road. This will be checked into.

Councilwoman Cashen - Worked with website provider to add e-mail feature to Town website so users can sign up to received updates when new announcements and Public Notices are posted on the website.

Worked with Board Members and Town Attorney on finalizing Climate Smart Committee Task Force resolution and Claverack Solarize resolution.

Followed-up on public hearing notification for Claverack-Churchtown Fire Boundary changes.

Followed-up with information to Town Insurance broker for 2022-2023 policy.

Spoke with Town Employment Attorney for employment issues.

Attended January Workshop and February Planning Board meeting and Zoomed the meeting for the public.

Responded to resident's questions regarding Speed issues on Rte. #9-H.

Contacted HBO officials regarding parking cars on Tishauser Road during filming at the former Ockawamick School property. Was told the filming would be for a short time in March and short time in April.

Thinks that following the County Board of Supervisors Resolution on violence and criminal activity, the Town should pass the Resolution on the Town level.

Councilman Duntz – Was part of the ZBA interview process.

Working with County Youth Bureau and application process for the Summer Youth Program at the Town Park.

Regarding Taconic Hills Little League – Scoreboard, donated by Herrington's, being put in at Little League field. A batting cage is going to be put in with location to be decided. Told the representatives that scheduling postponing and rescheduling of games last year was a problem and not respectful for the park workers. They were not notified of the changes or were aware until the last minute. Possibility of League lining fields for games.

Councilman Colwell – Spent time with Highway Superintendent regarding Town buildings and getting general knowledge of Town operations.

Did shelving with **Councilman Hook** at former Claverack Library for Town Court use.

Attended Planning Board meeting.

Spoke with Joe Fye from S&F regarding cameras on Town properties. Need more cameras and/or different angles. Estimate for more material is \$600.

Regarding condemning of violence and criminal activity – Resolution by County already in place - 2018 Task Force Act with State Police also in force.

Followed up by speaking with New York State Troopers and County Sheriff's Department.

Councilman Hook – Recycling for Town Office and Food Pantry several times.

Went to Lowe's for air filter for Court and installed it.

Met with moving company to move Town Court to facility at old Claverack Library building. Also, waited for Lowe's contractor to come and install shades. Made several trips to Lowe's for materials. Met with locksmith twice and cleaning person once at former Claverack Library building.

Met with Joe Vining, Magna5, Verizon and S&F for Town Court computers, telephones and cameras at former Claverack Library building for installations.

No further reports.

Motion by **Councilwoman Cashen**, seconded by **Councilman Duntz** for resolution to appoint Claverack Climate Smart Community Task Force members. Carried with **Councilman Duntz** and **Councilwoman Cashen** being members.

Motion by **Councilwoman Cashen**, seconded by **Councilman Hook** for resolution supporting the Town of Claverack Community Solar Campaign. Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilwoman Cashen** for resolution regarding a public hearing to consider the clarification of the boundary between the Claverack Fire Protection District and the Claverack Fire District. Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Duntz** for resolution to reappoint **Neil Howard** to the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Duntz** to accept draft February 2022, draft January – February 2022, draft January – February 2021, draft February 2021 financial reports. Carried.

Received the Historian Report from Jeane LaPorta. Included in the report were the following:

New York Legislature passed the New York State 250th Commemoration Act”, which established a commission and budget to plan and implement the 250th Anniversary of the United States. Asked the Board to consider establishing a 250th Commemorative Commission for the Town to study and plan activities surrounding the semiquincentennial of the U.S.A. as it relates to the Town of Claverack and encourage the County Board of Supervisors to adopt a similar commission.

Historian is working with Columbia County Historians who meet several times a year and as necessary. A website has been developed for the group in collaboration with Columbia County Tourism. Each Town and Village, when completed, will have the ability to load pictures and information and any links to historical societies and historian’s sites to that central website.

A history pin map is also in the development stages through Columbia County. Don Meltz, Columbia County Planning Department, has been instrumental and is uploading historic sites with information about them. Shari Franks, Community Liaison for Columbia County is assisting with this process. Mrs. LaPorta is assembling a list of historic sites for the Town of Claverack, including all the communities that consist of historic sites and landmarks. Each historian in the county has the opportunity to participate. She invited Shawn Jennings, Historian for the Village of Philmont, to help with the history pin map.

A “Ruth Piwonka Historian’s Award”, recognizing outstanding work by anyone of any age on the history or historic activity in a town in Columbia County, has been approved by the Columbia County’s historian group and is being developed. A second award focusing on the 4th and 7th grade teachers and students to encourage local history education on the schools in the county is also being developed by the same group with probably a monetary award for a teacher and as student in those grades, with details being worked out.

There is work with owners of two historic properties in Claverack on historic recognition with either the Pomeroy Marker or U.S. National Park Service Registry of Historic Places designation.

Councilman George Duntz asked the historian to consider ways of encouraging local history in schools in the area. Arrangements were made to bring a presentation to a school in Hudson in the spring and

needs to be finalized. Mrs. LaPorta has been instrumental in bringing American History to schools through an organization and in December, two American History offerings on U.S. Government were offered to high school students attending the six county schools. Five students participated.

Mrs. LaPorta wants to encourage Town of Claverack's Libraries to offer and strengthen local history for children in all grades, homeschool and private school students in Claverack. With no schools in the Town anymore, the libraries are in a likely position to offer local history to children. She will take the idea to the libraries for consideration.

End of report.

There is no update report on the Agawamuck Creek. **Councilman Hook** was unable to attend meeting. **Supervisor Weigelt** is interested in attending next meeting when it is scheduled.

Town Attorney, **Rob Fitzsimmons**, thanked Suzette Booy from the Real Property Tax Office and Don Meltz for the work they did on completing the maps for Churchtown and A.B. Shaw Fire companies in correcting the district lines.

Meeting opened to public:

Stephan Sussman – Thanked **Councilwoman Cashen** and **Councilman Colwell** for their resources on the "hate and violence activity" as in the resolution already passed at the County level. Perplexed why Claverack won't sign a resolution. There is no burden of enforcement, monetary or legal. It is a statement of our values. It is not a law. Shared her life experience.

Susan Bain – Feels Board should sign the resolution regarding "hate and violence" and have its' own resolution.

Brenda Shufelt – Upset and has mixed feelings. She said she wished she could just focus her energy on youth programming in the Town, which she has been working on with Councilman Duntz and the new Town Hall planning, and not on anti-hate resolutions. But the fact that she thought the Town said it was not going to pass a resolution, even if the resolution has no meaning whatsoever on its own, is of concern to her. She said that people should stand side by side and condemn any violence in our town, especially violence directed at certain groups of individuals in our society who have been the target of bias and hate crimes, and by passing a Town resolution, it makes a statement by the Town Board that this is not acceptable in our town and hopefully it will let people know that.

Supervisor Weigelt remarked that there was just discussion regarding the resolution at the last Town workshop and that the Board is trying to come up with something that would have more teeth. Brenda thanked him for that consideration.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Colwell** to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss resignations, ZBA appointment and a solar project.

Motion by **Councilman Colwell**, seconded by **Councilman Hook** to go out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

General A bills, totaling \$20,952.68, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$846.06, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$25,914.18, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.
Water District A bills, totaling \$72.45, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.
There were no Escrow Accounts bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by **Councilman Hook**,
seconded by **Councilman Colwell**, meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____

