

Workshop Meeting
February 28, 2022
629 Route 23B, Claverack NY, 12513
6:00pm

Attendees:

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

The board met with Stephen King and Jennifer Post of the Claverack Library. Mr. King and Ms. Post spoke on behalf of the library trustees stating that they are considering placing a funding referendum (Chapter 414), on the election ballot in November 2022. This was done last in 2019. Mr. King explained to the board that the Claverack Library is at the bottom of the list of libraries in Columbia County, per capita, as far as contributions from the taxpayers and second from the bottom in the Mid-Hudson Library System, which is 66 libraries. Councilwoman Cashen asked Mr. King or Ms. Post to explain what a Chapter 414 was. Mr. King explained that the Chapter 414 was a referendum on the ballot asking for an increase in funding from the people of Claverack through their taxes. The amount the library is seeking has not been determined as of yet, but it may be modest. The funds if approved, would be applied in 2023 to offset higher operating expenses such as utilities cost and other supply chain-related challenges, as well as to additional personnel hours. The library will stay in touch with the Town Board on their decision about the referendum.

Mr. King next explained to the board an additional request in helping with funding to add an additional three to four parking spaces. This would be done on the east side of the driveway entrance to the library from Route 23B. The spaces are needed for overflow for Town meetings (Town Board, Planning Board, ZBA), and Town Court, as well as patron use during peak usage times and special events. The estimated cost is \$15,000 for the project. The library will come back with proposals at a later date. The board will also look into the possibility of using ARPA funds for some of this.

Supervisor Weigelt discussed with the board of having a committee to meet with Sheriff Krapf. This is in anticipation of a large party that caused disturbances the last two years at a residence on Route 9H. Councilman Duntz will be meeting with the Sheriff and talk about it then.

Discussed an Anti-Hate Resolution that the board had discussed previously. This was a resolution previously passed by Columbia County which the Town had heard from some citizens of having their own version. Councilwoman Cashen had drafted a version which was similar to the county version, pointing out certain groups of citizens, whereas Councilman Colwell drafted a different vaguer version, but which included all citizens of the town. Councilwoman Cashen and Councilman Colwell will try to come up with a compromise resolution that takes into account both approaches and Town Attorney Fitzsimmons will be asked to review it. The board will follow up at a later date.

Discussed the town's summer youth program. Barring any unforeseen restrictions due to COVID, the town is planning on going ahead with the program. Councilman Hook suggested that children who are from the Town of Claverack be accepted first in case of restrictions limiting the number of youth that may attend. The town will move forward with the process and begin by looking to start filling counselor

positions which is critical in having a program, which in part was one of the issues making it impossible to have a program last year. An announcement advertising for need for counselors will be put on the town's website. Councilman Duntz advised the board of a program where the town combined with the library are planning a program that will set up field trips for children of the program. This is still being worked on now and the town will look for possible ways to help fund this.

Highway Superintendent LaMont presented the board with a proposal for a new loader which he states is badly needed. The cost would be \$211,000 with a \$52,000 trade in making the total \$159,000. He advised that this comes with an extended warranty for a year. Highway Super LaMont expressed the importance of providing the company with a letter of intent to purchase it due to the difficulty and length of time in purchasing one. This may take up to ten months for a loader to be available for purchase, thus the importance for the letter of intent. Supervisor Weigelt brought up possible different options to finance the loader. Mr. LaMont then advised the board of another purchase he feels is necessary in the near future. He stated a dump body on a truck is deteriorating badly and was no longer very useful. He stated then this also would take approximately eight months to receive once ordered. Mr. LaMont then discussed with the board a need for a computer to reset codes in vehicles. He explained that with local repair businesses not able to repair vehicles in a timely manner, he needs to take the vehicles to Albany just to reset codes. Many times the highway department employees can replace a part on a vehicle but with new technology, codes have to be reset to finish the job whereas this computer would let them reset the codes at the garage instead of taking it a long distance. The approximate cost would be \$10,000. The board will look at the material provided.

Discussed short term rentals. Councilman Duntz provided the board with a copy of a recently adopted short term rental law from the Town of Greenport. The town is looking into adopting its own short term rental law. The board spoke back and forth with different conditions that could be included in the law. The board will investigate and compare different laws and talk more of what should and should not be included in the law.

Discussed a question the board received from the Town Historian. Town Historian Jeane LaPorta explained that someone had approached her to see if she could put historical articles in an outside newsletter. Ms. LaPorta wanted feedback from the board as to what they felt. After discussion it was decided it would be best to have articles from the historian posted on the town's website for all citizens to view, and outside organizations could link to the town's website where the articles are posted.

Briefly discussed COVID precautions at the town offices. After discussion the board decided that persons vaccinated did not need to wear a mask entering buildings, however it is voluntary and at the person's discretion. The board also spoke about when would it be possible having public in person meetings again. Councilwoman Cashen suggested maybe going month to month and see what the situation is at that time. The board agreed.

Discussed the Town's 2022-2023 insurance policy renewal. Councilwoman Cashen advised the board that Rich Nesbitt from Johnnie Walker Insurance will be presenting the policy to the board at the March Town Board Meeting.

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Duntz, all in favor. Executive Session 7:45 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

Brief discussion of locations to put the new Town Hall if an alternative was needed from the current location. Supervisor Weigelt thought it best to get the old building down first and then re-evaluate if need be. The board again discussed looking into the possibility of the use of some ARPA funds to help during the process.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Michael – Deputy Clerk