

**Workshop Meeting**  
**March 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 |
| Louis Lamont     | Highway Superintendent |                   |              |

The board met with Melissa & Donald Cranna and Michael Schwab, from Stottville Road, who wanted to voice their concerns on the solar project being constructed behind their homes. Mr. Schwab stated from the start that he attended hearings, did not oppose the project, and is not against solar. He wanted the board to know since the projects start, the issues that he and the surrounding neighbors are having with the solar farm and thought this conversation may help the board if it were to make changes to the current law. Mr. Schwab provided the board members with a handout of the issues. One issue was that the installation was sold to another company and plantings that were promised, once sold had never happened. A berm has been placed at this time but in a lot of area, the height of the berm does not even reach the level of the neighboring properties. Another issue was a glare coming from panels into Mr. Schwab's kitchen window in the morning, making it impossible to be in the kitchen for approximately an hour now but feels as the days get longer, the glare will be for a longer period of time. He stated that the project has gone on to now become a nuisance. The last issue of concern was a worker putting a pin into his property and putting a sign, approximate location, which Mr. Schwab believes this is his property. Supervisor Weigelt and board members will be following up with the project.

Highway Superintendent Louis LaMont brought before the board a quote for a new loader that the highway department needs. The board discussed where to take the initial payment from which could be either from the equipment line of the highway budget or possibly from ARPA funds, which is allowable. At this time there are funds in the line item of the budget, but the board will discuss later where to exactly take it from. The board also discussed the new water meters and the amount that may also come out of ARPA funds. Mr. LaMont advised the board that he interviewed someone for the position of highway clerk. The position is for twelve hours per week. Supervisor Weigelt stated that prior permission has already been given for the position to be filled. Mr. LaMont brought up a request from a landowner on Decker Road to change a culvert under his driveway. The driveway had been repaired by the town several years ago and it is now in need of repair again. It has been advised by the town attorney to send a letter stating that the town will not be responsible for fixing the culvert now or in the future.

Discussed a proposal from the Claverack Library to have four parking spaces added to the parking lot. The request is for this to be paid by the town. There is one estimate at this time for \$15,000. The library will get additional estimates also. Councilwoman Cashen stated this was something already approved by the planning board some years ago. She also stated this could be paid from ARPA funds. Councilman Colwell stated his concern of the cost for so few parking spots. He also thought that maybe the library could pay for it from ARPA funds that they received. Councilwoman Cashen thought it is a good investment considering the library offers its community room to the town when it's needed also. Supervisor Weigelt suggested maybe the town's highway department could do it for much less cost. Councilwoman Cashen suggested asking the town attorney to see if it is a legitimate use of ARPA funds for the town to do the spaces for library property. Councilwoman Cashen ended by saying the library is not only a community center but has also become an outpost for the town at times, for example Covid test kits and masks. The board will discuss the subject more. (Note: It was clarified after the meeting that the proposal would add seven spaces, not four.)

Discussed a collaboration between the Town and the Claverack Library in providing five water themed field trips for children attending the town's Summer Youth Program. The agreement is that the library will pay for the trips and lunch, and the town will pay for transportation. Councilman Colwell explained to the board that the town's collaboration was needed to obtain a grant for the trips. Councilman Duntz also advised the board of the ongoing attempt to get counselors for the Summer Youth Program. At this time there is a need for a director, assistant director as well as more counselors. Information has been sent to Taconic Hills and Hudson High Schools as well as to the Columbia-Greene Community College advertising the openings as well.

Supervisor Weigelt filled the board in on the hours of temporary assessor's helping the town after the death of Assessor Charles Brewer. The temporary hours will be Monday and Thursday 9am to 1pm.

Councilman Duntz discussed the Taconic Hills Little League's upcoming season. The league was looking for a spot to store equipment for lining the fields for games. The town will allow the league to store the lime and line machine in the concession stand building. Councilman Duntz also talked about an electronic scoreboard that was donated to the little league from Herrington's. For liability purposes the town will take possession of the scoreboard before putting it up. The Little League agreed but as of now, they have not responded back.

Discussed again of possibly making changes to the town's Large Scale Solar Installation Law. The board feels the necessity to make setback changes. Some thoughts were from one hundred feet from a residence to five hundred feet and from one hundred feet from other property lines, roadways, etc, and increasing them to 250 feet. The board will check with the town attorney about a possible moratorium on large scale solar installations until some of adjustments to the law are made. The board will need to get together to discuss more options.

Discussed ARPA funds. The board has a list of many options of where to use the funds, but will now need to get together to make final decisions. Supervisor Weigelt suggested that at the next workshop, the board should have the total amount available to the town and then make decisions as to where to use the funds.

Discussed employee yearly training. After consulting with Columbia County, a web link containing yearly sexual harassment and workplace violence training can be purchased for fifty dollars covering all town employees. Currently employees have been attending training in person at different time slots. Whereas with the link, employees can do the training from a computer at a convenient location. Employees will take a mandatory quiz after the tutorial which will be then sent to an email proving completion of the training.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Michael – Deputy Clerk