

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

April 14, 2022

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held remotely to the public, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, at 629 Rte. #23B, Claverack, New York, the former Claverack Library building, which is the temporary location for the Town Court and other Town business meetings. Meeting opened at 6:15 by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt who led in a moment of silence for former Highway Superintendent “Bill” Blaauw, longtime Claverack resident, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend and public servant for the Town of Claverack for many years. This was directly following the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2022, to establish and impose a three (3) month moratorium on large scale energy installations with the Town of Claverack.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Douglas Colwell	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman (7:20 p.m.)
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Update on 2022-2023 Insurance from Rich Nesbitt of Johnny Walker Insurance, which was explained at March Meeting. After discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell to accept proposal with 2.5M added to garage coverage and \$400,000. on Office. Carried.

Motion by Councilman, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous meeting of March 10, 2022 and Workshop Meeting of March 28, 2022. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Completed sweeping of roads from winter salt and sand.

Replaced a 16’ culvert pipe on Millbrook Road.

Installed 120’ of 18” culvert pipe on Overshot Road.

Covering soft spots on dirt roads.

Water reading at Claverack Library questioned. Also address needs to be changed to former library building and now being used temporarily by the Town Court and other Town business meetings. Town should be charged for the water usage for this building.

To fix #33 truck, which is a Year 1997, is around \$9,000. Used as water truck for paving. Funds will be in budget next year to replace truck. There will be no trade-in when purchasing under State contract.

Getting prices on new pickup.

Questioned if he is going to get meal allowance as he has in the past. Was told “No”; wants this in writing. Also questioned whether he gets health insurance benefits when retired?

Report of Dog Control Officer – Kyle Miller – Received and on file in Town Office for review.

CORRESPONDENCE

April 2022

Including, but not limited to:

National Grid – Notification of Routine Tree Maintenance
e-mail – Austerlitz, Germantown attain bronze Climate Smart certification
Maddie Feaster – Advocacy Community Organizer – Scenic Hudson – e-mail – NY-NJ watershed Protection Act
Claverack Free Library – Re: Library Funding Referendum on November’s ballot
Concerts At Claverack Free Library
D. Davey – e-mail – Re: Solar Installation on Stottville Rd.
2020 Fire Code of New York State on Tents, Temporary Special Event Structures and Other Membrane Structures
Kyle Miller – Dog Control Officer – Monthly Report for March
et cetera – April 2022 – e-mail – A member-focused, digital round-up of breaking news and timely updates
Columbia County Habitat for Humanity – e-mail – Donation to Restore just Got a Whole Lot Easier
Copy of Notice of Public Hearing, Thursday, April 14, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. to establish and impose a temporary 3-month moratorium on large scale solar energy installations within the Town of Claverack – Local Law #1 of 2022.
Columbia County Habitat for Humanity – e-mail – Board of Trustees Election Results
Claverack Free Library – Information regarding questions from workshop
Letter of interest from Vonda M. Teaney for a part-time office position.
Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Comprehensive Plan

Supervisor’s Report

County now doing Honor Veteran Program again. “Arnie” T. Anderson will be honored next month.

New van has arrived and is getting lettered.

State reduced their share of gas tax 8% for the next six months. County is considering and trying to decide, now is 4%.

Discussion on summer youth program. Suggestion was possibly combining with Greenport.

Discussion on shed for little league fields. Will be 10’ x 10’ and the cost \$3,000. May be a good use under ARPA funds.

Councilwoman Cashen – Still holding on grant and will try again. Has paperwork.

Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Worked with Town’s insurance broker, in finalizing Town insurance for 2022-2023.

Received documentation from National Grid regarding LED streetlight conversion and finalized contract and payment for conversion work. Funds for project being paid for with NYSERDA grant and ARPA funds.

Attended March Town Board Workshop and April Planning Board Meeting and zoomed meetings for public.

Attended Columbia County Economic Development Corporation’s Housing Forum. Findings show there is a lack of and imbalance in housing supply and housing needs of the residents are not being met.

Worked with Deputy Clerk to draft several announcements on the website and a drop-box for Planning Board applicants to post their materials so the public has access to the information.

Followed up with Senator Jordan’s office regarding Town Park Grant from several years ago.

Councilman Colwell – Attended Monthly Workshop and stopped at Planning Board Meeting.

Stopped by Town Office several times during month.

Councilman Duntz – Attended Monthly Workshop.

Working with Little League members getting ready for opening games of the season.

Councilman Hook – Came to Town Office several times for recycling for food pantry and office and also brought monthly food delivery from Hudson for the pantry.

Met at Town Court for new heater for bathroom and also to Town Court building for minor repairs.

Met with Valley Energy regarding furnace at former court building.

Attended Monthly Town Workshop Meeting, Monthly Planning Board Meeting and ZBA Meeting.

Came to Town Office several times to sign checks and also met with Building Inspector there.

Went to Alvarez’s to look at sheds.

Received a call regarding Yorkshire Motel.

Attended meeting at Claverack Library regarding water meter.

Took down old chain at the Hamlet Park.

No further reports.

Motion by **Councilwoman Cashen**, seconded by **Councilman Hook** to enter into agreement with Columbia County for yearly employee training. Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Colwell** to accept draft March2022, draft January – March 2022, draft January – March 2021 and draft January – December 2021. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons told that now certain tents need regulations now - 40 square foot (20x20) and larger and Building Inspector is aware of this.

Discussion on additional parking proposal at the temporary Town Court. Proposal for 7 spots is \$15,000, plus there are already three. Colarusso is not interested in doing this but **Supervisor Weigelt** will ask again. There would be a total of 10 with 1 handicap. Stephen King said final estimates in next week and will speak with **Councilwoman Cashen** and **Councilman Hook**.

Discussion on need for ZEO (Zoning Enforcement Officer).

End of this month – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). LED streetlights only amount in. Working on this, but frustrating process.

Superintendent of Highways Lamont asked about the blacktop to be put in playground for those who are unable to walk thru grass or have the use of wheelchairs. There is no timeframe at this time.

Opened to public:

Stephanie Sussman – Regarding her remarks on the Mellenville/Philmont Food Pantry at last month's meeting. Problem with reports mixing Town time and personal time when assisting Food Pantry. **Councilwoman Cashen** tried to explain this situation.

Elise – Information on Costa Junkyard and Casivant Auto Museum, eyesores in the Town. **Attorney Fitzsimmons** explained that Costa had brought the property up to acceptable standards several years ago according to the State. The Casivant property is under foreclosure proceedings with the County for back taxes. This could take six months to two years due to COVID-19 delay on foreclosures.

Ian Nitschke – Made comments on daffodils and stated 100,000 in Town. Also questioned the status of Shaw Bridge. Know of foundations that have members who would be interested in contributing to the cause.

Donna Davi – Regarding moratorium on large solar projects. What is next? How will public be able to participate? Thru Public Hearing? Want to be more involved. Can't contribute until very end.

No further comments

Michael Brandon, Town Justice – Gave 5 areas of concern:

1. This is 10th week. Need to have "Exit Signs" in building. Parking signs.
2. Library cars all over parking lot.
3. Would like copy of lease
4. Should have list of everyone who has keys.
5. There is no lighting in back of building. Private area light not enough at 2:00 a.m. Law Enforcement likes to have lighting when bringing someone in.

Councilman Hook said there would have to be new "exit signs" purchased as ones from old building are too large.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Colwell** to go into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Colwell** to go out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

General A bills, totaling \$23,897.43, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.
General B bills, totaling \$920.77, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.
Highway DB bills, totaling \$25,774.67, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.
Water bills, totaling \$4,068.42, were audited and ordered paid from the account.
General A – ARPA bills, totaling \$19,834.53, were audited and ordered paid from the 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 Hook**,
seconded by **Councilman Duntz**, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by **Supervisor Weigelt**.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____