

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 10, 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. #23-B. 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 6:10 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, with a moment of silence for Charles Brewer, longtime Claverack resident, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend. He was an Assessor for the Town of Claverack for over 25 years, being sole Assessor in recent years. This was followed by 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 of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Meeting turned over to Rich Nesbitt from Johnnie Walker Insurance Agency, and broker of the Town's insurance. He gave a synopsis of the 2022-2023 renewal coverages. There was a 3% increase overall with the insurance carrier, Selective Insurance. **Liability limits** \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000. (All Town Operations (Budget & Properties), including Streets/Roads/Highways/of 67 miles, Water Operations and Public Officials), **Automobile Limit** \$1,000,000. (Transfer Physical Damage Coverage from Inland Marine to Auto, Policy for trucks 10 years & older ('11 International), Background Checks Seasonal Employees, **Property** 2022 Blanket coverage \$4,680,691 (Added New Town Hall – Transferred contents limit from Old Town Hall, added youth storage shed (05/21/21) and \$1,000,000. Occurrence \$6,000,000. Catastrophe Limit, **Inland Marine** (Replacement cost for equipment purchased within last 5 years, removed trailer and stone spreader (04/01/21), added John Deere Loader (01/19/22), **Excess Liability** (policy limits \$6,000,000., following form), **Claim Management**, (no liability claims).

The old building, though not in use, should remain covered.

April 1st is the due date.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of meeting of February 10, 2022 and Workshop Minutes of February 28, 2022. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department has worked six snow events with men doing good job even though dirt roads were soft.

Working on equipment to get ready for spring.

Cold patching in all zones and trying to patch dirt roads.

Replacing signs on Shaw Bridge Road, Van Wyck Lane, Brookbound Lane and Pine Street.

Will have a new hire, Christopher Puff, to replace a man retiring.

Talked about loader and the need for a new truck body.

Questioned about his meal tickets. Has not received any this season.

Has a list of trucks and their condition.

Needs to have #348 signed. The following roads and the expenditures for the year:

Schoolhouse Road - \$50,903.

Millbrook Road - \$61,198.

Stickles Road - \$70,859.

After questioning by Councilwoman Cashen, Old Barrington Road will be done next year.

After discussion on loader, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell for resolution authorizing purchase of loader under State Contract. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell to including scale for an additional \$13,000. Carried.

Dog Officer's Report – Kyle Miller – February Report on file and in Town Office for review.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Nexamp – Property in leasing property near Gahbauer Road (102.-1-010) for hosting Nexamp Community Solar project

Retirement letter from Charlie Brewer (Assessor)

Philmont Neighbors – Presentation regarding Philmont considering becoming a historic district

Mary Melino – Application and resume' for PT Bookkeeper position

Columbia Opportunities – Weatherization Program information

Philmont Neighbors – Historic District presentation moved to 2nd week in July

Columbia Economic Development Corp. – Re: Information on survey for Columbia County's Broadband gap

Leslie Hough – e-mail – Re: Abandoned house at 16 Lucas Lane

Claverack Library – Re: Coming to monthly workshop on Feb. 28th.

Jeane LaPorta – e-mail – Re: Historian's article for politically based newsletter. Has declined, but is willing to put an historian column on the Town website

Department of the Army Corps of Engineers- e-mail – Re: Hudson Hill Solar LLC

Patrice Tomaso – Re: Property recently purchase appears to be AirB&B – in residential community

Social Security Star – March 2022 edition

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity – e-mail – Introducing Habitat Helping Hands to accelerate its building program

Supervisor's Report

The County has purchased the 17- passenger van for veterans, which would have the capability for two wheelchairs. It was reported at the last meeting that one had been found. It has now been purchased.

The County reported that the sewer line from Greenport to the Commerce Park is up and running.

Attorney Fitzsimmons will check into Rail Trail that runs from Claverack Agway.

Board Members' Reports

Councilman Duntz – Has been following up on Little League. Trying to set up meeting.

Met with Sheriff and Undersheriff on problems on Rte. 9-H. There was a big problem at a residence there last year with neighbors complaining and the Town not being able to control it.

There was also discussion for the Sheriff's Department to come to the Town Park during the Summer Youth Program and do demonstrations.

Councilman Colwell – Also working on the problem of the party last year on the 9-H property. The Sheriff's Department want the New York State Troopers involved as well. Attorney Fitzsimmons said getting compliance with the law is difficult. Councilman Hook stated that there is already advertising. Code Enforcement Officer can go there due to over-capacity of the premises.

Went to solar problem on Stottville Road. This was first approved with Borego. May have to be resurveyed. Councilman Hook said that the panels are very close to property lines. Need to go by text, not drawings. Law may have to be revisited. Building Inspector must see the solar field and can say that there needs to be an engineer there.

Helped Councilman Hook with shelving in storage unit at former Claverack Library location.

Attended Planning Board Meeting.

Meeting with libraries on 03/14/2022 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Cashen – Contacted DASNY and Senator Jordan's office regarding grant for Town Park and sidewalk to Town Park entrance. Accordingly, the request has been prioritized and is pending before the Senate Finance Committee.

Worked with Town's insurance broker in finalizing the 2022-2023 Town insurance policy.

Continued to work on a Town resolution condemning Anti-Hate.

Followed up with National Grid regarding LED streetlight conversion initiative. Final draft will be sent to the Town in March.

With Councilman Hook, interviewed candidate for part-time bookkeeper position.

Attended February Monthly Workshop and Planning Board March meeting and Zoomed meetings for the public.

Attended Claverack Climate Smart meeting.

Followed up with NYSDAOT Principal Engineer on several issues which were requested to be reviewed, including speed limits on Rte. #23B and other Town roads.

Drafted response for Supervisor regarding several Climate Smart actions taken by the Town over the past year.

Contacted HBO officials regarding parking of cars on Tishauser Road. They will be filming one more time in March and one in April. It is going to be an art storage warehouse.

Met with Deputy Clerk on several announcements on the website and updates to the Building Fees schedule.

Councilman Hook – Picked up monthly food order for food pantry. Took recycling from Town Hall and Food Pantry several times.

Attended Town Board workshop, Planning Board Meeting and ZBA Meeting.

Signed checks at Town Office several times.

Visited court building and Town Office numerous times.

Met with Town bookkeeper and also, with **Councilwoman Cashen**, interviewed applicant for bookkeeping position.

Along with **Supervisor Weigelt**, met with Klocke Estates representative.

Met with Mid-Hudson Cablevision.

Replaced temporary lighting at temporary Town Hall/Town Court building.

Met with Lowes representative for installation of shade in bathroom at temporary Town Hall/Town Court building.

Along with **Councilman Colwell** and **Building Inspector Don. Smith**, met with representatives of solar company on Stottville Road.

Removed items from bathroom at old Town Hall/Town Court building to be installed in restroom at temporary Town Hall/Town Court building.

Met with Mobile Locksmith to have keys made for temporary housing of Town Hall/Town Court.

No further reports.

Motion by **Councilwoman Cashen**, seconded by **Councilman Hook** to approve 2022-2023 Town Insurance policy. Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Duntz**, seconded by **Councilman Hook** to approve adoption of boundary adjustments between the Town of Claverack Fire Protection District (A.B. Shaw Fire District) and the Claverack Fire District (Churchtown Fire District). Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilwoman Cashen** to hire Mary Melino as part-time bookkeeper with a salary of \$26.00 per hour. Carried.

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

No further motions.

Report by **John Bradley** – Climate Smart Projects update – The Solarize Campaign offers residents and businesses a way to support solar energy from a local solar farm and receive a 10% credit off their utility bill with easy sign-up. There are 0% enrollment fees, 0% upfront fees, 0% cancellation fees. Claverack Climate Smart joined the County Climate Smart Solarize program to simplify the process of vetting and selecting a solar vendor. We were approved by NYSERDA last fall, but were delayed while the County gets its approval, finalizes an MOU with the vendors and sets up its website. We expect to be able to launch within the next few weeks, but because of the delays we lost our advantage of an early launch. As there are a limited number of NYSERDA for small towns, it is important that the Claverack Campaign move promptly when the County makes available the sign-up page.

Town Hall and Town Square – Ongoing conversation about need for planning relating to new Town Hall.

The Climate Smart Committee has made specific recommendations concerning new Town Hall and broader surrounding site, which we refer to as the Town Square. Among them is that a professionally led planning process be initiated and a vision for the entire site be developed before making planning decision on parts of the whole.

Climate Smart is also investigating grant opportunities relating to various parts of the project. Claverack may be able to apply for some funding through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund program for Parks. The program provides successive planning grants leading up to a construction/implementation grant not to exceed \$500,000.

Supervisor Weigelt questioned how many solar panels needed to run a normal home? Also waiting for survey.

Discussion on use of ARPA funds. Need to discuss what we have to spend and what has already been spent.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, Seconded by **Councilman Duntz** to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss litigation. Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Hook**, seconded by **Councilman Duntz** to o out of Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. Carried.

Motion by **Councilman Duntz**, seconded by **Councilman Hook** to appoint an Acting Assessor for a period of six months. Carried.

Opened to Public:

Mrs. Winchell – Resident on Stevers Crossing – Request that a drainage pipe be removed from neighbors property by the Highway Department. Was told by **Highway Superintendent LaMont** that it belongs to the landowner. Another driveway was going to be put in by landowner. **Councilman Duntz** asked if owner had been asked to remove the pipe. Mrs. Winchell said that there was also garbage on property.

Susan Bain – Questioned whether there was any follow-up on the anti-hate resolution?

Stephen King – Regarding problems on Stottville Road and the solar field. There needs to be improvement of the Solar Law.

Supervisor Weigelt has reached out to the school building adjacent to the Claverack Library and the temporary Town Hall/Town Court building. The owner is open to dialogue regarding parking there when needed.

Stephen King, new President of the Office of the Aging is requesting someone be appointed to the Board to act as liaison to let the Town Board know about a new Pilot Program for assisting people so that they are able to be able to remain at home.

General A bills, totaling \$17,014.87, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,641.50, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$43,611.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no SW Water 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 Colwell**, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Town Clerk: _____

