

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 12, 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 6:00 by Deputy Supervisor, Stephen Hook, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Stephen Hook	Deputy Supervisor/Councilman
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Douglas Colwell	Councilman
George Duntz	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
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Motion by Councilman Colwell, seconded by Councilman Duntz to accept minutes of previous meeting of April 14, 2022 and Workshop Meeting of April 25, 2022. Carried.

Meeting turned over to Troy Weldy, Columbia Land Conservancy for discussion on NYSERDA Model Solar Law comparison with Claverack's Solar Law. In order to go to State, must be 20 megawatts. Couldn't come up with anything regarding glare. Councilman Colwell – Have farm plantings done first. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated farm land analysis could be a problem. Councilman Colwell – 30% good place to start for use as large solar. Stephen King stated need is substantial plantings per Planning Board – more plants and fencing for viable screening. There should be a real landscaping plan. Many unanswered questions.

John Bradley – Coordinator – Climate Smart – Reported on status of Solarize campaign. Notification from NYSERDA that our application was successful. In addition to the \$5,000. Grant award, also expect to receive about \$1,000. In "bonus" award for about 20 subscribers. Still need to send a letter explaining on what Climate Smart actions we will spend the funds.

Mr. Bradley also announced that the Climate Smart Claverack webpage is now up and running. He encouraged Board members to look at the site and provide feedback, questions or comments. The website is the result of many hours of work by volunteers, especially Media Team, mostly Victoria Masters and Sarah Katan. It is the first step and an important building block. Welcome more volunteers to get involved.

End of report.

Attorney Fitzsimmons has no information regarding AB Shaw Fire Company and the boundary lines.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department has graded all gravel roads for the first time.

Stonemill Road has been ditched and a culvert pipe installed.

With park workers, dug up water break in the park and added mulch around all playground equipment.

Started blacktopping on Schoolhouse Road to prepare for chip-sealing.

#284 Report will not be accurate due to increased prices of blacktop and oil.

End of report.

There was no Supervisor's report due to illness.

Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Followed up with Congressman Delgado's office regarding ARPA reporting for the Town after several failed attempts in submitting financial report. Finally was successful in submitting the report to the U.S. Treasury Department.

Worked with Columbia Land Conservancy on changes to the Town's large scale solar law.

Worked on draft job descriptions for Deputy Clerk and Code Enforcement Officer openings.

Attended May Claverack Climate Smart Committee meeting.

Attended April Town Board Workshop and May Planning Board Meeting. "Zoomed" Planning Board Meeting for the public.

Worked with Deputy Clerk to draft several announcements on website.

Councilman Colwell - Working on gathering information and concerns of homeowners on Stottville Road and the Solar Project.

Met with Town Judge Brandon and Court Clerk Brenda Weigelt regarding temporary placement at the former Claverack Library.

Worked with S & F Communications regarding more cameras in Town Park.

Working on applications for Summer Youth Program.

Councilman Duntz – Received e-mail today and ratio of counselors to children is 1-12. Hasn't had time to see where we stand yet as far as number of counselors we have.

Attended Ockawamick Little League Opening Day. There was a good turnout.

Councilman Hook - Met with Assessor, Building Inspector, new bookkeeper, insurance broker.

Met with Stewarts representative, Town of Greenport.

Met with NYS Police regarding a Town Park issue.

Met twice at bridge on Decker Road.

Signed checks at Town Office several times.

Worked at Hamlet Park.

Met at solar project in Stottville.

Met at cemetery at County Rte. #11 & #23

Spoke with Valley Oil representative.

End of Reports

Motion by Councilman Colwell, Seconded by Councilman Duntz to advertise for transportation bids for Summer Youth Program. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Duntz to accept draft April 2022, draft January – April 2022, draft January -April 2022 and draft January – December 2021. Carried.

Open to public:

Judge Brandon – Spoke regarding five “Exit” signs for Court building – In negotiations.

Wants a list of key holders and what keys they have. This is necessary for the Court Administration.

Had arraignment and person was handicapped with wheelchair. Concrete walk by “handicap parking” very difficult. Wheelchair had to be lifted onto the concrete walk.

Judge Brandon and Court Clerk Brenda Weigelt have installed air conditioning in Court building.

Half of records from former building are now upstairs to be gone over for retention and/or disposal.

A gentleman spoke regarding the solar law update – 250’ is less than a football field and feels solar fields should not be anywhere near housing. Read a synopsis of letter from Donna Davi, which was received this afternoon for the Board members.

Stephen King asked for **Supervisor Weigelt** To advocate for more days for hazardous materials to be collected. **Attorney Fitzsimmons** said that next year this program will be done in the Spring and Fall.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$40,425.70, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$829.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$30,529.14, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water Department bills, totaling \$5,278.74, 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 Colwell, seconded by Councilman Duntz, meeting adjourned by Deputy Supervisor/Councilman at 6:55 p.m.

Date: _____

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Town Clerk: _____