

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 09, 2022

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the former Claverack Library building, which is the temporary location for the Town Court and other Town meeting business meetings. Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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

Absent:

George Duntz	Councilman
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Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous meeting of May 12, 2022. Carried.

Two representatives from DAUR gave presentation on the new construction of the Town Office building. Location has possibilities and landscaping. On preliminary drawings, the interest is to be as efficient as possible. Will work with an architect and will work to move the project along. Town needs to move the project along properly and prepare for possibilities in the future. Supervisor Weigelt reported the survey has been completed. Will work for codes. Representatives stated will work on codes. Stated they are detail oriented. It is necessary to step-out to bid. Should tighten up as soon as possible.

The representatives were thanked for attending and for their input.

Town Judge Michael Brandon brought Board up to date on Town Court information. Checked into a recycling and retention program. Cost would be \$147,000. Court has a 90-page document for shredding and recycling from Office of Court Administration and the Columbia County Clerk. As of now, 70% of the 100% court records have been saved and moved. Highway Superintendent LaMont will give it "one more shot" and should be able to be put in "pod".

Still looking for a list of people with keys to the Court facility. Office of Court Administration wants to know who has access to the building.

There is someone with "Exit" signs for the building. Would like a light on the green pole. Court Clerks will have to go to the "pod" for information requested.

As far as the Office of Court Administration, all guidance is still in place for them.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department has been black-topping on Schoolhouse and Millbrook Road, preparing for chip-sealing.

Mowing is being done on roadsides in all zones.

Water plant – Only have one pump running. Second pump has a bad VFD and one softener is not working. Waiting for parts to fix them.

Supervisor's Report

More sales tax than anticipated coming in.

Councilman Hook reported that it takes approximately 1 ½ years for get a new truck for the Highway Department from the dealer.

Board Member Reports

Councilman Colwell – Hiring Director and Assistant Director for the Summer Youth Program. Set dates with libraries for field trips for the Summer Youth Program. Met with counselors yesterday. Applications for attendance now on website. Ratio from Columbia County Health Department is 12 Youths to 1 Counselor. Right now there are 20 staff positions. Not all children come every day.

Supervisor Weigelt said that Town should have coverage for Park protection. Councilman Colwell will look into this.

Councilman Hook – Met with State Police on break-in at Park.

Met with electrician at Park and electrical work done.

Attended ZBA Meeting and two Planning Board Meetings.

Meeting at library – Operations.

Signed checks several times at Town Office.

Did recycling for Town Office and food pantry several times.

Sat in on meetings for Deputy Clerk, Assessor and Code Enforcement Officer positions.

Councilwoman Cashen – Drafted executive Summary of draft solar law for public hearing. Provided feedback and worked with Columbia Land Conservancy on changes to Town's large scale solar law and June 2nd process. Attended the June 2nd meeting and drafted notes from the public input.

Responded to questions from solar developer regarding funding requirements for decommissioning of solar panels.

Lot of solar work – Set-back review, follow-up, set-back review, zoning districts. Need to figure out necessary steps.

Along with Councilman Hook, met with Claverack Library Board representatives and staff regarding parking proposal for the property and use of ARPA funds to assist in the expansion of parking.

Followed up with New York State Senate staff regarding grant for the Town. Nothing new to report.

Responded to Labor Counsel on employee retirement/leave questions raised by an employee.

Attended June Planning Board Meeting and Zoomed meeting for the public.

Attended June 5th Columbia County Land Conservancy Taghkanic Headwaters Committee presentation and talk by author Nancy F. Castaldo, about water conservation and waterways.

Worked with Deputy Clerk on several announcements for the website.

End of Reports.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to appoint Pat Fecher to fill out term of William Michael on Planning Board. The term will end December 31, 2028. Carried.

Discussion on \$15,000. of ARPA funds for additional parking at Claverack Library.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to hire Vonda Teaney for the Town Clerk's Office and Lynn Hotaling, who has been filling in due to the death of Charles Brewer, as permanent Assessor. Assessor's salary is \$35,000., determined by the number of lots and paid bi-weekly. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell to approve hiring of Richard Schumann as Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO). Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for approval to hire "Alex" Colwell as Summer Youth program Director. Carried, with Doug Colwell abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Colwell, seconded by Councilman Hook for approval to hire Jeffrey Montague as Summer Youth Program Assistant Director. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell for approval to hire Amber Dusenberry as Summer Youth Program Health Director. Carried.

After opening of bus transportation bid (one received) for the Summer Youth Program, Michael Johnston Bus Company was approved and carried with motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell, to accept draft May 2022, draft January – May 2022, Draft January 2021 and draft January – May 2021. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to work on negotiating new lease with Claverack Library for use of the former Library building by the Town for the Town Court and other Town meetings. Carried with Councilman Colwell voting "No".

Meeting opened to public:

Susan Bain – Concerned that anti-hate resolution not passed. Claverack is second most populous Town in County. Supervisor Weigelt will look into this again.

John Bradley – Would like to meet with Supervisor Weigelt.

Superintendent of Highways, Louis LaMont – Regarding pipe installation on Decker Road. Cost of pipe has gone up \$5,000. Was \$12,000. And is now \$17,000. Permit to do the work is coming.

Loader for the Highway Department will be here in about two weeks.

There were no abstract presented to the Board this month.

No further comments or questions.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell to go into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Supervisor Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Hook to go out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Town Clerk: _____

