

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Monthly Town Board Meeting

August 11, 2022

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held both in-person and “Zoomed” at the former Claverack Library building, 629 Rte. #23-B, Claverack, New York. This is the temporary location of the Town Court and other Town meetings and functions until a new Town building is completed. Meeting opened by Supervisor Weigelt at 5:30 p.m. with a presentation by representative Terry Guntert, member of the Mellenville Fire Company and representative George Keeler, member of A.B. Shaw Fire Company. Discussion followed, with remarks from some members of both companies and also by Robert Preusser, a member of the Churchtown Fire Company. Mr. Guntert stated Mellenville is in favor of splitting the West Ghent District with A.B. Shaw. Mr. Keeler stated the desire of A.B. Shaw is a single firer district and one Fire Company. Mr. Preusser stated that the Town Board is responsible for all fire companies. There is a need to sit down and discuss what is coming in the future. There are not many firefighters or EMS members anymore. It is totally different than it used to be. Mr. Gambacorta, a member of the Mellenville Company, said that it is best to stay as it is presently.

At 6:00 p.m., the Regular Monthly Meeting began with the ledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Douglas Colwell	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

George Duntz	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Will get permit for work to be done on Decker Road.

Department has repaired edges on Stottville and Gahbauer Roads.

Replaced a driveway pipe on Rusty’s Road and paved Stickles Road.

Mowing roadsides in all zones.

Sent 3 trucks to Town of Ghent to assist in paving and Ghent sent 3 trucks to assist us in paving project.

Humane Society Road has been destroyed by trucks working on solar project.

Questions about water tank cleaning and painting. Mr. LaMont got an estimate to replace the water softeners at the water plant. The original ones are 17 years old and need to be replaced.

Also got an estimate to pave the rest of the Highway Garage driveway, and an estimate to repair the cracks in the tennis and basketball courts in the Town Park.

Supervisor Weigelt stated that David Harrison from Columbia County Emergency Services reported there is between \$150,000.00 and \$200,000.00 will be available for new road projects (washouts, etc.). Funds have not been approved yet, but when it is available, should be project ready. Would have to pay for engineering. He will get the telephone number for Mr. LaMont to call to get information.

Councilman Colwell reported a problem on the side of road at Catskill View Road.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Weigelt reported there is a piece of landlocked land by Rivenburg and Old Lane. Owned by someone who no longer lives in area. There are ATV's going thru the property. This property is not deeded to the Town.

Reported he and Councilman Hook will be meeting with representative (Lisa) from the Town accounting firm to work on the 2023 Budget.

Fish and Game Road is going to be closed from August 22nd. A culvert by the barn near Tishouser Road being replaced. This is a 2-year road project for the whole length of that road.

Columbia-Greene Community College budget passed. Will be doing a lot of structural work.

Board Members Reports

Councilwoman Cashen - Reported that ARPA funds used to be approximately \$100,000.00. The balance that is left is approximately \$354,000.00.

Paperwork for all Departments for 2023 Budget to be distributed. Wants the information returned as soon as possible.

Reviewed Town employee health insurance options and discussed with Counsel. Attended meeting with employees and Union Representative to go over options. Followed up with Counsel with questions from employees.

Met with Town Historian and Brenda Shufelt to discuss application for National Historic Designation of former Town Hall Building that was originally a mill.

Received information from NYSERDA that Town has been awarded another \$5,000.00 for Climate Smart Initiatives under the Clean Energy Communities Program. Grant was written by Climate Smart Committee members.

Attended July ZBA Meeting and August Planning Board Meeting. "Zoomed" the meetings for the public.

Attended August Climate Smart Committee Monthly Meeting.

Councilman Colwell – Summer Youth Program attended by 45 – 65 children daily. Visits from the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. Brought trained dog also. Would stay and play games with campers. Hillsdale campers came for a fun day. Pizza was offered every Friday. Sheriff's Department

will come tomorrow, the last day of the program. Letter should be sent Sheriff's Department (Kevin Skype). With this program, their presence locally will be known by the "kids".

Attended several meetings regarding solar. Looking forward to public hearing on September 7th. Making good progress. Committee working very well together. Attended ZBA Meeting with 136 people present at meeting. Has to go to County Planning.

Councilman Hook – Met with attorneys on Stottville Road Solar Project.

Recycling for Food Pantry and Town Office – picked up monthly food pantry delivery.

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

Met with Code Enforcement Officer.

Went on road call for the maintenance truck.

Attended two solar meetings.

Met with electrician for Park – not completed yet.

Met with Camp staff and Health Department.

Shopped and purchased items for first-aid to replace outdated materials for Summer Park Program.

No further reports.

Discussion on allowing alcohol consumption/sales policies in Town Park. Will discuss for future, but nothing in rules and regulations at this time. Attorney Fitzsimmons, said that if all paperwork is received by Liquor Authority in a timely manner, it will be permitted. The Town Zoning Enforcement Officer will have to make sure everything is in order and will have to see that rules are followed.

Other Business

Councilman Hook – Need a couple of dumpsters for former Town Hall/Town Court Building.

Supervisor Weigelt – Has someone who will give estimate and offer to pay for copper in the former Town Hall/Town Court Building. Highway Superintendent LaMont stated Highway Department will take the copper out.

Court personnel has requested a buzzer so they can see who is at the front door. Also discussed were panic buttons for desks.

Received okay from the State to take old Town Hall building down.

Meeting opened to public:

D. Davi – (on Zoom) – What's been going on with speeding on Stottville Road since 2021? Supervisor Weigelt reported that the speed limit has to go thru the State. The State now charges for any studies that they do. Ms. Davi suggested speed bumps and was told that these are dangerous. This is frustrating but the State Department of Transportation wants to keep traffic moving. The speed signs did help in slowing cars down last year and suggested they be set up again.

No more questions or comments.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss employee Health Insurance with a telephone call from the insurance lawyer for explanations and answers to questions. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell to come out of Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$15,270.75 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,416.75 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

DB Highway bills, totaling \$140,921.19 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water Department bills, totaling \$9,146.55 were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no DA Highway bills.

There were no Escrow Accounts bills.

There being no further business to be discussed, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Colwell, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Town Clerk: _____