

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting
December 8, 2022
6:00 pm

Board Members Present

✓	Clifford Weigelt Supervisor	CW	✓	George Duntz Councilman	GD	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓	Stephen Hook Councilman	SH	✓	Douglas Colwell Councilman	DC	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓	Kathleen Cashen Councilwoman	KC	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Others Present

✓	Louis LaMont, Superintendent of Highways
✓	Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq, Attorney for the Town
✓	Michael Brandon, Town Judge
✓	Mary J. Hoose, Town Clerk
✓	Vonda Teaney, Clerk

- Public Hearing on Local Law No. 5 of the year 2022 to suspend/remove the town residency requirement for Deputy Clerk.

Rob Fitzsimmons explained the reason for this law. Member of public spoke in support of this. CW closed public hearing at 6:02pm

Claverack Town Regular Board Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes - Town Board meeting November 10, 2022

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: Abstention(s): ✓ Accepted Rejected Tabled

Correspondence –

Including, but not limited to:

R B C Wealth Management – Thanksgiving Card

Claverack Library – Information and request for donation

Philmont Library – Virtual Programs, Kids Programs for Fall

NYS Department of Transportation – Information on the culvert portion of Bridge NY 2022 Projects

Hodgson Rus – Re: Notice regarding Solar Energy Project pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §487

The Social Security Star – December 2022 information

Dog Control Officer – e-mail Report for November

Peter Bevacqua – e-mail re: Digital speed sign on Rte. 23-B

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – re: Valatie Falls Hydropower Project

NY Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – re: Notice of Upcoming Utility Pole Maintenance

Highway Superintendent Report – Serviced trucks. Short staffed due to illnesses and use of accrued time. Rich Michael willing to help with water meters. Cold patching in all the Zones. Patching gravel roads in all roads. Dug out around playground equipment to prepare for blacktop walkways to be done in the spring.

Dog Control Report – *On file with the Town Clerk*

Supervisor Report – Has been away for most of the month. Has received bad news from NYSEG - there will be a 45-50% increase in rates. Doesn't know exact date but it will be happening soon.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilman Hook

- Covered in absence of Supervisor Weigelt
- Food Pantry
- Took recycling from Town Office Building
- Met with Building Inspector and Code Officer
- Numerous phone conversations regarding insurance claim at Highway. New roof going on in April
- Attended Planning Board meeting and Town Board Workshop
- Signed checks at office several times
- Worked with Highway Superintendent on handicapped accessible playground equipment

Councilman Duntz - Working with Youth Bureau and CC new director to complete paperwork for funding reimbursement for Summer Park program 2022.

Councilman Colwell – Met with Churchtown/ Bob Preusser. Been working on regulations for Airbnb for the Town.

Councilwoman Cashen

- Worked with Deputy Clerk on paperwork for Wintersports Program at Catamount – 28 children enrolled
- Worked with Town Attorney on the PILOT for the Emerson Solar LLC on Stottville Road and related amendments to the Solar Law
- Worked with Town Attorney on draft law for Deputy Clerk residency requirement
- Worked with Town Insurance Broker on answering underwriting survey questions for town insurance
- Responded to inquiry on Solar Law from interested solar developer
- Attended the December 5 Planning Board meeting
- Worked with Town Assessor, County Real Property Office and Town Attorney on town law to change the date of Grievance Day
- Worked with Deputy on several updates to the town website

Proposed Motions/Resolutions

Motion to Pass Local Law No. 5 of the year 2022

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: ___ Abstention(s): ___ **Resolution:** 5 Accepted Rejected Tabled

Motion to Accept the 2023 Contract with Columbia Greene Humane Society

Motion: GD **Seconded:** SH

Vote: Yes: 5 No: ___ Abstention(s): ___ **Resolution:** Accepted Rejected Tabled

Motion to Accept Financial Reports

Motion: GD **Seconded:** SH

Vote: Yes: 5 No: ___ Abstention(s): ___ **Resolution:** Accepted Rejected Tabled

Motion to allow payment of outstanding end of year bills without warrant prior to January meeting

Motion: KC **Seconded:** SH

Vote: Yes: 5 No: ___ Abstention(s): ___ **Resolution:** Accepted Rejected Tabled

Motion to Set date of January 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm for Annual Organizational Meeting, to be immediately followed by the regular January 2023 Town Board Meeting

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: Abstention(s): **Resolution:** Accepted Rejected Tabled

Resolution setting a public hearing for January 5, 2023 for a local law Changing the Hearing Date of the Town of Claverack Board of Assessment Review

Robert Fitzsimmons explained this change is needed so Assessor can be present that day. Our Assessor is now part-time and will be unavailable on the 4th Tuesday of May as she works in another town. This change will be a permanent change as long as we have the same Assessor.

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: Abstention(s): **Resolution:** Accepted Rejected Tabled

Resolution setting public hearing for January 5, 2023, for a local law clarifying the applicability of the Town of Claverack Solar regulations

It was explained by Attorney Fitzsimmons that this is for clarification. New projects are under new law. Previous projects approved by the Planning Board would fall under the previous jurisdiction. This is only for NEW projects – Emerson Solar’s attorneys asked that we clarify.

Motion: SH **Seconded:** KC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: Abstention(s): **Resolution:** Accepted Rejected Tabled

Other Business

- Air BNB/ Short Term Rentals Committee (setup/ size/ goals) – KC has received inquiries about laws/regulations for Airbnb. Will have a committee to set up goals and work on what is best for our Town. Supervisor Weigelt stated the County is going to get data for local municipalities.
- Stephen King/Comprehensive Plan – Mr. King had sent suggestions to the Board members for Organizational plans for the revision to the Comprehensive Plan of the Town (CCP). Mr. King reviewed his suggestions with the Board. Supervisor Weigelt suggested that this be brought up at the next Board Workshop.
- Discussion on AB Shaw Fire company and Churchtown Fire Company merging, abandoning Churchtown Fire Company and working to come together with AB Shaw The would hire a man to come and finish the study that was started by AB Shaw and Mellenville VFC. There will be a letter sent to Mellenville VFC to work on coming together and trying to get all information

together for companies to make their decisions. Basically, 90% of information is complete on Mellenville and AB Shaw for the report. At the present time, it seems that Mellenville VFC prefers to remain on its own. The problem is that there is not enough workforce to handle AB Shaw and Churchtown. Mellenville cannot be forced, but Town would like to keep them informed.

Public Comments

Community Member, Stephanie Sussman, stated she would like zoom access for all meetings. She noted on the website that it is the Town's plan to not do Zoom after the first of the year. She suggested the Town Board not stop the "zoom" of meetings. She feels residents need access to Town Board information and it is discriminatory not to make this available to them.

Judge "Mike" Brandon – Happy to have parking lot completed at the new "home" of the Town Court. He feels the sidewalk is very dangerous with a small step-up from the parking lot. He asked the Board to see about a solid concrete for the sidewalk. Judge Brandon also advised there was a meeting with District Attorney, Paul Czajka, regarding new program for vehicle traffic tickets. This will make a overload of work for court clerks.

Community Member, Stephanie Sussman, spoke regarding the \$8,000 in 2023 Town Budget for Seniors. She suggested instead of bus trips, this money should be used for renovations to homes of senior community members who might need assistance. She suggested that this be handled like it is in the Town of Hillsdale. Councilman Duntz stated he has spoken to individuals on the Town Board regarding this. It was also stated that Columbia Opportunities, Boy Scouts, and a County weatherization program are available to assist in this way.

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session: GD

Seconded: DC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstention(s): 0

Resolution: Accepted Rejected Tabled

Time entered into Executive Session: 6:45 p.m.

Motion to come out of Executive Session: GD

Seconded by: DC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstention(s): 0

Resolution: Accepted Rejected Tabled

Time out of Executive Session: 7:15 p.m.

Pay Bills

General A - \$44,683.77

General B - \$ 6,034.83

Highway DB - \$24,750.65

Water Dept. - \$ 8,160.56

Highway DA – None

Escrow Accts/Bills – None

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Duntz (GD), seconded by Councilman Colwell (DC), meeting adjourned by Supervisor Weigelt at 7:25 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Town Clerk: _____