

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting
January 5, 2023
6:00 pm

Board Members Present

✓	Clifford Weigelt Supervisor	CW	✓	George Duntz Councilman	GD	✓
✓	Stephen Hook Councilman	SH	✓	Douglas Colwell Councilman	DC	✓
✓	Kathleen Cashen Councilwoman	KC	✓			

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, Deputy Clerk

Public Hearings

Public Hearing for Solar Law – Local Law #1 of 2023

Attorney Fitzsimmons explained this is minor amendment to clarify “New” projects as opposed to “Existing” ones.

Public Hearing for Grievance Day Law – Local Law#2 of 2023

Attorney Fitzsimmons explained the Town needs to move our regular scheduled day due to our Assessor being in another town on that date. This change makes Claverack’s Grievance permanently changed to 5/30.

Claverack Town Regular Board Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes - Town Board meeting December 8, 2022

Motion: SH Seconded: GD

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

Correspondence – Including, but not limited to:

Lara Ferb – e-mail – Re: Speed limit on Route #217 in Mellenville.

Karen Squire – e-mail – Thanking Highway Department for working on Sunday, December 11th to keep roads safe.

Shannon Mannese – re: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

Raquel Parks – Hodgson Russ, Attorneys – Re: Notice regarding Solar Energy Project Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Sec. 487.

Highway Superintendent Report – *Department has worked 3 snow/ice events while being short staffed – 4 trucks on the road instead of 6. The Department put in a lot of hours and are using a lot more materials. Update on equipment. Asked for permission to hire new employee. KW advised he will set up committee to discuss. In September it was mentioned that the truck sweeper/mower needed a new motor and needs to be replaced. KW and SH will look into this. Started installing new water readers. Asked to have something put on website. LL will send write up to KC who will share with VT for posting on website. KC mentioned Old Barrington Road inquiry.*

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

Supervisor Report – *Matt Murrell voted in as head of Columbia County Board of Supervisors. He received an inquiry today for inspection of a house in Village. KW spoke to Building Inspector about this and asked him to work together with Philmont.*

Resolution from Jeanne Mettler (Town of Hillsdale) – Solar project in watershed. KW asked Board to support Hillsdale. He would like to do letter from our Town. Any questions can be discussed in Executive session this evening. KC said she's seen Resolution and thinks it's a good idea for us to get on board.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilman Hook - Signed Checks at office several times. Did several Bank runs for Town Office. Picked up Tax Bills at Real Property and brought to Town Office. Met with Building Inspector and the Assessor's office. Worked on negotiations with County for surplus item for the park. Spoke with County Waste about dumpsters. Spoke with County Outhouse re: port-o-let at park. Attended Planning Board meeting. Met with Bookkeeper and Highway shop Foreman regarding meal allowances. Met with Roma Fence about a gate for the park during the winter.

Councilman Duntz - Good and bad news on Youth Dept reimbursement – not available due to paperwork not being submitted properly by the County. Advised that the Town submitted paperwork properly. There is a new director – John Grandinetti.

Spoke to residents on Orchard Mills Rd regarding issues. SH advised telephone poles have been installed to keep people off other's property.

Complaints about water flooding yard in another area Orchard Grove Lane.

Attended Climate Smart Committee 12/12.

Spoke with RF regarding roadways not built according to specs in area behind Farm Credit. Residents are asking Town to support them as they take on builder legally. Developer didn't do things according to code.

Councilman Colwell – Spoke with several people regarding the new solar law amendment. Van Wyck road issues. Attended Planning Board meeting on 1/2/23.

Councilwoman Cashen - Researched other Columbia County Towns for recently passed or drafted Short-Term Rental laws and regulations.

Worked with Deputy Clerk on finalizing registrations for Youth Wintersports Program at Catamount.

Worked with Town Bookkeeper on salary cost of living raises for town employees beginning 1/1/2023.

Reached out to Senator Michelle Hinchey's office regarding the Town Park grant that has been held up for years. Her office responded that they were working with retiring Senator Jordan's office and are hoping to get it resolved as soon as possible.

Followed up with Town Attorney on proposed solar project that is outside of the zone for large scale solar projects. The Town Attorney communicated back to the developer that the project was not allowed.

Received word from National Grid that the town received a check for \$7,695 for reimbursement incentive for the LED Streetlights conversion.

Followed up with Building Department on removal of final billboards on Rt. 66 as part of the legal agreement made with Clear Channel.

Worked with Town Employment Attorney on questions regarding health insurance and longevity payouts.

Responded to a constituent question regarding floodlights from a neighbor's property. Referred her to the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Reached out to other towns on technology used for broadcasting town meetings.

Attended the December 12 Climate Smart Meeting. Attended the January 2 Planning Board meeting.

Worked with Deputy Clerk on several updates to the town website.

Proposed Motions/Resolutions

Resolution to pass Local Law #1 of 2023 – Solar Law

Motion: KC **Seconded:** SH

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

Resolution to pass Local Law #2 of 2023 – Grievance Day

Motion: GD **Seconded:** DC

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

Other Business

Discussion regarding chain or fence to close entry to park for winter - No plowing or shoveling is done passed the Town Office building during the winter. Looking into closing park during inclement weather. KC has been discussing with other board members. SH suggested putting a fence on corner by where flag pole is. This would be done mainly to keep vehicles off property and avoid damage. DC questioned about rescue personnel access - if people can get down to that area and they get hurt. KC said she thinks they would find a way to get to that area even if there is a fence. Trying to ascertain how to address negatives. Parking is going to be a problem – need to limit access to pavilion for vehicles. LL advised he can put cement barriers out if that's what the Board would like.

Public Comments

Stephanie Sussman – *Inquired if there was a scholarship for families who cannot afford for their child(ren) to attend Wintersports (ski) program. She asked if the Board could look into getting State money to do a scholarship – perhaps from the reimbursement of funds expended during summer park program. GD said that we will not be receiving that money from County as of now. The new Director, Mr. Grandinetti, will be working to recoup funds but it will take time. KC spoke of expense for one child to attend – and many additional expenses beyond the cost of the pass and lessons. KC stated that this money could be used to give something to many more children through other programs – such as this summer’s trips that were funded through grant program.*

Councilman Duntz *advised he researched the “Hillsdale Safe at Home” program and finds this program is run entirely different financially – not through budget. Since our budget has been developed and passed - “adjusting” monies from groups currently funded would need to be discussed with each group. KC said it’s her understanding there is a non-profit entity in Hillsdale to fund – not set up like our budget and funding. KW stated funding for Hillsdale’s program is done by monies raised by individuals. Money is not coming from Town of Hillsdale – GD spoke with them but it doesn’t seem it is. GD is waiting to hear about legalities. KW suggested Ms. Sussman attend the next senior committee meetings both in Hillsdale and Claverack and discuss her suggestions with them.*

Councilman Duntz *gave an update regarding Hudson Little League. There are 4 or 5 town in Hudson CSD will be affected. 196 children will not be able to participate this year. GD ia working with Hudson Mayor, Kamal Johnson, to figure out solutions. They may need to collaborate with other towns for fields.*

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session: SH **Seconded:** KC

Vote: Yes: 5 No: ____ Abstention(s): __

Time entered into Executive Session: 7:11 p.m.

Motion to come out of Executive Session: SH **Seconded by:** GD

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

Time out of Executive Session: 8:12 p.m.

Pay Bills – No Bills to approve – none provided as this meeting was a week earlier than normal.
(Amounts reflected here are for bills approved by all Board members the week following this meeting.)

General A - \$ 38,824.44
General B - \$ 2,826.37
Highway DB - \$ 46,303.05
Water Dept. - \$ 7,793.06
Highway DA – none
Escrow Accts/Bills – none

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Duntz, seconded by Councilman Colwell, meeting adjourned by Supervisor Weigelt at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Town Clerk: _____