

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**  
**Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting**  
**April 13, 2023**  
**6:00 pm**

**Board Members Present**

✓	Clifford Weigelt Supervisor	CW	✓	George Duntz Councilman	GD	
✓	Stephen Hook Councilman	SH	abs	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 HEARING ON LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF THE YEAR 2023**  
**Three-month moratorium on Camps and Campgrounds**

*RF explained moratorium. This is an opportunity for Town to pause and get regulations in line. If needed, it can be extended beyond the 3 months.*

*Town residents Stephanie Sussman and Laura Bedford expressed support of this Local Law and expressed they are happy the Town Board is taking a closer look.*

*Closed hearing at 6:22pm.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Town Board meeting for March 9, 2023**

**Motion:** SH

**Seconded:** GD

**Vote:** Yes: 4 No:     Abstention(s):      Accepted  Rejected  Tabled

**CORRESPONDENCE – Including, but not limited to:**

*Maureen Jukes – NYS Dept. of Public Services – e-mail – Re: Virtual Hearings on March 21, 2023 regarding the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act of 2021.*  
*Victoria Farnam – e-mail - NYS Deferred Comprehension Plan457b Benefit.*  
*Columbia Economic Development Corp. – e-mail – Register for 2023 Annual Meeting.*  
*Warren Dorsch e-mail – Letter of Complaint to Public Service Commission re: NYSEG.*  
*Philmont Public Library - e-mail – re: Spring Library Programs.*  
*Philmont-neighbors on behalf of Debra Gitterman – e-mail – Re: Information on Climate Change facts.*  
*Philmont-neighbors – e-mail – Re: Philmont Renters.*  
*Philmont-neighbors – e-mail – Re: Columbia County Habitat – New Bldg. Projects in Philmont.*  
*Social Security Star – e-mail – April 2023.*  
*Erin Gryniak – e-mail – Re: Upcoming National Grid Project – Gas line work - 4-3-2023.*  
*NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation – e-mail – Guidance to Reduce Conflicts with Bears.*  
*NYSDEC -e-mail – Re: DEC and NYSERDA – Re: Public Webinar Series on Extreme Heat and Climate Change in New York State.*  
*KCACT – e-mail – Social Security Board of Trustees: Projection for Combined Trust Funds One Year Sooner Than Last Year.*  
*e-mail – New York’s Environmental Bond Act: Progress to Date.*  
*Kyle Miller – Dog Control Officer – April Dog Report*

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT –** *Louis LaMont, Highway Superintendent was absent. SH shared on Superintendent LaMont’s behalf that 132 new water meters have been installed. Also informed that paving is planned to be done at park.*

**DOG CONTROL REPORT –** *On file with the Town Clerk*

**SUPERVISOR REPORT –** *KW received an email from Ethan Yaffi about filming to be done at old Ockawamick school again. This session will be on a much smaller scale than before. Met with Mike Tucker and Jessica Gabriel to discuss grants for old town hall building. He will be meeting with them again. County Supervisors had discussion regarding electric cars. Biggest problem is power lines needed to charge – not like regular home use. Need to have Level 3 fast charge ability. Lindy Kennet from the Columbia County Farm Bureau presented on farms in the county.*

## TOWN BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

**Councilman Hook** - *Attended Planning Board and Zoning Board Meetings; Assisted with burial at Martindale Road Cemetery on 1/11; contacted County Outhouse and County Waste regarding Town Park services; preparing for Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings; met with Building Inspector; did some plumbing work at the Town Office; met with Mobile Locksmith re: cabinet keys; helped with Food Pantry; attended negotiations meeting(s) regarding rent/lease for Temporary Town Hall/Court Building; signed checks and checked in at the office several times; attended Town Board Workshop; met with Town Engineer regarding roof and pole barn on salt shed; met with Bates & Anderson to discuss rates for burials.*

**Councilman Duntz** – *Scoreboard installation is in process. Spoke with Alex Colwell, Summer Park Program Director, regarding a calendar of events for park program participants. The calendar is filling up quickly with trips like swimming at TH pool, visits to other park programs, putt-putt golf, etc. He spoke with a couple of residents regarding issues with pot holes.*

**Councilman Colwell** - *absent*

**Councilwoman Cashen** – *Along with Deputy Supervisor Hook, reviewed and discussed revised lease on the Town Court building. Assisted in the drafting of letters for Town utility information for Climate Smart Committee’s submittal for updates to the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Attended the April 3 Planning Board meeting. Received information regarding the inclusion of the former town court/hall property in the Philmont Historic District. Discussed budget questions on the water district with UHY staff. Received a request for the town’s co-sponsorship with the Town of Taghkanic and the Columbia Land Conservancy of an Invasive Species Education Program series of events. Attended the April 10 Claverack Climate Smart meeting. Along with Deputy Supervisor Hook, met with the town bookkeeper to go over annual audit questions. Followed up with the town bookkeeper on health insurance requirements. Worked with Deputy Clerk on several website updates including the Addiction Support Services flyer, the Columbia County Hazardous Waste Collection Day notice, and the public hearing notice for the campground moratorium.*

## PROPOSED MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS

**MOTION** to accept Proposed Local Law No. 3 of the year 2023 entitled a local law “enacting a three-month moratorium on Camps and Campgrounds”

**Motion:** KC      **Seconded:** GD

**Vote:** Yes: 4 No:     Abstention(s):          **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**MOTION** to approve Bus Transportation with M.S. Johnston for summer park program at the same cost as 2022 plus the new CPI (rate not available until June 1<sup>st</sup>).

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** GD

**Vote:** Yes: 4 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**MOTION** to approve Renewal of Lease of Claverack Library Building

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** KC

**Vote:** Yes: 4 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**MOTION** to approve Resolution #33 of 2023 allowing purchase a of lawn mower and leaf bagger attachment from ACP not to exceed \$20,471.00 and for additional bagger for existing mower not to exceed \$4472.00. KW advised the funds will be coming from monies received from the federal government for COVID relief. Total cost not to exceed \$25,000 total.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** KW

**Vote:** Yes: 4 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**MOTION** to approve signing the yearly Sponsor Approval form for Churchtown Fire Company LOSAP program.

**Motion:** KC      **Seconded:** SH

**Vote:** Yes: 4 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**OTHER BUSINESS – none**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Peter Bevacqua, Resident** - *Asked about the development of “welcome to Claverack” sign spoken of in the past. KW advised it got put on the side due to COVID. KW advised the Board will get back on it.*

*Mr. Bevacqua expressed concerns regarding speed and traffic on 23B. KW explored use of digital signs. KW went to state to investigate use for a State Route and was advised if sign is on private property, it is okay to use. KW will be directing Highway Supervisor to put digital signs out. KW advised it is hard to get the actual speed limit reduced but he is working with State to get 50mph areas reduced to 40mph. KW advised the Town is still meeting with City of Hudson on truck traffic issue. KW learned from NYS that without the Town’s approval changes to truck routes (making them come through Claverack) cannot be made.*

GD clarified with KW if he was referring to portable speed limit signs? KW advised yes, not a permanent digital sign although either type would be fine.

Mr. Bevacqua also had a question regarding the street cleaner. He said that it created a huge dust cloud. He questioned if a water truck should be putting down water along with the sweeping, as there was not one. KW will check with LL about this.

**Stephanie Sussman, Resident** – Ms. Sussman wanted to report to the Board on her efforts to expand Senior Services. Ms. Sussman advised she spoke with Linda Guntert, President of Claverack Seniors group, twice. Claverack Seniors currently has about 30 members. Ms. Sussman and Ms. Guntert agreed a survey of needs and wants could be helpful in this process. Ms. Sussman hopes in future we can provide expanded senior services.

Ms. Sussman questioned what contract is to be discussed in executive session. KW stated it is about personnel. Ms. Sussman asked for more information. KW stated more information is not required and will not be given. Ms. Sussman feels executive session should be a rarity and not held every month. RF said he attends and attorney client privilege applies to the actual discussions. He advised that the Board has the right to have executive session whenever needed.

**Councilwoman Cashen** advised that next month the Town is going to have a trial of the “owl” system for remote viewing and recording of Board meeting. DC has been working on this but was not here to share. The link to view the meeting will be put on the website for those wishing to attend remotely for this trial.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - (discussion of Town Contracts)**

**Motion to move into Executive Session:** GD                      **Seconded:** SH  
**Vote:** Yes: 4 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_                      **Motion:**  Accepted  Rejected  Tabled  
Time moved into Executive Session: 6:38 pm

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**Motion to Return to Regular Session:** SH                      **Seconded by:** KC  
**Vote:** Yes: 4 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_                      **Resolution:**  Accepted  Rejected  Tabled  
Time Returned to Regular Session: 7:45 p.m.

**PAY BILLS**

- General A - \$ 19,722.39
- General B - \$ 3,074.47
- Highway DB - \$ 29,212.05
- Water Dept. - \$ 23,973.27
- Highway DA – none
- Escrow Accts/Bills – none

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by SH, seconded by KC, meeting adjourned by Supervisor Weigelt at 7:50 p.m.

Date: Approved on 5/11/23

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Cashen: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Hook: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Duntz: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Colwell: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by Vonda Teaney, Deputy Clerk