

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**  
**Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting**  
**June 8, 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				

**Also 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

***Observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Nicholas Courtens***

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *Town Board meeting minutes of May 11, 2023***

**Motion:** SH

**Seconded:** KC

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

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

- Partners for Climate Action – e-mail – Morning Webinar – Talking to Young People About Climate Change – Tues., May 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Columbia County Habitat for Humanity – e-mail – Philmont Groundbreaking rescheduled for Friday, May 19 at noon.

- Tommy Proniske – e-mail – Complaint regarding property on Orchard Mills Road.
- Neil L. Howard – Letter of Resignation from Assessment Review Board, effective May 18, 2023.
- Columbia County Dept. of Public Works – e-mail – Re: Greenport station closing from Thurs., May 25<sup>th</sup> thru Mon. May 29<sup>th</sup> due to paving.
- Village of Philmont – Letter – Urgent Notice – Mandatory Water Ban Until Further Notice – No nonessential water use allowed.
- Village of Philmont – Letter – Increase of Water and Sewer rates.
- Patrice Perry – e-mail – Land Use Training Opportunity – Mon. June 12<sup>th</sup> – 2 sessions – Session 1 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. - Affordable Housing – Session 2 – 7:15 – 8:15 p.m. – Adaptive Reuses for White Elephants - Greene County Emergency Services Training Center, 25 Volunteer Drive, Cairo, NY. – Registration required/no fee.
- The Social Security Star for June 2023.
- Nancy Marone – Cardiac Life Cardiac Science NYS Hire Contract Pricing
- Magna 5 Phone Service – Andrew Zampariolo, Business Development Manager – Preliminary Cost Comparison.
- 2023 Field Trip and Event Schedule for Town of Claverack Summer Park Program.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** – *Working on ditching on Carlson, Lockwood and Kittle roads. Working on mowing road sides in all zones. Replaced dump body on truck 82 due to old body frame being rusted out. Grading on gravel roads in all zones. Have five new water meters still to install.*

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

**SUPERVISOR REPORT** – *Fish and Game Rd. to close for culvert installation on 8/7. Mike Tucker sent info about grant monies available. Spoke with LL today about the painting of the water tank project. It seems we may need to give AT&T three months for removal of cell tower before painting can be done so there may not be time to do the project this year. Spoke with Shannon from Transco regarding power line issues. She advised the State sets mandates for who can perform the tests – coming up with options for how to address. Transco is doing study and hope by end of August to have everything addressed properly. KC asked if property owners and the Town would know when Transco will be on site or testing done. KW advised they will.*

## **TOWN BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**Councilman Hook** – *Updated AED supply equipment. Attended PB/ZBA Meetings. Food Pantry. Went on inspections with Building Inspector. Met with Bookkeeper. Met with Derby regarding park issues. Signed checks; went to bank for office. Met with Mobile Locksmith for park keys. Met with Health Department for site inspection for park program; updated AED supplies*

**Councilman Duntz** - *Attended Taconic Hills Opening Day for Little League. Scoreboard looks good – thanked all involved in installation. Spoke with Alex regarding Dept. of Health inspection*

for camp program. Alex Colwell requested \$4,000 from county youth bureau to help cover busing. Will speak with Alex about question on busing for Hillsdale trip.

**Councilman Colwell** – absent

**Councilwoman Cashen** - Drafted Juneteenth Proclamation for 2023 for the Town Board review and approval at the May workshop meeting. Reviewed various laws from other towns to identify possible discuss changes to the town’s campground law. Had follow-up discussions with residents regarding concerns related to the Transco powerline. Followed-up with Transco officials to request meeting with Town Board and residents to answer questions and provide official readings from the power line. Attended the June 5 Planning Board meeting. Followed up with Columbia Land Conservancy on June 23 visit to the wetlands property on June 23.

**PROPOSED MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS**

**Motion** to adopt Resolution #33 of 2023 to adopt the amended Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy and amended Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.

**Motion:** KC                      **Seconded:** SH

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

**Motion** to approval adjustment(s) to water bill(s) (already made at direction of Highway Superintendent): -\$65.00 Jay Marley\_ ***Motion tabled for discussion in executive session.***

**Motion:**                      **Seconded:**

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

**Motion** to set a public hearing for July 13, 2023 Town Board meeting to extend the moratorium on campgrounds for another three months.

**Motion:**                      KC                      **Seconded:** GD

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

**Motion** to accept the resignation of Samantha Saavedra as a Camp Counselor for the 2023 Summer Park Program per the Camp Director.

**Motion:**                      SH                      **Seconded:** GD

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

**Motion** to buy new refrigerator for park kitchen.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** KC

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussed making changes in Senior Exemption, Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance workers Exemption, and Disabled and Low-Income Citizen Exemption to match County. RF stated the Board will need to make any changes by adopting Local Laws for each. RF will generate drafts of proposed Local Laws for each and send to the Board for review and action. KW inquired about the fire protection district and how does the firefighter’s exemption would work. RF suggested contacting Suzette Booy as she is the expert in applying that exemption.

Discussion to put out for new BAR members – KW explained the Board would like to increase the number of members from three to five individuals. RF advised that increasing the membership number would “cover” if someone were unable to participate. KW explained we’re at the point of asking for volunteers. KC stated she feels we need to review and possibly make changes to the law but that we could certainly gather names.

**Motion** to put an ad in the newspaper calling for volunteers to serve on the BAR.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** After discussion and no second, motion tabled.

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

Discussion of Highway Garage Asbestos Removal Project – KC stated she was confused as to why this project was being brought before the Board. KW stated his feeling is that the asbestos removal needs to be done no matter what happens with the building moving forward. KC said she disagrees and does not understand the rush. KW said he feels we have waited a year and a half while trying to make decisions on future of the building and no matter what is decided we’re going to have to remove the asbestos. KW feels we should move ahead before the building falls down and then all materials would be contaminated with asbestos. Cost of clean-up at that point would grow astronomically. Community member John Bradley asked if the Board has explored 50/50 grant funding to assist with this project. He requested the Board not to rush and to try to get NYS to cover half. Mr. Bradley suggested contacting Mike Tucker to which KW replied he already met with him. KW was told you have to have a plan of what you’re doing with the building or you will not receive grant. KW stated he still gets questions about what is planned for the building.

**Motion** to proceed with bid process for Highway Garage Asbestos Removal.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** GD

**Vote:** Yes: 3 No: 1-KC Abstention(s): \_\_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

Narcan Training for summer park staff – SH advised the Columbia County Health Dept asked how many individuals we want to have trained. SH explained the Town’s regular staff are not Narcan trained. GD feels there are many places where you can get training.

**Motion** to provide Narcan training to all summer park program staff.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** KC

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

Ring Squared additional fees – SH will follow up with Brenda.

KW commended the Highway Dept and Park personnel for doing an excellent job. KW asked all to take notice of the properties. KW thanked everyone.

*TOWN Historian - JL has been working with Columbia County Historians quite a bit to formulate plans for ColumbiaNY250 – events and activities surrounding the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USA. They are in need volunteers to step up. The dream is a central event, including each town in the county, with fireworks at Chatham Fair Grounds, is envisioned. JL asked if we could put County Historic link on our website. KC will work with Vonda. Also, perhaps an announcement for volunteers as well. KW has question about the little brick school house near Columbia Golf Course. JL explained she has researched and it is owned by the Golf Course. She was advised they use it for storage. JL suggested historic issue be considered. KW advised he will speak to Tom at the Golf Course regarding this.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Stephen King – Mr. King and Joyce Thompson suggested so much has changed for seniors since the pandemic. A survey came from the State but most did not know about it before it closed. Mr. King and Ms. Thompson met with Kevin McDonald to create a Columbia County specific questionnaire. Looking for suggestions and hope to complete by the end of the year. Will take to the County Board of Supervisors for approval.

Gary Davis – Taking over Shaw Bridge conversation from Ian Nitschke. He asked what is the best way for him to work with the Board to come up to speed on what we have, do we move forward, what kind of support is there. Has spoken to Jean LaPorta – thinking maybe to use the ColumbiaNY250 as a platform. KW advised the land leading up to the bridge on both sides is privately owned. KW advised he has spoken to some of the landowners in the past and they



**RESOLVED** that the following bills were reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

- General A - \$ 70,306.33
- General B - \$ 3,190.63
- Highway DB - \$ 12,065.40
- Water Dept. - \$ 10,312.18
- Highway DA – *none*
- Escrow Accts/Bills – *none*

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by SH, seconded by GD, meeting adjourned by Supervisor Weigelt at 7:22 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved 7/13/23 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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