

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**  
**Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting**  
**October 12, 2023**  
**6:00 pm**

Board Members Present

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

Also Present

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

**Public Hearing on Local Law #8 of 2023**  
***Extension of Moratorium on Camps and Campgrounds for an additional 3 months***

*No Public Comment*

**Public Hearing on Building Department Fee Schedule**

*Aaron Smith asked how the current fee schedule was set up either by how many thousands of dollars or by square foot. Attorney Fitzsimmons answered square foot.*

*Mr. Smith went on to say that Claverack is probably the costliest town to do business with in the county. Mr. Smith then went on to express his displeasure with the town's building inspector. He stated that the building inspector uses the office like a club and he is very difficult to get a hold of or schedule an inspection with. Selha Graham asked what rubric does the town use to come up with its fees. CW answered by looking at what other town's charge. He also stated that sometimes some of the town's fees are lower than other towns.*

## **Regular Town Board Meeting**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Town Board meeting minutes of September 14, 2023**

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** GD

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

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

- \* Columbia County Habitat for Humanity-email-information on program and also program in Philmont.
- \* Philmont Library-email-Re: Fall Programs
- \* Philmont Neighbors-email-Re: Lost dog
- \* NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation-Re: Fairview Manor, 20 Rte. 9-H, on Register
- \* NYS Deferred Compensation-information
- \* Columbia County Dept. Of Solid Waste-email-Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day and Food Scrap Program-Sunday, October 29, 2023
- \* Philmont Neighbors-email-Re: Village of Philmont Historic District-public hearing Tuesday, November 14, 2023-7:00 p.m.
- \* Tom Proniske-email-Re: Property conditions on 20 Orchard Mills Road
- \* Town of Stockport-Notice of Public Hearing amending the zoning law to regulate short term rentals
- \* Tentative 2024 Budget
- \* Philmont Neighbors-email-Re: Water Tower work complete-Water ban lifted

### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – absent**

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

**SUPERVISOR REPORT** – *Met with John Bradley about the Climate Action Plan. John Bradley stated the purpose was to do a better job at obtaining grants. JB stated CW authorized the committee to see grants to help with energy audits such as at the highway garage. JB stated it is a lot of hard work but they have a bunch of volunteers.*

*Met with John Bradley and Brenda Shufelt to talk about the new town hall or complex. Also present was Katy Cashen and Stephen Hook. They talked about the three possible locations and will look to set up a committee.*

*Discussed Columbia County passed a resolution to purchase a new building at 11 Warren Street. CW went on to say that present county facilities are very cramped at this time.*

*Discussed Columbia County sent a letter to the state supporting non-attorney judges from towns in the county. They thought that non-attorney judges are doing a capable job.*

*Discussed paving on Fish & Game Road. CW stated the paving had started today and will take about a week to complete. CW stated he will have Highway Superintendent LaMont put out the town's speed sign to help slow traffic as well as he will be contacting the State Police and Sheriff's Office for patrols also.*

## **TOWN BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Councilman Hook - *Cardboard recycling. Attended union negotiations. Responded to Orchard Mills for a complaint with building inspector. Responded to Old Lane & 9H for a complaint. Attended Zoning and Planning board meetings. Signed checks multiple times. Attended AB Shaw meeting. Made bank runs. Met with Churchtown Fire multiple times. Met with town's accountant. Handled complaints from the water tower painting people. Met with the town's bookkeeper. Post Office. Met with Greenway people. Meeting with the Supervisor and Brenda Shufelt.*

Councilman Duntz - *Handled many phone calls; Attended the workshop; Spoke with persons about the ski program and the possibility of it not happening anymore. Catamount has changed some of its rules making it difficult with the children*

Councilman Colwell – *Attended the workshop; Attended a zoom meeting with GD and persons from the MVP National Fitness Campaign*

Councilwoman Cashen - *Worked with health insurance broker on dental and vision options for union employees. Sent draft changes to the town's campground law to Town Attorney for review and proposed language. Attended October 5 Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting and followed-up with suggested communications to the various Boards to get initial input. Worked with Deputy Supervisor Hook and Deputy Clerk Teaney on Park grant budget submittal*

information. Attended the October 2 Planning Board meeting. Participated in session for union negotiations with the Teamsters Union for the Highway Department employees. Worked on the FY 2024 Budget. Attended the October Claverack Climate Smart Committee meeting.

## PROPOSED MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS

**Motion** to accept proposed Local Law #8 of 2023 “Extension of Moratorium on Camps and Campgrounds for additional 3 months”.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** KC

**Vote:** Yes: 5 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**Motion** to accept the 2024 Tentative Budget as the 2024 Preliminary Budget and presented the Town Clerk.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** GD

**Vote:** Yes: 5 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**Motion** to set a Public Hearing for discussion on the 2024 Preliminary Budget and approval as 2024 Final Budget, for Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at the Temporary Town Hall, preceding the Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting.

**Motion:** GD      **Seconded:** DC

**Vote:** Yes: 5 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**Motion** to award the bid for water softeners replacement, on the recommendation of George Schmitt, CPL Architect and Engineers, to Claverack Well and Pump Service, LLC in the amount of \$135,400.00.

**Motion:** GD      **Seconded:** DC

**Vote:** Yes: 5 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**Motion** to accept Building Fee Schedule as discussed in Public Hearing.

**Motion:** SH      **Seconded:** GD

**Vote:** Yes: 5 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_      **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Tabled

**Motion** to re-levy Town of Claverack outstanding water bills annually, beginning in January 2024, on the January 1<sup>st</sup> property tax bills with a cut-off date to be determined each year (typically balances due as of November 1<sup>st</sup>).

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

**Vote:** Yes:   5   No:    Abstention(s):         **Motion:**  Accepted    Rejected    Table

**Motion** to approve MOA between Town of Claverack and Teamsters Local 294, effect January, 2024 to December 31, 2026.

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

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

**Resolution** to approve the purchase of a 2020 Ram 2500 Pickup Truck with Plow from Auctions International at an amount not to exceed \$46,000.00.

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

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

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Addition to BAS tax program and swipe machine to allow for online credit card payments.
- Scheduling of budget meetings as needed. Budget meeting scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM
- **MVP Heath Care Community Wellness Award**

*Councilmen Colwell and Duntz went over what the program was. DC explained that he and GD attended a zoom meeting explaining the campaign. He went over fee structure. He stated they needed to meet certain criteria to be eligible. Not included in the fee structure is money that could be saved by using local vendors. He said this is something that would benefit the town and draw people from other areas. This is all fixed equipment meant for outside. There are designs on the equipment that can be put on by local artists or have it come with designs on. This program is all over the country and available on an app on a phone showing where these locations are so someone could stop for a workout. There is a video to watch to learn more (<https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/watch>).*

*Columbia County was the number one area of interest with Claverack being selected. Mike Brandon asked if there was any extra liability to the town, DC stated it was not free weights everything is fixed and built for safety. The town would be covered already from the coverage of the rest of the park equipment. KW stated this is something the older people could use also.*

*Brenda Shufelt asked about the grant which GD stated they would receive a \$50,000 grant. She then asked how much the total amount was which GD responded the total would be roughly \$157,000 which would not include any ARPA funds which could be used toward the total amount.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**John Bradley-** *Spoke about not having safe places to walk. He stated in the comprehensive plan it encourages the town to have safe walking areas. He talked about the two miles of railbed to walk on behind Agway. CW stated he had already spoke to the county about that area. JB stated it had to be cleaned up to be able to walk on it. Brenda Shufelt said it needs work but should not be that hard to do and asked CW if the county would be agreeable to help clean the trail.*

**Mary Koch-** *Spoke about the county making markings around her property line and wondered where the right of way is. She stated that it has been marked and then re-marked three different times with no clear answers. CW stated he was going to speak with County Engineer Ray Jurkowski and have him meet with MK to clear the issue up.*

**Gary Davis -** *Spoke about Shaw Bridge. He said he was digging through areas and somewhere along the process the town had spent thousands of dollars on something and he does not know what. KW and KC answered that the only thing they could think of was maybe a sign and some clean up but nothing anyone could think of at the time. This was in the time frame of twelve to fifteen years.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to move into Executive Session:** KC

**Seconded:** SH

**Vote:** Yes: 5\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_

**Motion:**  Accepted  Rejected  Tabled

Time moved into Executive Session: 7:27 p.m.

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**Motion to Return to Regular Session:** KW

**Seconded by:** KC

**Vote:** Yes: 5 No: \_\_\_ Abstention(s): \_\_\_

**Motion:**  Accepted  Rejected  Tabled

