

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting
February 15, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

✓	Clifford Weigelt (CW) Supervisor	✓	George Duntz (GD) Councilman
✓	Stephen Hook (SH) Councilman	✓	Douglas Colwell (DC) Councilman
✓	Eugene Hallenbeck (EH) Councilman		

Also Present

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING- Local Law #3 of 2024 – Increasing the BAR Membership

RF explained this change is related to RPTL523 and increasing size of Board of Assessment Review. The Town has set up membership spots with staggered terms of expiration. There is one returning member who stays on with her original term expiration date.

Community Member Stephanie Sussman asked what rationale is behind this change. RF explained it is being done to ensure there is a quorum if there are absences of members. KW explained the history behind this need.

There being no further discussion, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *Town Board meeting minutes of January 4, 2024 Organizational and Regular Board Meeting Minutes*

Motion: SG **Seconded:** DC

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

CORRESPONDENCE – Including, but not limited to:

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- *Lisk, Sean – e-mail – Re: Virtual Grants and Federal Resources Workshop – Feb. 28th
- *Philmont Public Library – e-mail – Re: February Programs
- *Alex. Colwell – e-mail – Camp Direct application (has been for past two years)
- *Columbia County Historical Society – 2023 Annual Report
- *Kilolo Kijakazi – e-mail – Acting Commissioner of Social Security – Statement about Agency Accomplishments
- *Proshred Security – e-mail – Information on security shredding
- *Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Philmont Community Day Meeting
- *Minkler-Seery American Legion Post #252 – e-mail – To Village of Philmont DPW and Town of Claverack DPW – Thank you for putting up Veterans Banners , taking them down and storing them in safe place
- *Philmont Neighbors – e-mail – Re: Philmont Historic District nomination to State Registry of Historic Places
- *Kyle Miller – Dog Control Officer – e-mail – Re: Monthly Dog Report
- *Alberta Cox – e-mail – Re: Resignation from Planning Board
- *Jodi Keyser – Re: Resignation from position of Secretary to Planning Board and ZBA for purpose of retirement on February 27, 2024
- *Jodi Keyser – Re: Interest to be reinstated to position of Secretary to Planning Board and ZBA effective March 18, 2024

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – *Have worked three snow events with the department doing a good job due to no frost in the ground; Have been servicing equipment getting ready for spring; Have been cold patching in all zones; Have dug three water breaks in the Village of Philmont; Are removing dead trees within the Town; Met with Claverack Pump about the new softeners in the water plant.*

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

SUPERVISOR REPORT – *Has been making phone calls while home due to surgery. Met with Village of Philmont to discuss shared services. Continuing talks with all fire companies to help facilitate better services. Explained the Town is attempting to get rid of Fire Protection district and essentially get out of the “fire business.” Spoke with new owner of the old Village Dodge regarding his interest in possibly building new building(s). Has a meeting with county this month regarding the Amadore project.*

TOWN BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Hook - *Met with Brian Johnson, Mayor & Chrissy Speed, Deputy Clerk from the Village of Philmont; NextGen park sign; Food Pantry; Recycling; Bank Trips/Deposits; office and signed checks; Office (every day); Met with Bookkeeper on Sundays; Spoke with Lisa Gill at UHY; Attended Planning Board Jan Meeting; Spoke with Labor Lawyer; Meeting with Columbia County Solid Waste; Worked with Leggett Electric on replacing lighting for current Town Office Building.*

Councilman Duntz - *In follow up to discussion at Workshop regarding heat pumps, spoke with Bradway about installing in Village highway building. Started conversations with regard to 2024 park program and counselors.*

Councilman Colwell – *Attended traffic safety meeting as representative for Town. Brought up section of 23B where speed is 55 – explained issues with trucks – they found the situation interesting. Spoke with Rob Fitzsimmons about developing a resolution to send to NYS to recommend reducing the speed limit. They seemed receptive to this. He is hoping resolution could be passed at March meeting and the Town can gain their support to push movement forward. RF advised he investigated form, request, resolution to go to traffic safety and then to DOT. RF explained DOT will look at their own data but if we have anything specific to offer that would be great. DC will be sending photo of signs for curves and get mile markers too.*

Summer program updates will come at next meeting. Application ad for employment of counselors will be on website asap to move forward.

Councilman Hallenbeck - *none*

PROPOSED MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #31 of 2024 *to increase the Board of Assessment Review Membership from Three (3) Members to Five (5) Members in the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, with staggered term dates as designated in Local Law #3 of 2024.*

Motion: GD **Seconded:** SH

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

Resolution #32 of 2024 to establish a fee for re-stamping of plans in the amount of \$50.00.

Motion: SH Seconded: DC

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

Resolution #33 of 2024 to revise the fee within Water District #1 for reconnection (following shutoff) from the current amount of \$65.00 to \$100.00, effective immediately.

Motion: SH Seconded: GD

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

Resolution to approve expending an amount not to exceed \$9,100.00 to Leggett Electric for replacement of all lighting and fixtures in the Town Office Building. (Note: this figure is after the application of the purchase incentive.)

This Resolution was tabled at this time.

Motion: Seconded:

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

Resolution #34 of 2024 for issuance of a \$637,400 bond to finance Replacement of the Water Softener System and Rehabilitation of the Town Water Storage Tank.

Motion: DC Seconded: SH

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

Resolution #35 of 2024 to authorize the NYSERDA to commence the energy audit for the Town Garage.

Motion: GD Seconded: DC

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

Resolution #36 of 2024 to authorize using the Town’s credit card to pay an amount not to exceed \$200/year for cost of Google Account access (\$12.00/mo.) and cost of domain name (Approx. \$12-35/year) for use with the new Owl system.

Motion: GD Seconded: SH

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

Motion to accept the resignation of Jodi Keyser, Planning Board and Zoning Board Secretary, for the purposes of retirement effective February 27, 2024.

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

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

Motion to reappoint Jodi Keyser as Planning and Zoning Board Secretary effective March 18, 2024.

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

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

Motion to accept the resignation of Alberta Cox from the Planning Board effective January 8, 2024.

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

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

Motion to appoint Brenda Shufelt and Katy Flammia to serve, along with all Town Board Members, on the New Town Office Complex Committee.

Motion: GD **Seconded:** SH

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

Motion to accept revised format for regular Town Board meetings to aid in implementation of the new Owl/Google Meets system.

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

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

Motion to appoint Alexandra Colwell as the Claverack Summer Youth Program Director for the 2024 season.

Motion: GD **Seconded:** SH

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

Motion to for the Highway Department to take down the Old Highway Garage Building as discussed during “Other Business”.

Motion: SH **Seconded:** DC

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

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Update on Owl system/Google Meets** - DC explained how OWL system will work and what the process for meeting will be moving forward. The Town will be working with Columbia County MIS and they will be running the equipment. There will be no public comment from individuals attending virtually. To speak at a meeting, individuals must attend a meeting. Following the meeting a recording will be uploaded to website. No conversations will be private with this system in use, so it is suggested that attendees limit private conversations. This system will only be used for Town Board meetings at this time. In the future the system may be for Planning and Zoning Board meetings. Community Member, Katy Flammia, asked if the screen will be able to be used for presentations? DC advised that is an IT question and he will check into it. She felt it might be something easy to do. Community Member, Stephanie Sussman stated that while she understands no public comment from home, would individuals be able to submit questions to Town Clerk for presentation at the meeting? Ms. Sussman said that the Village of Philmont allows this.
- **2024 MVP/NFC Grant** - GD submitted application. Columbia County and the Town of Claverack in particular, was chosen. We received a \$50,000 grant to go toward costs of installing the equipment. Now need to figure out additional funding – maybe ARPA money? We need \$137,000 in additional funding. Also need to figure out location? Slab is 30x30 and they wanted to put it way in the back beyond soccer field. GD stated he didn’t feel we would want it too close to playground so people working out would have use without kids. GD felt the Town Highway Dept could assist with concrete slab. Next step is to adopt Intent to Accept document along with passing a resolution. KW asked if there were photos or a list of anything for what it will look like. GD advised there was documentation In the Board members’ folders.

One of main reasons Town of Claverack was selected is because of rail trails in the area and hoping to tie use to those individuals utilizing rail trails. GD advised the total project including the grant monies is \$137,000. If we do slab and install it with our employees this will offset the cost. Board would like to discuss this in more detail at the Workshop meeting.

- Update from Katy Flammia/Climate Smart – Ms. Flammia advised she was going to ask for resolution which was done earlier. She thanked the Board.
- Posting for volunteers to serve on Planning Board – KW advised that with the acceptance of the resignation earlier there will be an opening on the Planning Board to fill.
- **Status of Old Highway Garage Building** – KW explained that since asbestos was removed the next step in the process is to take down the building. Bricks are now falling off and it is becoming

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Steve Hook, seconded by Doug Colwell, meeting adjourned by Supervisor Weigelt at 7:48 p.m.

Date: *Approved 3/14/24*

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Hallenbeck: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Duntz: _____

Councilman Colwell: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Prepared by Deputy Clerk Vonda Teaney