

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**March 10, 2016**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in a Moment of Silence honoring **Stanford Card**, former Supervisor and active citizen within Columbia County, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.,

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Lauren Bell	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent: Mary J. Hoose Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of February 11, 2016 and February 29, 2016 workshop minutes. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways** –Department has been ditching on Stevers Crossing, Roxbury, Carlson, Lockwood, Old Barrington Ext, & Baker roads. Replaced a driveway pipe on Patroon Street. Started graveling dirt roads, and have been cold patching in all zones. Upon review, noticed the Tennis Courts and Basketball Courts in the Town Park need major repairs, as well as the Grader, which has a motor leak.

**Dog Control Officer's Report** for February 2016 was received and is on file in the Town Office for review.

**Committee Reports:**

**Historical Advisory Committee** – Chair Ian Nitschke- This committee has not met in a while. Mr. Nitschke was invited by Supervisor Weigelt to the Town Board Workshop at the end of March to present information regarding the Inland Waterway Designation program.

**Agricultural Advisory Committee** – Supervisor Weigelt informed the Chair, Peter Reiss, has officially resigned as he is moving to Montana. It was commented that this will be a great loss to the Town.

**Correspondence**

Including but not limited to:

- Cornell University Cooperative Extension March Programs, Workshops & Events
- Matthew Katkocin Re: NYSDOT Rte 9H Bridge Closure, construction, and detour
- Allan Porreca – NYS DOT Re: Route 66 Bridge over Claverack Creek detour and lane closure
- Robert LaPorta – Re: Volunteer Opportunities with in the Town of Claverack

- Koch Family, Re: Thank you to the Town Board for support and help
- Peter Bevacqua, Re: Volunteer Opportunity with in the Town of Claverack
- David Baylen, Re: Letter of Interest to serve on the Planning Board
- Key Bank, Re: Philmont Branch closure and alternate bank locations
- Jack Fenn, Re: Stone Mill Bridge detour
- Vicki Rosenwald, Re: stone Mill Bridge detour
- National Grid, Re: Emergency Management Contacts
- New York State Public Service Commission, Re: Transmission Upgrade Intervenor Funds
- Columbia County Historical Society, Re: Lecture
- Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, Re: Panel Discussion
- Jeane LaPorta, Re: Volunteer Opportunity with in the Town of Claverack
- Todd Westhuis – NYS DOT, RE: Route 66 Claverack Creek Bridge Rehabilitation
- David Hart – Greenport Town Historian, Re: Humphreysville and the Stone Mill Bridge
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Re: Upcoming Workshops
- Peter Bevacqua, Re: Route 23B Traffic Detour Mitigation
- Linda Sullivan, Re : Route 23B Traffic Detour Mitigation
- Mary Moores, Re : Route 23B Traffic Detour Mitigation
- Ahmad Labeeb, Re : Holy Qur’an Exhibition
- Columbia County Office for the Aging, Re: Park Fee waiver
- Town of Taghkanic, Re: Certificate of Excellence to the Highway Department

### **Supervisor’s Report**

On a county level the State is close to approving the sale of Pine Haven. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained all that is left is to transfer the certificate of need from the County to Premier though there has been some discrepancy on the bed capacity for the sale, in light of prior years’ approval to increase the bed count, the county is confident the sale will not be hindered. Councilwoman Cashen inquired if there is approval for an Assisted Living Facility to which Mr. Fitzsimmons explained that would be a separate entity to the nursing home so he was unaware of that status.

Supervisor Weigelt was told at the County Supervisor’s meeting the State is looking to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 17 years old, delaying a youth’s detention with the adult population. New York is one of two states yet to make this change. Judge Brandon commended this move but was concerned about facilities being able to house the increase in population. Supervisor Weigelt explained he was informed housing would be fully funded by the State.

There was a presentation on broadband given at the Board of Supervisor’s meeting. Councilman Keeler proceeded to explain ECC Tech Inc. was awarded to conduct a broadband study within Columbia County and presented their initial finding. They sited that Columbia County is one of the worst in the state regarding broadband. Their recommendation is to run approximately 150 miles of fiber optic cables at a cost of roughly 6 million dollars. These cables would connect at hubs that residents and businesses could then connect from. They estimate this being a 2 year project of which 60-80% could be covered under federal grants. Working with school districts and the healthcare sector could increase grant funding. Councilman Keeler did caution that this was an initial presentation and it would be at least 6 months to a year, before any action to be taken.

**Supervisor Weigelt** reiterated schools, libraries, hospitals and 911 fiber optics cables would more than likely get run first through the federal grants and they would then act as “hubs” for other entities to

work off of. The County has been inundated with calls regarding broadband and this would be a positive step. **Councilwoman Cashen** informed the board she received an inquiry from the Town of Ghent to attend a meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss broadband in the county. She was asked to be joined by another board member as well as a representative from the Economic Development committee.

**Councilwoman Lee** mentioned that Congressman Gibson is trying to push a federal bill to get small town broadband funding.

Talked to Donna Verna at Crawford & Sons about the Inland Waterway Designation program. She will be getting back to the Town with more information.

Also, spoke with Stephanie Jackson regarding the detour over the Stone Mill Bridge. There will be a meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> with Emergency response officials. With the bridge on Route 66 under construction as well as the bridge on 9H closed for construction there will be many cars forced onto Route 23B. Because of this, Supervisor Weigelt has requested 2 digital speed limit signs at the expense of the builders. He continued to inform the Board that Stone Mill Bridge will be a one lane expanse with traffic lights at each end. This will help keep the speed down.

The County Clerk's office has warned of a phone scam asking people information regarding their house deeds. Reminder, this is a scam and not a call from the Clerk's office.

The Building Committee that was formed to review the Town Hall has a number of members. They will now begin the process of reviewing the building and making recommendations.

The Hamlet Beautification committee is being formed and will set up a meeting soon.

Discussed an outstanding bill of a residents' in the Water District.

End of Report.

### **Town Board Members' Reports**

**Councilwoman Lee** – Has been working on clarifying the Lighting District. Has talked with National Grid and the Office of Real Property to help define the district.

**Councilman Keeler** – Attended the Broadband meeting at the County as previously discussed. Attended the Mt. Ida workshop regarding the Wellhead Overlay. Met with Claverack Fire Department regarding Fire District boundaries. Secured the contracts with West Ghent Fire District and Churchtown Fire District. Worked with the Clerk's office regarding the phone system. Will be setting up a meeting with Brett Holmes – Camp Director, regarding the upcoming summer camp. Worked with Superintendent LaMont regarding the Tennis Court in the Town Park.

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Attended the New York State DOT meeting regarding Stone Mill Bridge. Continued to communicate with adjacent owners regarding detour. Attended Planning Board meeting. Requested their input on the proposed Wellhead Overlay changes. They expressed their support, which was noted in the minutes and will be approved in April. Spoke with Rich Nesbitt of Johnny Walker Insurance regarding our 2016 Insurance policy bid. Worked on keeping the Town website up to date, including updates on Assessment information and document shredding for town residents. Met with Town and Z-Farm representatives regarding right-of-way easement between the Town Park and the Mellenville Union Cemetery. Reached out to state legislative staff regarding the Inland Waterway designation.

**Councilman Hook** – Assisted Councilman Keeler and Councilwoman Cashen in a number of tasks they outlined already. Met with Superintendent LaMont regarding the Little League’s desire to put a batting cage in the Town Park. Also met with Councilman Keeler and Sean Rowe of the Little League to discuss their funding of this project. Also met with Z-Farm regarding their property easement adjacent to the Town Park.

End of Reports.

**Resolution** accept donation to pay for shipping of the Shaw Bridge Historical Marker and pay expenses for same made by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook. Carried

**Resolution** to renew Town Insurance Contract made by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried

**Resolution** to increase Claverack Youth Camp Director salary by \$400 to \$4,000.00 made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried

**Resolution** to designate Bank of Greene County as the Town’s secondary Depositor of Funds for the year 2016 was made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook. Carried. Councilman Keeler abstained.

**Motion** to accept Financial Statements made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt. Carried.

In other business:

There will be a public hearing prior to the April 14<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting regarding Amending the Mount Ida Wellhead District overlay map. This will begin at 7pm. Attorney Fitzsimmons will mail an informative packet to the adjacent and affected parcels that will cover the law, include the finding report from NYS Rural Water, any addendums and regulations.

**Rich Nesbitt**, of Johnny Walker Insurance, the Town’s insurance broker gave a presentation on the Town’s 2016 renewal, explaining the various policies and what they include regarding coverage.

**Judge Brandon** inquired if the Town Court was able to use the Bank of Greene County as well. He was informed the resolution was for the Court as well. It is necessary to list them as a secondary depositor in order to discuss our accounts with them.

Regarding West Ghent Fire District Attorney Fitzsimmons gave an update on the status of this contract as well as the Churchtown Fire District contract. Both contracts had some minor adjustments but have been agreed to and signed. In regards to West Ghent there has been no response to the request of the Board’s for specific firematic information.

**Motion** to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Churchtown & West Ghent Fire District Contracts was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried

The Town Board authorizes the bookkeeper to pay West Ghent and Churchtown Fire Districts.

There was discussion regarding the Route 23B traffic detour mitigation

Meeting open to the public:

**Judge Brandon** inquired if the Town had a contract for service of the Town Hall air conditioning units. Councilman Hook responded that the Town went into contract with Kook Temp last year.

Resident **Nicon Zazorin** inquired on the status of several prior open agenda items. He also inquired about the status of our Dog Control officer becoming an Animal Control officer. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained Mr. Conklin (DCO) is looking into training to become a Peace Officer which is necessary for this process. Councilwoman Cashen mentioned Mr. Conklin's cell phone number has been placed on the website.

Resident **James Van Deusen** remarked that Peter Reiss, former chair of the Agricultural Committee, will be hard to replace. He also mentioned regarding the Broadband discussion there are already some buried lines that need to be addressed. Councilman Keeler mentioned that Mid-Hudson cable, the owner of these lines, will be addressing this.

**Motion** to waive the Park fee for the Columbia County Office of the Aging yearly picnic was made by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee.

There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Weigelt closed the public comments.

General A bills, totaling \$19,903.99, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,688.27, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$27,851.90, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,228.79, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow accounts bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Councilman Keeler: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Lee: \_\_\_\_\_

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