

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

November 10, 2016

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m., immediately following the Public Hearing on the 2017 Budget by Deputy Supervisor, Stephen Hook, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Stephen Hook	Deputy Supervisor/Councilman
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Brian Keeler	Councilman

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of October 13, 2016 and Public Hearings on Local Laws #3 and #4 of October 13, 2016. Carried.

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont – Grader patched Decker Road. Also, grader patched Yates Road for the Town of Greenport due to the large volume of traffic from the Rte. 9-H bridge closure for replacement.

Hauled in sand for the winter and put up snow fence. Putting plows and sanders on trucks and servicing trucks preparing for winter.

Stated a letter explaining water rate increase needs to be sent to residents in water district. At the present time there is approximately \$13,000.00 in delinquencies and six relieves in the amount of \$4,817.00. Also, there are 39 residents out of 165 who have not paid their third quarter bills.

Dog Control Officer's Report for October received and on file in Town Clerk's Office for review.

Committee Reports

There were no reports received in the Town Office.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Extension Agreement with West Ghent Volunteer Fire Company
ISO – Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule results
Carrie Ann Mayotte – Resume’
Greene County Bancorp – Invitation – Annual Meeting – November 05, 2016
Senator Kathy Marchione & Firemens’ Association of the State of New York – Join in conversation on the future of firefighter recruitment and retention – October 24, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Beverly Baillargeon – Resignation from Town Court as part-time court clerk
Dennis Callahan – Resignation as Zoning Enforcement Officer, effective October 31, 2016
Association of Towns – 2017 Training School and Annual Meeting – February 19 -22, 2017
SA-SO Signs & Safety – Joe Nussbaum – Solar powered traffic control devices
Dog Control Officer’s Report for October 2016
Columbia County Assessors’ Association – Re: Information on trained and certified assessor on the County level
Office of the New York State Comptroller – Webinar – November 16th on Developing and Effective Fund Balance Policy

Town Board Members’ Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Met with Building Inspector to discuss vacant properties and code enforcement. Spoke to Town Assessor and County Treasurer to see if there are policies in place and what the procedures are.

Attended with Councilwoman Cashen on October 24th the Columbia County Broadband Sub-Committee meeting. It was announced Round 2 would be aggressive resulting in a greater impact to Columbia County. Chairman Reilly announced all proposals for Round 2 must be submitted by November 30, 2016. Approved projects will be funded up to 80% by the State Broadband Program Office. Using data from the New York Broadband Program, maps have been completed for each Town. These maps show current areas of coverage using U.S. Census Tract information showing unserved and underserved broadband areas and project is ongoing as they will continue to work on the mapping of different franchise agreements within each Town in the County. Mid-Hudson Cable representatives David Fingar and Stephen Souky announced system-wide upgrades up to 100 megabits per second as of June 2017. As far as Round 3, they will be applying for more funding. Mr. Fingar reported Round 2 differs from Round 1 in that in order to extend service to an area and entire census block must be served and they will need 12 to 15 homes in a block to make sense of it and if there is enough interest from the customer. He recommended the Town Supervisors write letters to Mid-Hudson letting them know of

any areas of their Town that do not have broadband service. A letter was mailed on October 28, 2016. On October 28, sent an e-mail to Mr. Fingar asking if the upgrade speed is available to all Mid-Hudson Cable customers in the Town of Claverack. Their broadband service is available system wide. Monthly rates range from approximately \$60.00 - \$150.00, based on packages and speed.

Attended two workshops presented by N.Y.S. Department of State on Land use and Enforcement of Zoning and Other Local Laws.

Along with Supervisor Weigelt, Councilman Hook and Councilwoman Cashen, met with owner of the Ockawamick Building for a tour.

Met with Sue Meddoff to discuss possible grant opportunities and contacts for the Claverack Town Park improvement project.

Attended monthly ZBA meeting and also A workshop budget meeting.

With other Town Board members, Highway Superintendent LaMont and Town Court Judges and staff, did a walk-through of the former American Legion Building in Philmont.

Along with Councilman Hook, met with Town Clerk to discuss office procedures, job descriptions, roles and office protocol. Also, along with Councilman Hook, met with Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and newly appointed Town Bookkeeper to discuss job responsibilities and procedures, along with record retention and space constraints.

Along with Councilman Keeler, met with representatives from Churchtown Fire Company and the accountant to discuss funding of their LOSAP and the 2017 Budget.

On November 16th there is a webinar “Developing an Effective Fund Balance Policy” sponsored by the Division of Local Government and School Accountability. Will be attending, along with Councilman Hook and Councilwoman Cashen.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended Department of State Training Session on Land Use Issues and Enforcement of Zoning and other Laws.

Researched Code Enforcement minimum qualifications and duties.

Attended Planning Board Monthly Meeting as Town Board liaison.

Drafted communications from Town Supervisor to Mid-Hudson Cablevision, expressing interest for possible future funding from the Stat of New York for expansion of services in the Town.

Attended County Broadband Meeting on October 24th.

Worked with webmaster to update Town website on a number of items related to public hearings and the daffodil project.

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Hook – Most activities have already been mentioned by Councilwoman Lee, but also been working with Dog Control Officer, Reginald Conklin, on a number of cases.

Also, wanted public to know that Charles Brewer, Town Assessor was given recognition for being a member of the New York State Assessors' Association for twenty years. It is also noted that the Town's Equalization Rate is again at 100%, maintained by a sole assessor.

No further reports.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to approve the Final 2017 Budget. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution to accept the required examination of the Town Court of the Town of Claverack for the Year 2015. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to post a request for proposal (RFP) for redesigning of the Town website to be Town staff maintained. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to support lowering speed limit on Knapp Road, between the Village of Philmont and the Town of Ghent to 35 mph on request of the Town of Ghent. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to appoint Scott Cole as Interim Planning Board Chairman through December 31, 2016. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to hire an interim Building Inspector until December 31, 2016. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft January – September 2016, draft October 2016, draft January – October 2016 financial statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee authorizing Town Supervisor to file Tax Cap Calculation. Carried.

Other Business

Councilwoman Cashen – After explaining the ski program situation, it was decided that there will still be a ski program sponsored by the Town, but there will be no transportation. This was also passed by the Town Attorney and the bus company for input and there was no problem.

Ian Nitschke – Spoke on the daffodil program he has set up. He was informed by the Town Attorney that collecting funds and distributing bulbs at the Town Office is not permitted.

Mr. Nitschke spoke on the former Claverack Food Market, which is being considered for the new Coyote Flaco Restaurant. Had a solution to the septic system problem. **Councilwoman Cashen** said that the engineer involved has many options to consider. The change of use from a store to a restaurant is a change of use and “triggers” change. If it had remained a store, it would be grandfathered in.

Mr. Nitschke also would like people in the water district notified when the lines are flushed.

Councilwoman Lee would like to give thanks to all veterans in our country.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$10,701.81, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$926.22, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$109,141.33, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,838.97, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned by Deputy Supervisor Hook at 8:13 p.m.

Date: _____

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____

