

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

October 13, 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 after the closure of the Public Hearing for Local Law #3, by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 |
| Mary J. Hoose | Town Clerk |
| Lauren Bell | Deputy Town Clerk |

Supervisor Weigelt began the meeting by presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to long-time resident and former Superintendent of Highways, William Blaauw, for his constant commitment to the residents of the Town of Claverack through community service, Church, as well as his time as an elected official in the Town of Claverack and the Village of Philmont. Supervisor Weigelt also presented Mr. Blaauw with a commemorative plate. He then relinquished the floor to Jim Brady, member of the Mellenville Union Cemetery with Bill Blaauw, who continued to list all the positions and posts Bill held and still holds as a member of the community.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of August 11, 2016 & September 8, 2016 Regular Monthly meeting as well as September 12 & 26 Budget Workshop minutes. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Chip sealed Gabauer Road from the Ghent line to Route 66. Oil and stoned Oak Hill Road as well as Theilman Road. Repaired Roxbury Road and Stevers Crossing. Closed the Town park for the year. Supervisor Weigelt noted that he has received many complements on the roads.

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

Committee Reports: None received

Correspondence

Including but not limited to:

- Association of Towns – 2016 Personnel Management School Agenda

- Lauren Burke – Email - Potential plans for 475 Snyderstown Road
- Columbia County Historical Society – Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 15, 2016 – 5-7p
- NYS Government Finance Officers’ Assoc. – 38th Annual Conference – March 29-31, 2017
- NYSDOT – Re: Taconic State Parkway Sign Upgrades in Putnam, Dutchess & Columbia Counties
- Columbia Land Conservancy – October CLC Events
- Columbia Pathways to Recovery – Saturday- Sept. 17, 2016 – 7pm - Chatham High School
- Viridian – Automatic Renewal
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties – Upcoming Fall Program Schedule
- Fitzsimmons & Mills, P.C. – Copy of letter to Peter Keller – 253 Stevers Crossing
- Clausson-Raught Community Rescue Squad, Inc. – Meeting October 10, 2016 to present budget
- General Code – re: e-Code360
- Taconic Hills Central School District – Re: D.A.R.E. Flag Raising Ceremony – 10/04/2016
- Steve Winkley – e-mail- Back working on Philmont re-delineation of their wellhead protection area after open heart surgery
- ElanCity – Re: Radar Speed Signs
- NYS Gov. Finance Officers’ Association Inc. – Northeast Fall Seminar
- Bank of Greene County – Re: Has designed a municipal financing program for small municipalities
- NYSDEC – RE: Invitation to Oct. 20th Mid-Hudson Watershed Discovery Meeting
- Patrice Perry – Land Use Training Session – October 24, 2016 – Columbia Greene Community College
- Columbia Economic Development Corp. – Re: Inaugural Issue – Columbia Co. Broadband Newsletter
- NYS Association of Towns – Training School and Annual Meeting – Feb. 19-22, 2017

Supervisor’s Report

Supervisor Weigelt reported the County is out of Fiscal Stress. The County was placed on the list in 2013 when it began borrowing too much. Supervisor Weigelt reminded the Town it is budget time for the County as well. There have been many conversations regarding the Broadband issue in the county. Germantown Telephone has received a \$1 million grant to upgrade their phone lines. This process will take time but it’s a start. Supervisor Weigelt informed the Board he will be attending a Land Use Training Session on Monday, October 24, 2016 which will focus on solar energy, noise ordinances, barn uses, short term rentals. Councilpersons Cashen, Lee and Keeler were also signed up for the same training. This would require the Board to move their currently scheduled Budget workshop, scheduled for that same date. Supervisor Weigelt also reported the Route 66 bridge will be completed at the end of November. There was a slight delay because the waterline was under the catch basin for the bridge. The construction workers are moving the line over with upgraded materials all the way to the Dutch Village Mobile Home Park. The 9H Bridge is still on schedule. The construction company has taken to working on Saturdays to make up some time. They had a problem with the footings and length but everything is back on track and scheduled to be completed by the end of November as well.

End of Report.

Town Board Members’ Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Informed the Board the September ZBA meeting was cancelled. Attended the Town Board Budget. Reviewed the Town Worker’s health insurance policy regarding open enrollment.

Continued to work on the Lighting district. Attended the October Planning Board meeting. Spoke with representatives from Copake who has a similar Lighting District issue. They have yet to resolve all of their issues as well. Will also be attending the Land Use Training seminar on October 24th.

Councilman Keeler – Has been working with the Board on the Budget. Remarked that the Town is in a good place and has financial stability. Attended the Connect Columbia County broadband meeting in Ghent. This organization put out an extensive survey to the residents of Columbia County regarding their broadband service and unsurprisingly the responses were negative. The survey found that residents feel their plans are horrible, overpriced and are slow. The County has taken the lead in the Governor's Broadband Initiative to bring broadband service to all of New York State. Talked to a resident from Stone Mill Road. There is a considerable amount of trash on the side of the road as well as speeding. **Supervisor Weigelt** recommended talking to the State Troopers and the Sherriff's office to monitor the road as many of those speeding are usually trying to get to work at the Brookwood Correctional facility.

Councilwoman Cashen – Also attended the Budget workshop meetings as well as the Planning Board meeting and the Broadband meeting. Has continued to call Mid-Hudson Cable regarding their expansion of service in Claverack. The project seems stalled as they have laid cable and put up new poles but have not completed the work. Is requested from the Board approval to send a reminder letter to Mid-Hudson Cable to spur action so they do not use winter as a reason they cannot complete the project. Has also talked to Dave Fingar from Mid-Hudson Cable but received very little information. Took a conference call regarding the Powerline Expansion. They discussed Towns putting money in the 2017 budget to pay additional attorney fees. No other Town is able to do this either. If this project proceeds there is hope that it will come with additional intervenor funds in order to fight this project. Worked with the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk for website updates. Helped residents receive answers to zoning questions they had. **Supervisor Weigelt** remarked that the Powerline expansion project has almost stalled and the Town's involved do not know where to fight yet so there is no need to spend money on an attorney yet.

Councilman Hook – Worked with the Board on the Town Budget, attended the Planning Board meeting. Assisted the Dog Control officer and attended court with him as support. Attended court night. Continued as liaison with the Town Office.

End of Reports.

Supervisor Weigelt praised all the Town workers for all that they do. He continued that his fellow Councilmen and woman are a working Board who works hard for their residents. The Court Clerks are constantly busy and the Town Court Judges face a court that is standing room only on many nights. He reiterated that Claverack is a good working Town that is in good financial shape because of everyone's diligent efforts.

Resolution to authorize the Town Court to complete and file a New York State Justice Court Assistance Program grant application was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt. Carried.

Motion to accept the tentative budget as the preliminary budget as presented to the Town Clerk was made by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried.

Councilwoman Cashen made note that a copy will be available on the Town website.

Motion to set the Public Hearing for the November board meeting to accept the preliminary budget as the final 2017 budget was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons reminded the board because Local Law #3 – reducing the ZBA membership from 7 to 5 members changes the Zoning Law and therefore a SEQRA form needs to be filled out and approved. A Negative Declaration of the SEQRA was put forth by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook was carried. Therefore, a **Motion** to approve Local Law #3, reducing the Zoning Board of Appeals from 7 members to 5 members was made by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook and was carried.

Motion to approve Local Law #4 regarding Library Tax Reporting was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried. Councilwoman Lee recused herself as she is on the Claverack Library Board.

Motion to accept financial statement was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

In other business:

Regarding **the West Ghent Fire Protection District Contract**, Attorney Fitzsimmons explained the contract expired. The Town Board requested a certain list of information be provided from the Fire Company in order to renew the contract. Some information was received, other information is still outstanding pending the results of the State Comptroller's audit. This company is still providing services to the Town and therefore the contract needs to be renewed. A motion at the September 2016 Town Board meeting approved renewing the contract, it just needs to be signed by both parties for payment to be processed.

Supervisor Weigelt reminded the Town the Town Court building is at a point where it would not be cost effective to repair. The Board is looking for alternative locations until a more permanent solution. They are looking to move the court before winter but will not move Court until all the court workers are ready for this to happen. With that said, the Board has looked into alternatives, one being the American Legion in Philmont. Supervisor Weigelt had Attorney Fitzsimmons draw up a lease for this facility. Nothing has been signed, this is just the beginning of the process. It still needs to be inspected and approved yet.

Councilman Keeler asked the Town residents for any recommendations they may have to move the court. Councilwoman Lee seconded that there needs to be a backup plan if this building is not fit. Councilwoman Cashen asked Attorney Fitzsimmons if the new location has to be in Claverack. He replied that yes, it does however if they find someplace outside the Town, it can be used on a temporary basis.

Meeting open to the public:

Ian Nitchke spoke to the Board regarding the Shaw Bridge Consolidated Funding Application. This is now considered a Priority project for the State. Results for who receives the grants will be out the second week of November. He also spoke about a project to continue to sell Daffodils for residents in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Claverack Dutch Reformed Church building. Supervisor Weigelt recommended that this be something that is done Town wide and not just in the Hamlet. Councilwoman Cashen said she can place this initiative on the website.

Representatives from West Ghent Fire asked the Board if they have everything they need from the them. Attorney Fitzsimmons reviewed what the Town did and did not receive. Supervisor Weigelt remarked that West Ghent has been very helpful. He was asked if other fire departments were asked

for the same information and informed them that Yes, other departments were being asked as that is only fair. **Councilman Keeler** reminded them that the Town is liable for West Ghent directly. IF the State had an issue with Claverack Fire Department or Mellenville, they would go directly to them, whereas for West Ghent the Town is the direct contact. He thanked West Ghent for all the information they have provided knowing the current leadership has had to start their inventories from scratch.

Bill Blaauw remarked to the Board the old Ockawamick School might be a good alternative for the Court because it has better accessibility. Supervisor Weigelt informed him that this building is owned by the same owner as the American Legion and they have plans for the building.

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

General A bills, totaling \$19,118.05, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$3,358.32, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$179,366.85, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,698.02, 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 Councilwoman Lee, meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Deputy Town Clerk: _____