

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

September 8, 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 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
Lauren Bell	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:	Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk
	Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
	Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for Town

Report of Superintendent of Highways –Report was given in Superintendent LaMont’s absence, the Highway workers were performing shared services with the Village of Philmont to help them Oil & Stone.

Josh Loeffler informed the Town on the status of the AED devices that were purchased. We are still awaiting a physician’s signature for the units. The Town also needs to now establish a set of guidelines created by the Board that are overseen by a designated Medical Advisor.

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

Committee Reports: No reports were received.

Correspondence

Including but not limited to:

- Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, RE: Annual Supervisor’s Reception
- Columbia Land Conservancy September events
- Lewis & Greer Tax Certiorari Newsletter
- Columbia Land Conservancy September Workshop schedule
- 4H Youth Connection September newsletter
- State Comptroller’s Office, Re: Introduction to Government Accounting Workshops
- Key Bank, Re: Branch consolidation with First Niagara Bank

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Weigelt noted, since the County meeting is pushed back a week there was not a lot to report on the County level. He spoke with the Superintendent of Highways and the replacement bridge over the Claverack Creek on Route 9H, despite appearances, is on track to be completed in November. Also the Bridge on Route 66 heading into Greenport is almost complete. This will alleviate a lot of congestion through Claverack on Route 23B.

Supervisor Weigelt will be attending a meeting to discuss options for the Town Court. The Board has decided it would not be fiscally prudent to make the necessary changes to the current Court/Town Hall building and are looking for temporary alternatives. Supervisor Weigelt is looking into the American Legion located on Main Street in Philmont because of its proximity to the current Town Hall as well as its size. They would like to shut down the current building by December to avoid winter heating costs.

End of Report.

Town Board Members' Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Reported the ZBA meeting of August 24, 2016 was cancelled due to lack of business. Met with ZBA Chair Dave Graziano and Councilman Keeler to review applications for the open ZBA position. Agrees with the Board's determining to reduce the number of ZBA positions from 7 to 5 but was wondering if the group needed an alternate. Attended "Thank a Vet" day, hosted by the Village of Philmont, in the Claverack Town Park. Made recommendations to the Board regarding the Lighting District. Worked with Dog Control Officer Reginald Conklin regarding complaint made by a resident of barking dogs that pose a potential threat to neighbors. Contacted Dave Fingar of Mid-Hudson Cable regarding the Town's agreement and upcoming expansion timeline. Also discussed the Governor's broadband program and how that would affect Claverack. Met with the Building Inspector regarding multiple families in a one family house and unlicensed junk vehicles on properties. Interviewed applicant for the open Bookkeeper position – she will be starting on September 22nd. Spoke with Ann Mueller from Congressman Gibson's office regarding the Governor's Broadband initiative and was informed of an upcoming meeting on October 24th.

Councilman Keeler - Thanked Josh Loeffler for all the work he has done on the Town's behalf to purchase and implement the new AED's. Reported on two structural fires within the Town and thanked all the Fire Departments for their mutual aid. Noted that people may question the need and expense of fire equipment but it is necessary when an accident calls for 2-3 Jaws of Life to rescue a resident.

Councilwoman Cashen - Also followed up with Mid-Hudson Cable regarding their planned expansion in Claverack. Encouraged others to call individually to add more voices to the cause. Attended the Connect Columbia meeting to discuss broadband issues, the meeting is designed to get all the Towns on one page. Attended the Planning Board Meeting as the liaison. Worked with the Webmaster and Deputy Clerk to keep the website up to date. Posted the County Shredding program is starting up again for the next couple of weeks and Hazardous Waste Day is this upcoming Saturday – all posted on the website.

Councilman Hook – Worked with Reg Conklin the Dog Control officer to issue 8 tickets. Also interviewed for the open Bookkeeper position. Helped implement repair of the doors in the Town Court.

End of Reports.

Resolution to approve new Pitney Bowes Postage machine lease was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee. Carried.

Resolution to authorize the Budget Officer to increase the CHIPS appropriation for Highway Improvements made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried.

Motion to extend West Ghent Fire Protection District Contract until December 31, 2016 made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

Discussed the reduction of Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) members from 7 to 5 and the advantages and disadvantages of including an alternate. Councilwoman Lee explained this was a topic at her introductory seminar for working on a Town Board. Agreed to continue the discussion at the Town Board Workshop at the end of the month.

Motion to set public hearing for the October 13, 2016 Town Board meeting to change the number of appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried

Motion to accept financial statements was made by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee.

After discussion regarding a business looking for a reduction in Building fees for renovations on their property and how the Building Fee schedules were created to offset costs of the building department and how this does not seem to be based on hardship it was decided to table the Motion to reduce building fees and continue discussion at the Town Board Workshop.

In other business:

Councilwoman Maryanne Lee discussed her recommendation for proceeding with the Lighting District. These recommendations are based on information collected from The Claverack Town Assessors Office, Columbia County Real Property Tax Agency, Online Assessment Tax Rolls, Street Light Inventory Data provided by National Grid and their representative Joe Palone the following recommendations were made:

- A. Review current District boundaries
- B. All parcels should be listed on tax roll
- C. Adjust tax rolls where parcels are included in Lighting Distric #1 that should not be.
- D. Consider additional lights on Brookbound Lane, Van Wyck Lane and any other area within the lighting district that is underserved.
- E. LED Conversion Lighting –could be a cost saving tool
- F. Review zoning laws to ensure that lighting provision would be included in future housing subdivisions.
- G. Consider underground service

Discussion of these recommendations ensued. Councilwoman Lee was commended for all of her work on this issue. Councilwomen Lee and Cashen noted to be careful with switching to LED lights and that needs further research.

Meeting open to the public:

Jim Brady spoke regarding the Town Board's initiative to Honor Citizens for their work for the Town and recommended Honoring former Superintendent of Highways Bill Blaauw. The Board agreed.

Mr. & Mrs. Landman spoke to the Board thanking them for listening to their complaint at the Workshop. They proceeded to play for the Board a snippet of audio of their neighbor. Supervisor Weigelt informed the couple the Town will be drafting a letter to the landowner regarding their problem and would also talk to the Sherriff's department to help their cause.

Don Towsky of the West Ghent fire District asked the Board when their contract will be paid. Supervisor Weigelt informed them he will talk to the Town Attorney and get this resolved quickly. It was asked if they can get the 2017 contract in advance. Councilman Hook informed them contracts are approved at the end of the year meeting in December. Councilman Keeler reaffirmed it is not the Town coming down on the Fire Districts, the Town needs the correct information on hand to keep liability down.

Lisa Bowe inquired if there was an end result to the boundary issue between Churchtown and Claverack Fire Districts. Supervisor Weigelt informed her that will be reviewed after the Budget gets passed.

Lou Gordilucio from Churchtown Fire asked if every fire department was made to produce the same information? Supervisor Weigelt informed him that Churchtown and West Ghent are protectorates so the Town requires this information by law. The Board will ask all the Fire Companies for the same information as well.

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

General A bills, totaling \$13,643.13, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,660.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$37,507.41, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$9,318.19, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Capital H bills, totaling, \$2,750.00, 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 Supervisor Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Deputy Town Clerk: _____