

CLERMONT TOWN BOARD

AUGUST 6, 2007

The Clermont Town Board held its regular meeting on Monday, August 6, 2007 at the Town Hall. Those present were Deputy Supervisor Harned, Councilwoman Lent, Councilman Staats and Councilman Nolan. Others present were Robert Desmond, Charles Larsen, Judy Neary, Elizabeth Mahar, Jane Churchhill, Ray Tousey, Peter Fingar, George Davis, Bruce Unson, Richard Jones, Ripley Golovin, Richard Roth of the Independent, Pat Courtney, NYSERDA and Carlos Newcomb of HVCE.

Deputy Supervisor Harned opened the meeting with the salute to the flag. The Board received the minutes this month by email. Councilman Nolan noted a correction on page 2, correct NYSERTA to NYSERDA under old business, second bullet. A motion was made by Councilman Nolan to approve with correction, seconded by Councilman Staats. All in favor. So carried.

Councilman Nolan asked if there should be copies of the minutes available to the public and the actual procedure of circulating the minutes entered into the minutes. As noted by the Town Clerk, there has been no change to the procedure of circulating the minutes, except for emailing them to the Town Board. Minutes are on file in the minute book available to the public and emailed to the webmaster to be put on the website.

Councilman Nolan introduced Pat Courtney from NYSERDA – NYS Energy Resource and Development Authority. Her company administers New York Energy Smart programs, to help improve energy consumption by lowering electricity costs and encouraging energy efficiency. In considering a new highway garage issues, which can be considered to conserve energy are cooling, lighting and insulation.

Ms. Courtney brought handouts on Home Energy costs, Energy Careers, Energy Smart Students and use of fossil free fuel on Bard Campus. Small Commercial Energy Audit is a low cost program which examines buildings and make recommendations on how to implement them affordably and can cost from \$100-\$400.00. The question was asked if an old building can be retrofitted from oil to geothermal? It is not cost effective as a retrofit solution. Try to be as energy efficient with what you have. Energy Smart Loan Fund – New Construction from NYSERDA – Submit an application as soon as town is nearing approval. A scoping session with a NYSERDA engineer on what is possible and what is covered under the application is the first step. Funding can be obtained for up to one million dollars covering anything to do with energy; electric, heating, insulation, lighting, etc.

Carlos Newcomb of Hudson Valley Clean Energy spoke about his company, which installs solar and geothermal units. Heat Reclamation Ventilation System – must be installed in a very tight house. Solar power – can return up to 100%.

There is a completed building located at 13 Hook Road, Rhinebeck which will soon be open for viewing or call 845-876-3767 or go to HVCE.com to view completed building.

Solar can be retrofitted on these historic buildings – can be placed on ground. It was suggested that they might come to next year's barbecue and set up a table and hand out pamphlets and answer questions. Councilman Nolan was thanked for inviting them to the meeting.

Charlie Larsen reported on the Wind Farm Tour sponsored by Delaware County and Assemblyman Lopez. Judith Neary and Elizabeth Mahar also attended. The tour was of wind farms in Lewis and Madison County. They found it very interesting and informative. There have been studies done in Columbia County, but there is not enough wind to support wind farms in this area.

Jane Churchhill – OFA Advisory Representative –Reported on Project 2015 started in 2005 by County agencies to project what elderly will need for next ten years and how to delivery. Senior Safety Net is being implemented for those seniors who reside alone by the Office for Aging and Columbia County Sheriffs Department. There will be an electronic telephone call made from the Sheriffs department to check on those who are registered for the program.

EPIC Program- Help for seniors signing up for Medicare part D. An Assistant District Attorney spoke on scams against seniors. Gina Armstrong spoke about cancer and provided a booklet, which will be available at the Town Hall for anyone to read. Robert Desmond asked if the Board would urge the county to do something for senior transportation. There is a bus from Germantown, which takes seniors into Hudson and back for shopping, etc. George Davis reported that the Columbia County Health Care Consortium provides transportation for seniors to doctors, etc. and there are other programs, which are funded by the Consortium for those who may need health checkups. Councilwoman Lent reported that the churches in Livingston, Germantown and Clermont are reaching out to the elderly who may need food or help in some way.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Town Clerks report – The Clerk's report was read and a check in the amount of \$1143.51 was received by the Board. A motion was made to accept the Clerk's report by Councilwoman Lent, seconded by Councilman Nolan. All in favor. So carried.
- Received a check from the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1102.79 for taxes collected plus interest.
- Received a Sales Tax Distribution check from the Columbia County Treasurer in the amount of \$58,868.21.
- Received a request for research for 2010 census – LUCA addresses.
- Received certified final state equalization rate from NYS Real Property Tax Service. The rate for Clermont is 73.9.
- Received the estimate for the upcoming fiscal year contribution for NYS Employees Retirement which is \$15,358.00 payable by December 15 or \$15,506 payable by February 1, 2008.

- Germantown Library - letter regarding financial commitment of Town. A check will be sent for the budgeted amount of \$3000.

OLD BUSINESS:

- CT Male update letter of July 13, 2007 – Draft is being reviewed by DEC and Dept of Health. Councilman Nolan asked about the voucher, which is on this month's abstract to pay C.T. Male for \$11,457.72. After discussion, this voucher was pulled and voided from the abstract. To date we have paid C.T. Male \$86219.00. A voucher has been submitted for \$113454.23 to be reimbursed from DEC.
- Assessor Position – It is necessary to appoint a new assessor by October 1, 2007 as Peter Ostrander is retiring. The term is for six years. We have advertised and received four resumes to date. Those applying are Henry Greenhouse, Francis Iaccino, Craig Surprise and Garth Slocum. Councilman Nolan suggested possibly having the Board of Assessment review at the interviews. Councilwoman Lent does not think we should have anyone else present for the interviews, but should get feedback from the BAR. Appointments will be set up for Friday, August 17, Wednesday, August 22 and Friday August 24 at 7:00 P.M. Board members will be notified.
- Streetlighting –A letter was read from Meri Puccio and Raymond Quintero regarding proposed streetlighting at Route 9G and County Route 6, pointing out the benefits of having the streetlight. Councilman Nolan spoke to National Grid and the type of lamp that has no side glare works on totally different type of pole. He is withdrawing his request for the streetlight and will write a letter to that effect.
- Germantown Park Land - In response to a letter written to Germantown Supervisor Roy Brown from Dianne O'Neal regarding a proposed use of land, which was purchased with monies from a grant from Iroquois by Clermont, Germantown's Town Attorney responded that in his review, it appears that Germantown is the sole party in the deed and as such has the decision making power concerning the use of the land. Clermont was able to make the request for the grant, adopted by Resolution #35, dated May 11, 1992 for \$37,800 for the purchase of four to five acres, but specifically conveyed the land to the Town of Germantown.
- Village Green BBQ - will be held on Saturday, August 11th and tickets are available from the Town Clerk and Charles Larsen. Volunteers are needed. Joan Buser has collected many prizes for the raffle and door prizes.
- Community House- George Davis pointed out to the board that the west wall and cupola are not finished. The bottom is not closed off with fascia board on northwest side; the corner is open and trim work not finished. Councilwoman Lent will check into this.
- Streetlighting -Robert Desmond - The last time there was a discussion of the streetlights, it was discussed that there were no nighttime activities at the park, but recently there has been. Councilman Nolan's only objective for raising this point was for public safety.
- Charlie Larsen – Bruce Naramore has not contacted anyone about keeping the Church and Community House open on August 18th in conjunction with the activities that day at the park. Councilman Nolan will contact Bruce Naramore.

- Community House windows - Bill Cole has not gotten back to Carol. She has applied for 25% of \$10,000 from Senator Salands office for work on the windows.
- The Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Germantown is on the town's website, as well as, on the Valstar website. A copy will be available at the Clerk's office for anyone to view.
- Keep Farming Meeting will be held on Wednesday August 8th at the Community House. A covered dish social is going to be held on Saturday, November 3rd at Palatine Park. Pictures are needed of various things in town, sunsets, buildings, etc. The committee has been working on this for about fifteen months. All are welcome to the social.
- Video System - Councilman Nolan has spoken to Austin Sullivan in Germantown about the video system in their town hall. They passed a resolution to enable taping of the meetings for broadcast. We may need to speak to our attorney. They have a podium with microphone, bought a used video camera and set it up on a tripod in the corner. Councilman Nolan will check the price of a new camera and microphone. Budget for next year for these items.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Councilman Nolan asked about seeing a statement of all accounts. Deputy Harned has just started going through all the accounts. They will be forthcoming.
- Robert Desmond – He agrees that there may a conflict if the Board of Assessment review is involved in the formal interviewing of Assessor candidates.
- Budget worksheets will be sent out the first of September and Deputy Harned will have a schedule of budget workshops at the September 4th town board meeting.
- Fire Alarm systems for buildings – There is a division of the state, which can come down to give us an idea of what we need. Also Dan Nichols of Nichols oxygen is certified and may be able to help.
- Generator System -A representative from Cummings Northeast met with Jim Potts and Councilwoman Lent to discuss a portable generator system. We do not have a generator to run the Town Hall and Garage in the event of a weather related event, such as we just recently had where the power could have been out for a long period of time. She would like to get bids on a portable generator and emergency radios.

A motion was made by Councilman Nolan to approve Trust & Agency abstract #7 in the amount of \$1789.50. Motion seconded by Councilman Staats. All in favor. So carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Nolan to approve Highway abstract #8 in the amount of \$5,945.18. Motion seconded by Councilman Staats. All in favor. So carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Nolan to approve the General abstract #8 in the amount of \$31364.25. Motion seconded by Councilman Staats. All in favor. So carried. Councilwoman Lent made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Staats.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Helen Shannon, RMC
Town Clerk

