

## CLERMONT TOWN BOARD

OCTOBER 1, 2007

The Clermont Town Board held its regular meeting on Monday, October 1, 2007 at the Town Hall. Those present were Deputy Supervisor Harned, Councilwoman Lent, Councilman Staats and Councilman Nolan. Others present were: Peter Fingar, Greg Fingar, Charles Larsen, Judith Neary, Ray Tousey, Raymond Staats, Carol Livellara, Richard Roth, Tammy Connolly, Robert Desmond, Dennis Palazzo, Charles Lent, Dianne O'Neal, Dagmar Payne, Paul Doherty and George Davis.

The minutes were sent to board members and Deputy Supervisor Harned noted a correction on page 2 – change from ‘Councilman Nolan’ to ‘Deputy Supervisor Harned’ reported that ... Also, Councilwoman Lent noted a correction on page 5 – delete ‘with the cheapest bid \$500 - \$600’. A motion was made by Councilman Staats, seconded by Councilman Nolan to approve the minutes with corrections. All in favor. So carried.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Received from Columbia County Treasurer \$11,349.07 for Local Municipal Support from 2007 Budget.
2. Town Clerks Report – Check for General fund – \$1807.15 and T& A - \$1134.85. Motion to accept Town Clerks report by Councilman Staats, seconded by Councilwoman Lent. All in favor. So carried.
3. Check from Joan Buser - \$1617.69 for penalties and interest collected.
4. Consolidated Highway Improvement Program - Check for \$29,167.61.
5. Notice of Public hearing for Mountain View Subdivision North-13 residential lots on County Route 6 to be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 7:30 P.M.
6. Columbia County Treasurer – Hospitalization Insurance – open enrollment period of Dec. 1 – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. An estimate will be provided by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
7. Local Law #7 from Columbia County – Hearing was September 12<sup>th</sup> for proposed increase in mortgage tax.
8. Received a letter from Red Hook School regarding a meeting to be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for Supervisors.
9. Columbia County Attorney – parcels listed for tax foreclosure. Only one on list for Clermont.
10. Notice of public hearing from Town of Milan – October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 P.M. to amend town code regarding stops and yields at intersections in town.
11. Letter from Richard Jones on the water testing for Community House well. Mr. Jones is recommending the town do a full part 5 test. Deputy Supervisor Harned called Columbia County Board of Health. We are not required to do a water test, because we have less than 20 employees. Health department does not provide a water test service. Councilwoman Lent had another water test done with the samples being picked up by Smith Labs. The water was analyzed and came back clean. The Health department suggested that a bacteria test is done annually and this will be done before the barbecue.

12. Mr. Henry Greenhouse was appointed last month as the new assessor. He has requested a laptop. He received a quote from Dell for \$985.39 and would like approval to purchase from this year's budget. A motion was made by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Staats to authorize the purchase.
13. A grant was applied for and received from Senator Saland's office for a radar gun for our resident Deputy. The grant received was for \$2400; the total cost of the radar gun was \$3264.30. The cost to the Towns of Livingston, Germantown and Clermont is the difference between the total cost and the grant, divided between the three towns - \$288.10.
14. One judge requested a deputy sheriff to be present in the courtroom for one evening when he thought he would need someone. Usually towns have a contract with the Sheriffs Department to provide this service. A deputy was provided in this case, but if it should happen again we would have to go into contract with the Sheriffs Dept.
15. Letter from Assemblyman Peter Lopez - We should be receiving 25% of grant of \$4000.00 within a few weeks for Community House windows.

#### BUDGET:

The preliminary budget has been filed with the Town Clerk.

Councilman Nolan asked if the \$2000 in the historians budget is for equipment, etc? He has spoken to Louise Kalin and Mary Howell regarding the Community House. Louise has suggested that she could speak to someone and have him or her look at the interior and get suggestions for rehabilitation. Louise did call the Clerk about an appointment to get into the Community House. She will get back to her.

Deputy Supervisor Harned did make a change to Highway - Bridges 5102.4 has been changed from \$1000 to \$1500. Superintendent Potts asked to increase this account due to a federal mandate that all signs be changed to high intensity signs with larger letters. He will budget \$500 per year to start replacing signs and increase or decrease as needed.

Budget for video camera – Carry \$1500 and it should cover cost of everything.

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

- ◆ The public hearing for the 2008 Budget will be held on November 5th at 6:30 P.M. Copies of the preliminary budget will be available after October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Star Rebate: Applications must be completed by November 30 in order to receive the refund. Enhanced Star for Senior citizen rebates have been mailed directly from the State.
- ◆ C.T. Male update on twenty-acre parcel: DEC is still working on report. We have not received copies yet. An estimate was made based on the various possible options for remediation, and included in the 2008 budget for \$330,000.00.
- ◆ Judith Neary gave an update on the Keep Farming Committees work – The date for the Covered dish supper has been changed to November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Palatine Park Activity building. They are asking for an RSVP from those attending so that they can plan.

- ◆ Highway Garage – Councilwoman Lent would like more feedback from Jim Potts and Dan Wheeler about the building. Councilman Nolan cautioned about spending more than the procurement policy allows for our Town engineer on this project. Deputy Harned will check with our Attorney, but it is generally felt that it does not apply when using our own engineer. He will also check with Andy Howard about deed restrictions on the twenty-acre parcel. There are time limitations on this project, and Councilman Nolan thinks we should come up with an overall strategic plan for how to proceed with this project. Deputy Harned knows that it is the front seven acres which are being looked at for remediation and wells might be an issue in proximity to front acreage. Proposed use programs are also sometimes requested by DEC. Tentative options for the acreage are to fence off and not allow anyone on it, cover it with a foot of soil, or dig up all the soil, or do nothing. Workshops will be set up after November meeting for discussing the highway garage.
- ◆ Community House Windows: After last months meeting the work plan was checked and there was nothing about gutters in the grant. On the west side of the building the gutter was no good. Marilyn Kaplan of Preservation Architecture recommended putting up another aluminum gutter, which is just replacing what was originally there. Upon inspection it was noted that the wood trim work was not completed on the west facia corners, there are sections of the cupola exterior which are not painted, clapboard that is just primed and not painted. There is an opening on the northeast corner where facia board comes together.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- ◆ None

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- ◆ Dagmar Payne asked if there would still be a public hearing on the C.T. Male findings. Deputy Harned said the state will conduct a public hearing and the board will discuss it at a town board meeting. The whole property will be looked at in its entirety for future plans.
- ◆ Dagmar also asked who made the pedestals for the Community House. They were made by Dave Clark Carpentry and stained by Melius. She asked if this is what we want for the display of historical items. We need a permanent place to put these items. Councilwoman Lent responded that this is the design, which was chosen by Anne Poleschner and is the same as used at the Kinderhook Historical Society.
- ◆ Bob Desmond asked if there is a level of toxicity in the report from C.T.Male. Yes, but Deputy Harned can't tell you what the actual figure is.
- ◆ Greg Fingar – Requested the Town Board's support of the Workers Compensation reform in NYS. They are amending the amounts paid to an injured worker from \$400 to \$450, from \$500 to \$550 over the next several years. This amendment does not include volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers. He has asked Columbia County to request that the State include volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers. Will send a draft resolution, which can be signed and will also send one to the Fire Commissioners.

- ◆ Greg also reported that on the air-monitoring request to DEC. DEC is happy with where the current monitors are located and won't put in new ones.
- ◆ Tammy Connolly asked about the feedback on the well at the Community House. It was explained that a third test was done, the lab did the sampling and everything came back okay.
- ◆ Charles Larsen had a few comments:
  1. Community House – feels we cannot put artifacts in the building as long as we are leasing the building out.
  2. Hettling land – According to Cathy Hettling there are deed restrictions on the twenty-acre property.
  3. County provides workers compensation to volunteer firefighters, etc. County administers medical and wages because they are self-insured.

There was discussion on the use of the Community House, now used weekly by the Canaan Fellowship. Councilman Staats stated that the Canaan Fellowship knew that someday they might need to find other quarters. We should encourage them to find other quarters. The deed will have to be checked to see if there are any restrictions on its use. Deputy Harned suggested appointing a committee. He will ask our attorney to check deed restrictions on the Community House and St. Luke's Church.

George Davis – Is there a plan or estimate on windows at the Community House?  
Councilwoman Lent – There are twenty-two windows. Billy Cole will be checking the windows to see what has to be done and repair them enough so that they will open and close. The estimate per window is \$200.00 for labor only.  
We have received two grants - \$4000 from Assemblyman Peter Lopez office, \$10,000 from Senator Stephen Saland's office. Peter Fingar wondered if there could be lead in that paint on the windows. It may be if that paint is original.

George Davis – A neighbor has chosen to fly a confederate flag on his house in an area in view of this building. He asked that the town board, propose a resolution that flying such a flag challenges what we hold dear, and ask him to take the flag down. Deputy Harned will check with Town Attorney on this matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Staats, seconded by Councilwoman Lent to pay General abstract #10 in the amount of \$3,139.43. All in favor. So carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Staats to pay Agency and Trust abstract #9 in the amount of \$1,124.55. All in favor. So carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Staats to pay Highway abstract #10 in the amount of \$29,473.66. All in favor. So carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lent, seconded by Councilman Staats to adjourn at 8:45 P.M.

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TOWN BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Helen Shannon, RMC  
Town Clerk