

CLERMONT TOWN BOARD

DECEMBER 3, 2007

The Clermont Town Board held its regular meeting on Monday, December 03, 2007 at the Town Hall. Those present were Deputy Supervisor Harry Harned, Councilwoman Carol Lent, Councilman Richard Staats, Councilman Chris Nolan. Also present were Judith Neary, Elizabeth Mahar, Bruce Unson, Robert Desmond, Susan Harned, Supervisor Roy Brown of Germantown, Raymond Staats, Raymond Tousey, Alberta Staats, Elise Staats, Peter Fingar, Laurence Saulpaugh, Richard Jones, Supervisor Phil Williams of Livingston, Richard Roth of the Independent, Louise Kalin, Dagmar Payne, Dennis Palazzo and George Davis.

Councilman Nolan made a motion to accept the minutes for November as prepared and sent by email, seconded by Councilman Staats. All in favor. Motion carried. Councilwoman Lent asked if that motion included the public hearing minutes. The motion was amended to include the minutes for the public hearing on the budget by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Staats. All in favor. So carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The Town Clerks report was read – Checks for the general fund for \$315.92 and the Trust and Agency for \$185.00 were received. A motion was made by Councilman Staats, seconded by Councilman Nolan to accept the report. All in favor. So carried.
2. The Clerk prepared a report on Zoning and Planning Board members that have attended the required classes for this year. There are two members of the Planning Board who have not yet met the requirements. Councilman Nolan advised that there is a class on December 8th from 9 AM to 4PM at Columbia Greene Community College on the zoning and planning board process sponsored by Pace Law School.
3. Received the Star payment from NYS for \$595.97.
4. Letter from the Department of Army regarding a study that they are going to do because of the recent flooding in Columbia County.
5. Letter from the County Tourism Dept. regarding listing upcoming events. Councilman Nolan will check with Adam Miller for information.
6. Received check for \$2,895.00 for Justice Court fines and forfeitures.
7. Census for 2010 – Updating of addresses.
8. On December 9th the Hudson River Heritage will be holding a presentation and reception at the Community House starting at 2:45 P.M. All are invited.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. C.T. Male report on former Hettling property was received. There is the full volume and the amended version of the alternative plan. Sometime early this winter the DEC will schedule a public hearing for the town with a 45-day comment period. DEC will probably try to close this out by March 31st with their decision. Comments can be sent to DEC from the Board, the public can also send comments. Do you want to schedule a meeting for this month to discuss the plan or hold off until the New Year?

The Clerk will produce ten copies of the amended version of the plan for board members to review prior to a meeting to discuss the proposals.

2. Councilman Nolan thanked Dagmar Payne for planning the Christmas Event held this past Sunday. There were about 35 that attended the event. In getting the Community House ready, he found that the outside lights on the Community House are not working. These need to be checked by an electrician. A motion was made by Councilman Staats, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Harned to get an electrician to check the lights. All in favor. So carried. A call will be made to Bobby Moore. Dagmar also noted that the sill on the back door of the church is rotted and is ready to give away.
3. Councilman Nolan noted that the windows on second floor of the Community House are still covered by plastic. Where do we stand on windows? Councilwoman Lent will report under new business.
4. Judith Neary reported on the Farm Social held on November 17th. Over 90 attended the event held at Palatine Park in Germantown. Reports were given by Chuck Abraham, Economics Report by Todd Erling from Livingston, Linda Fix of Livingston did a fine job on everything, Joanna Tipple reported on the food services from the survey which was sent out, Kim Meehan on Soils and Water, Elizabeth Mahar, Charlie Larsen and Mary Shannon for their help. Carol Lent provided a slide show of farmlands in the three towns. Mary Howell provided the History of Farming in Columbia County and Roland Vosburgh of County Planning did a presentation. There was plenty of food and Clermont was well represented. There is supposed to be a Phase II but Judy will be stepping down as chair. Judy thanked Ray Tousey for the idea of the pamphlet on where to find farm products from our area, which was handed out at the social and was well received. All presentations were turned over to the Glynwood Center but Judy will check to see if we get copies for the towns involved. Carol Lent thanked Judy for all the work that she did on this project. Charlie Larsen also did a wonderful job as co-chair. The Glynwood Center was very impressed with the response. There was further discussion with Larry Saulpaugh saying that he does farm markets as well as Ray Tousey, but none of them are in Columbia County. There was the suggestion that possibly a quarterly farm market, which would move from town to town or just several times a month, may be part of Phase II.
5. Germantown Supervisor Roy Brown and Livingston Supervisor Phil Williams were in attendance to speak to the board about the Columbia County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Supervisor Brown explained that town's will no longer be able to receive FEMA funds unless there is a town safety plan in place. The County started working to put together a safety plan in order for towns to receive FEMA funds. In order for a town to participate in the County plan, a resolution must be passed. Supervisor Williams stated that once the plan is approved the Supervisors will be able to review the plan. The resolution brought forward last month at the Town Board meeting is to participate in the County plan. Councilwoman Lent stated that this protects everyone who lives in the town in the event that there is a disaster.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lent, seconded by Councilman Nolan to pass Resolution #12-07 Columbia County Hazard Mitigation Plan. All in favor. So carried. Councilman Nolan thanked Supervisors Brown and Williams for the information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Highway Superintendent Jim Potts reported that the town has a 1957 Roller for asphalt, which he would like to get rid of. Also there is a pickup with over 200,000 miles, which is going out of service. He will be looking for a used pickup with a plow for next year. He will build up his capital for a new truck over the next few years.
Councilman Nolan asked if we need to transfer money for him to do this. Jim believes he has the money left in this year's budget.
2. The year-end meeting to pay the final bills will be held on Friday, December 28, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. The review of the C.T. Male report will also be done on that night.
3. Supervisor elect Raymond Staats would like the organizational meeting on Thursday, January 3rd at 7:00 P.M.
4. The January board meeting will be on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
5. Councilwoman Lent reported that Billy Cole checked all the windows and they all open. However, there is more damage than anticipated. She has contacted the state and they will be down to look at them. Will either have to rebuild or replace the windows. As soon as they come down, Councilwoman Lent will let the board know. Councilman Nolan would like to see the plastic taken down and something done before the Hudson River Heritage uses the building on December 9th. It was decided that plexiglass could be put up temporarily. Councilwoman Lent will check with Billy Cole to see if he can do it.
6. Supervisor Brown spoke about sharing equipment and labor between the towns of Clermont, Germantown and Livingston. There has been discussion about purchasing a used paver to be shared by the three towns. They will be seeking a grant which is due by December 18 for a new paver rather than purchasing a used one
7. Deputy Supervisor Harned has returned the chargeback agreement for ambulance service to the County with a 15% increase over last year. They do want more but they have been accepting what we have given them. The Supervisors reported that there is rumor that Alamo is buying NDP, now a rumor that NDP is buying Alamo. On the county level they are trying to improve service countywide. The Public Safety Committee is working on this.
8. Supervisor Williams also explained about the request from the County to reappoint Robert Stickles Jr. to the County Planning Board, as the representative from the Towns of Clermont, Germantown and Livingston. He has been the representative and would like to be reappointed for a two-year term. A motion was made by Councilwoman Lent, seconded by Councilman Harned to appoint Robert Stickles, Jr. for a two-year term to the Columbia County Planning Board. All in favor. So carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Robert Desmond – He attended the Keep Farming Social and it showed great inter-municipality cooperation. It was a great thing.
It was great to have two Supervisors come down and cover some of these things. Also, would like to see the continuation of sharing services with other towns.
Bob thanked Judy Neary for her Brightside poem.
He also encouraged the Town Board to appoint Raymond Staats to the board tonight so that we can have representation at the County level.
Deputy Harned did seek appointment of a Supervisor in July so that we could have representation but for whatever reasons, we did not appoint anyone.
- Councilman Nolan asked if there had been any resolution to the inquiry of James Funk on Moore Road regarding roadside garbage pickup. Mr. Funk had wanted garbage bags for the garbage that he picked up along the road, but no decision was made last month. Deputy Harned has tried to contact him but he has not called back.
- Videotaping meetings – Councilman Nolan asked Supervisor Brown if there was any legal reason for passing a resolution to permit videotaping of the board meetings. Germantown’s attorney did advise them to pass a resolution, so they did. Deputy Harned said that there may be a new format in January and there is the capability of doing the meetings live.
- Deed restrictions – Councilman Nolan asked if there was any feedback from our attorney on Community House or twenty acres, etc. Deputy Harned will talk to him.
- Deputy Supervisor Harned made a motion to appoint Raymond Staats to fill the term of William Banks, seconded by Councilwoman Lent. All in favor. So carried.
Deputy Supervisor Harned congratulated Raymond.
- Councilwoman Lent thanked Harry Harned for filling in during the absence of William Banks. Councilman Nolan thanked Harry and also Richard Staats for their service to the Town over the years.
- Ray Tousey served his final meeting on the Board two years ago and at that time, Bill Banks thanked him for serving the town. He would like to thank Harry, who served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Board and Dick who served on the Planning Board and Town Board, together some 35-40 years of accumulated dedicated service.
There was a standing ovation by those attending. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.
- A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Harned to approve Highway abstract #12, page 1, vouchers #142-153 in the amount of \$11,086.01, seconded by Councilwoman Lent. All in favor. So carried.
- A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Harned to approve General abstract #12, page 1,2,3, vouchers #330 – 365 in the amount of \$23,922.53, seconded by Councilwoman Lent. All in favor. So carried.
- A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Harned to approve the supplemental General abstract for a replacement check to Verizon for \$39.12, seconded by Councilwoman Lent. All in favor. So carried.

- A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Harned, seconded by Councilwoman Lent to approve Trust and Agency abstract #11, page 1, vouchers #74-82 in the amount of \$1,877.51. All in favor. So carried.

Deputy Supervisor Harned thanked everyone for all their help this past year.

A motion was made to adjourn by Councilwoman Lent, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Harned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Helen Shannon, RMC
Town Clerk