

April 9, 2024

Schultzville, NY

The Clinton Town Board held the Regular Town Board meeting on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Whitton, Deputy Supervisor Werner, Councilman Dykas, Councilwomen Mustello and Councilwoman Auspitz as well as Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin. There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

Supervisor Whitton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. **(Pledge done earlier)**

APPROVE MINUTES

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello approve the March 12, 2024 Public Hearing minutes Farm Law. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the March 12, 2024 Town Board meeting minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: (Agenda Items only)

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to open the floor to public discussion. All aye. Motion carried.

Joe Phelan - CAC member and Climate Smart Committee Task Force chair, supports the Town board item 2, the Climate Change and Engagement Resolution. It is an item that we are required to complete for bronze status. Thanks to Town Clerk Carol Mackin and IT Consultant Fred Shequine who helped with the outreach and Jenn Browne, CAC member who developed the new website. The members continue working on outreach and other items to gain more points towards the bronze status. Councilwoman Mustello asked about the social media posts and had other questions which Mr. Phelan answered to her satisfaction. This resolution gets us between four and eight points. Supervisor Whitton said there is also a Facebook page and it is updated once a month.

Ray Oberly – regarding ARPA, are there funds for generator? Public safety does not seem to be a main concern. Supervisor Whitton will discuss it during the meeting.

Dal LaMonia – member Stop Six Senses. Councilwoman Mustello said the comments are welcome at the second session in the meeting.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to close public discussion and return to the regular order of business. All aye. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Deputy Supervisor Werner read them aloud on behalf of Supervisor Whitton:

- Burn ban in effect until May 14;
- Annual roadside cleanup April 20th from 9-3;

- The Recreation Department received CDBG grant for improvements at Friends Park, Congratulations to all;
- New updated Town website, thanks Fred Shequine IT Consultant for his work. Among the changes are bolder color, wider page, better functionality and buttons for the Boards, automated videos and Laserfiche public portal for public access to documents.

Deputy Supervisor comments

- Congressman Ryan's representative is on campus tomorrow with CARES Van;
- The Rec Committee is holding a Pediatric CPR/First Aid Class Free to residents On April 27 from 1-4. Reservations required to clintonrec@townofclinton.com.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS: Posted on the web, townofclinton.com.

PLANNING BOARD, ZBA, CAC, CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE, RECREATION, BUILDING INSPECTOR, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, HIGHWAY, SCENIC AND HISTORIC ROADS, LIBRARY, ALTICE, ZONING REVISION, CEMETERIES, PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINES, OTHER (QUARTERLY: WIC, SAFETY)

Councilwoman Mustello –

- CAC – meeting tomorrow, discussion the wetlands, the Committee submitted a document to the planning board on the Six Senses project.
- Planning Board – read from report, posted online.
- ZBA - read from the report, posted online. Thanks Board members for their time and efforts.

Councilwoman Auspitz –

- Highway - read from the Highway Report, posted online.
- Library – to celebrate Earth Month they have gone paperless this month. Using Email for slips due, they will not be printed although with a specific request they can be printed. Wildflower seed giveaway during April; there is a lecture on alternatives to lawns April 27. The Book sale is coming up

Deputy Supervisor Werner –

- Building Inspector read from the Report, posted online.
- MCEI – no report
- Recreation Committee – Pediatric CPR class scheduled for 4-27, received a \$125,000 grant for Friends Park upgrade. Large turnout to Easter Egg Hunt. For basketball players: There is on May 25th a 3v3 tourney, Banners Up fundraising has begun; contact Rec Director to have a banner for your business that hangs on the fence at Friends Park. Pavilion rental calendar is up and running on the web. We need lifeguards: applications on the web, camp registration is open. Councilwoman Mustello said the rec park banners are visible at the road, not just the ballfield.

- CSC - Climate Smart Committee Task Force – bronze certification actions are ongoing. Talking about revamping the committee, there are a handful of active members and others who are minimally involved. The plan is to ask those who are not committed if they want to continue; we will replace them with others who are interested if necessary.
- SHRAC – Roadside Cleanup is on April 20, 2024. A dumpster will be outside the Highway department fence for people to throw in trash for free that they find along the road.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approve Farm Law – Werner

We had several changes come through vary late. Deputy Supervisor Werner said we will hold off approving until the public can see them and the Board can digest them. Councilwoman Mustello said there are some farms that are waiting on this, can we help them along? Deputy Supervisor Werner suggests waiting. It will go to a vote next month.

2. Discuss Public Meetings Policy – Whitton

The Policy is under review by the Association of Towns and we have not yet heard back from them. In March, Supervisor Whitton was disappointed at the previous month's meeting by both Town Board members and the public. We have no policy addressing these concerns. We do have Roberts Rules of Order, which does address decorum at a meeting, but this policy asks members of public to do extra work. The policy is public and will be posted describing decorum, explains meetings and why we have them.

Councilwoman Mustello comments – asking for the address of public is not required. It says no cell phones and sometimes we need them. Supervisor Whitton said phones are allowed to record. Deputy Supervisor Werner read through it; it seems straight forward. Concerned about section 1.4: our discussions are freewheeling and having discussions required to be recognized by the supervisor would change the tenor of the discussion, it may be a bit much.

3. Discuss cameras at Fran Mark Park – Werner

We are out for bids from three firms, we have one and waiting on two others.

4. Discuss/Approve CPL conducting a detailed study on Kansas Road – Werner

This issue has been on the burner for several months. Last month it was decided to send letters to the residents of Kansas Road who are affected by the road runoff to see if they agree with the plan to rectify the situation there. The responses have not yet been received, so we will continue to wait for the responses before we consider the solution to the issues there. The engineer is on hold. Councilwoman Mustello said for the record we have already spent \$1000 on the project.

5. **Approve going to bid for flooring of Town Hall basement -Auspitz**

Councilwoman Auspitz provided an overview of the problems with the basement floor: the tiles are coming up and need repair. A vinyl floor is being suggested as they can hold up. The Town Board will allocate ARPA funds for the project.

She received price estimates:
main basement area: \$14500
kitchen \$1800
2 bathrooms & hall \$5600
Total \$21,900.

Kids area \$19,570.
TOTAL **\$41,470**

MM Councilperson Auspitz, 2nd Councilperson Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves going to bid to resurface the floor of the Town Hall basement. Bids will be available on April 12, 2024 from the following: the Town Clerk via email townclerk@townofclinton.com, the “Town Board Bids” page on townofclinton.com and BidNet. Sealed bids are due to Town Clerk Carol Mackin by 10 AM on Friday, May 10, 2024. Bids may be submitted electronically or by hard copy. The winning bid will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder at the Town Board meeting on June 11, 2024. Councilwoman Mustello wants a warranty, she is concerned that what is under is a problem. Councilwoman Auspitz said the engineer is putting a self-leveling cement and waterproof adhesive in the bid request. Carol Mackin will work with the engineer to be sure a warranty is in the bid package. All aye. Motion carried.

6. **Approve Creating “Hometown Heros” Committee – Dykas**

Councilman Dykas has begun to work on the project with a planned Kick off with the first banner on July 4th. Tonight we officially establish the program and appoint the committee.

MM Councilperson Dykas, 2nd Councilperson Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 16 of 2024 titled Resolution Authorizing Hometown Heroes Banner program.** Councilwoman Mustello said there are Verizon poles and Central Hudson poles. We will need to use Central Hudson poles. Councilman Dykas said we have yet to decide what roads to place the banners, but he is thinking Salt Point Turnpike and Centre Road. All aye. Motion carried. The Committee will meet in the Masonic Hall.

7. **Approve appointment of members to the Hometown Heroes Committee – Dykas**

MM Councilperson Dykas, 2nd Councilperson Werner that the Town Board approves the appointment of the following to the Hometown Heroes Committee effective April 1, 2024: Town Councilman Charles Dykas, Chair; Ray Oberly; Bill Gannon, Howard Leroy, and Cathy Gallinger. All aye. Motion carried.

8. **Discuss ARPA funds – Whitton**

In March, Supervisor Whitton said funds must be obligated by end of 2024; he wants that done by June 30 to get contracts. The money must be spent by end of 2026. Money not obligated must be returned. We have \$113,000 left to spend. He distributed the spreadsheet showing the expenses.

The Board discussed the following projects to consider:

Rec Park Cameras - we are getting quotes for the cameras. We have money left from the previous earmark to install WIFI and cameras.

Flooring update – approved and we are going to bid.

Highway garage doors – approved.

Solar – Supervisor Whitton said the battery back up is very expensive and having a generator is a better option. Looking at installing only the solar panels on the highway garage. Another company talked about installing panels on the town hall roof. He is getting bids. Councilwoman Mustello asked for analysis on savings. Supervisor Whitton said in his discussions, there are not much in the way of savings. The panels we have are not providing half the electricity of the highway. He will get an analysis for a return on our investment.

On the generator, Supervisor Whitton applied for 3 grants. No replies. The generator will run the buildings; the highway has a generator. On the comment made about not caring about public safety: he has addressed the following issues: culverts, highway heating, new switches, Laserfiche portal for public, WIFI and camera at parks; he thinks the Board has shown concern for public safety.

9. Discuss STR law update – Whitton

The Board previously discussed instituting a new tax on STRs. Supervisor Whitton met with the Assessor to discuss the issue, it's clear the town would need to hire a finance officer or Comptroller to manage the income and there are state and fed income reporting requirements. It seems to be an expense we don't want to take on. He said that Councilwoman Mustello had a good idea to increase fees instead of taxes. He has been contacted by Planning Board Chair Paul Thomas that currently STR renewals go before the Planning Board and they should just go to the MCEI if there are no issues.

10. Discuss/Approve Evacuation Plan - Mustello

In February, Councilwoman Mustello explained that she started working on a fire drill plan with a map of how to get out of each building. She found a vendor who makes exit maps. Councilwoman Auspitz said there are only three buildings listed, Councilwoman Mustello said the highway is easy she can do it, the library is included in the town hall. Councilwoman Auspitz asked her to check to make sure the library is included.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce LL updating Sexual Harassment Policy – Werner

MM Councilperson Werner, 2nd Councilperson Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. of 17 2024 introducing Local Law No. __ of 2024, entitled “Local Law Updating Sexual Harassment Policy”** and sets a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at the Town of Clinton Town Hall, 1215 Centre Rd, Rhinebeck (Town of Clinton), New York at 6:25 p.m. Prevailing Time, or as soon thereafter as the matter is reached on the agenda, concerning such proposed Local Law. Perma supplied the template. All aye. Motion carried.

2. Approve Climate Change Education and Engagement Resolution – Werner

In order for the Town of Clinton to continue its work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, the Town will adopt the following resolution, the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge Element 9, Climate Change Education and Engagement and commits to partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess to develop a webpage for the Town website addressing climate change emergencies by presenting information, photographs, resources, and links for residents and by hosting up to 12 social media posts to inform Town residents of this new resource.

MM Councilperson Werner, 2nd Councilperson Auspitz that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 18 of 2024 titled Climate Change Education and Engagement Resolution.** All aye. Motion carried.

3. Approve repair of Town Hall windows – Auspitz

Councilwoman Auspitz received three quotes to repair the windows in the Town Hall that have fallen into disrepair making them difficult to open and close. Hobson Window is the lowest bidder and comes to us with a good reputation.

MM Councilperson Auspitz, 2nd Councilperson Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves Hobson Window Inc. repairing the 18 double hung windows in the Town Hall and replacing the screens at a cost not to exceed \$3600. All aye. Motion carried.

4. Approve designated liaison to Joule for CCA Program – Whitton

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve Supervisor Whitton as the designated liaison to Joule for the CCA Program, effective April 1, 2024. All aye. Motion carried.

5. Approve termination of DCSPA contract effective June 1, 2024 – Werner

Supervisor Whitton said the SPCA wants to terminate the contract. He will meet next week with Rhinebeck dog control officer to discuss her joining Clinton.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilperson Auspitz that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the cancellation of the

animal control and housing contract between the Town and the DCSPCA effective June 4, 2024 as per Section 19 of the contract. The Town received the 60 days written notice on April 2, 2024. All aye. Motion carried.

6. Approve Highway Superintendent Martin to Highway School – Dykas/Auspitz

MM Councilperson Dykas, 2nd Councilperson Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves Highway Superintendent Martin’s attendance at annual Highway School at Ithaca from June 3 – June 5 at a total cost not to exceed \$600 for registration and accommodations. All aye. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

1. Resignations and appointments – Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to appoint Brayden Rotundo to the position of Winter seasonal laborer from March 18 to April 12, 2024 replacing Andy Cooley who resigned, at a rate of pay of \$16.27 per hour for 32 hours a week. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to appoint Brayden Rotundo to the position of Groundskeeper - Cemetery from April 15 for 32 weeks , at a rate of pay of \$16.27 per hour for 32 hours a week. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to appoint Tim Horton to the position of Groundskeeper – Recreation from April 8 for 32 weeks, at a rate of pay of \$16.27 per hour for 32 hours a week. All aye. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Warrants - Mustello

MM Councilwoman Mustello, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the:

April General Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 164 through 214, totaling \$ 34,432.95

and the

April Highway Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 81 through 112 totaling \$ 92,808.50.

All aye. Motion carried.

3. Motion to Move Funds – Whitton/Werner

None

4. Supervisor’s Report - Whitton

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Werner to approve the Supervisor’s Report for March 2024. All aye. Motion carried.

OTHER/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilwoman Mustello – We need to consider doing the comprehensive plan and then we should reconsider a reassessment. Mike Whitton said we are going to get the Assessor an assistant who will help with that reassessment.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to open the floor to public discussion. All aye. Motion carried.

Dal LaMonia – member, Stop Six Senses, Red Hook put a moratorium on construction because of the new wetland mapping by the DEC being unveiled in the near future. Asks our Board to consider a moratorium until we know where the wetlands are. Submitted a sample local law based on the Red Hook law.

Ray Oberly – said the shutters the Schoolhouse are broken. He suggested using plastic and now they need to be fixed. Concerning dirt bikes trespassing on properties: He calls the state police but when they arrive, the bikers are gone. What can the town do to help this? Mike Whitton said the sheriff has stopped some of these bikers. Ray got it stopped by setting up a depot here at the town when he was the Supervisor. Regarding Kansas Road – this is not an overnight issue; it's going on 5 years. Typically dirt roads are fifty percent more expensive to maintain than macadme roads. Spring is here and the pot holes are growing, there are more washouts - there is one across the whole road. This is not a new problem and he is concerned for a lawsuit from citizens from these road conditions.

Donna Burns – thanked the bord for chance to speak, happy to hear about the Farm Law; supports the NRI. Concerned about the law that passed that allows an inconceivable resort being built in Town. There was very little public information available. Thanks Jeff Newman for explaining the conference center law previously. Town is special; supports the moratorium on building from Red Hook, reminds all that we are “Clinton, not Rhinebeck since 1879” like the sticker sold at the Schultzville Store. (Designed by our Planning Board Chair Paul Thomas.)

Councilwoman Mustello - said the website contains all Planning Board and ZBA documents, available on the Laserfiche public portal.

Todd Martin, Highway Superintendent – for Earth Day the highway dept. will help with large items. April 22nd, Monday, the highway will pick up items that are heavy or bulky from the roadside, notify the highway of your location. On the solar panels on the salt shed, the shed was put there to take advantage of the roof angle for the panels, the battery backup is not a bad idea. We need a cell tower in the town. Regarding Kansas road, there have been no complaints, if there is a problem, we are there in the morning. This is the previous administration's problem which landed in his lap. West Clinton FD emergency vehicles know to call him if they have a problem on the road.

Arlene Campbell - we should have an electric car charging station at Town Hall.

MM Supervisor Witton, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to close public discussion and return to the regular order of business. All aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board adjourns the meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol-Jean Mackin".

Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk