

January 14, 2025

Schultzville, NY

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

Supervisor Whitton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the December 30, 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the Reorganizational Meeting minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: (Agenda Items only)

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

Highway Superintendent Todd Martin – cell service is horrendous in the Town. He supports the Town Board entertaining this idea for the Town.

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

Mike Whitton's comments read by Eliot Werner:

The Clinton Town Offices, Highway Department, Justice Court Office, and Court will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr Day on Monday, January 20 The Clinton Community Library will be closed on that day, as well.

The Town annual Christmas Tree bonfire will be held on January 25 at Fran Mark Park. You can drop off your ornament free Christmas Tree by the Highway Garage fence by January 24. The drop off location is where the community mulch is usually piled. The East Clinton Fire Department will be providing hot chocolate along with their usual safety services.

The East Clinton Fire Department is holding their Chicken BBQ on Saturday, February 1, from 4-6pm. The meal includes BBQ chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, roll, and dessert. This is take-out only and the cost is \$15 per meal. To make a reservation please call (845) 266-5485.

I previously reported that the Town was a victim of banking fraud in March 2024. This fraud resulted in \$9,500 being stolen from our accounts. This amount was ultimately refunded to us. I am pleased to report that Detective David Meyer with the Dutchess County Sheriff's office has apprehended the alleged perpetrator of this fraud.

Deputy Supervisor's Comments:

DCCHR Executive Director Jody Miller visited with Michael and me on December 11th to talk about the commission's plans for 2025 and whether our town would be interested in hosting one of their 100 Cups of Coffee gatherings. The purpose of the event is to bring members of the public together in an informal group to discuss how they feel about living in the town—what attracted them and what makes them stay, what they like and don't like, what we can do to be good neighbors, etc. Michael and I agreed this would be an interesting event and suggested holding it at the Fran Mark Park pavilion on Sunday, July 20th. The event will be open to the public and details will be provided as they become available.

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 – updated their website. Clarified the pipeline issue, they are increasing the pressure and the volume, there is no excavation being done on the pipeline.

Planning Board – read from report, posted online.

ZBA - read from the report, posted online.

Councilman Dykas-

Recreation - read from the report, posted on line.

Hometown Heroes- weather will slow down the banners being displayed. The ones that are up look good.

Councilwoman Auspitz –

Library - read from the report, posted on line.

Highway – read from the report, posted on line.

Maintenance – the kitchen flooring is finished; the Masons are now building new cabinets in the kitchen and will paint the downstairs of Town Hall.

Deputy Supervisor Werner –

Zoning Officer – read from report from November and from an annual report; on the web

Building Inspector - read from report, posted online.

CSC – Had a late meeting in December, gave an update on the bronze certification and new grants we qualify to apply for. The Highway staff has been helpful with the energy study. Working with others for a resiliency program to prepare for a crisis or a natural disaster. Discussed the Iroquois Pipeline. The committee is working on a municipal action plan and they are exploring a composting program.

SHRAC – no meeting. Planning for Roadside Cleanup in April.

Cemetery – We will be putting flags on graves in Pleasant Plains Cemetery in the future for Veterans Day, which was not done in 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approve going to bid for Fran Mark Park Buildings staining – Dykas

MM Councilman Dykas, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approves **GOING TO BID FOR THE STAINING OF THE BUILDINGS** at Fran Mark Park, **Bids will be received by the Town Clerk of the Town of Clinton, Town Hall, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572, until 10:00AM on February 12, 2025**, with the contract being awarded as soon as practicable thereafter. Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained through Empire Bid Net or on the Town of Clinton Website (<https://www.townofclinton.com>), or by emailing townclerk@townofclinton.com. All aye. Motion carried.

2. Approve requiring Escrow for Planning Board applications – Mustello

Proposal by Chair Paul Thomas read by Katherine Mustello: explained why the escrow charges are being introduced. Stated that most matters are reviewed by the experts when they come to the PB and the escrow will allow for the consults to be able to be in attendance at most meetings which will make the applications move along. Unused escrow funds will be returned. Some escrow applications may be waived depending on the situation or a hardship of the applicant. Eliot Werner feels the plan is not going to get us where we want to be. He will vote no, respects those who worked on it. This is not the solution to the problems we are having to the current slow paper flow. Alex Ferini, PB member, emphasized the process to refer applications out to consultants already happens, so these escrows are not new. The consultants give a different review than the MCEI. The consultants give technical expertise. Nothing of substance gets done at the first PB meeting as that is when it is determined the application needs consultant review. The escrow will eliminate a step for the applicant and the process can move quicker. The applicant will know upfront that escrows are necessary and not be surprised at their first meeting when escrows are requested. Katherine asked Eliot Werner to describe his objections: it will cede authority from the PB to the consultants. The PB makes the decisions, not the consultants, they are advisors. More practically, we are paying them to do the work that was previously done in house. Most screening was done by PB members as a group. Admittedly applications are getting more detailed and difficult, but PB members sign up for that. He also questions who collects the escrow and returns it, our dept. staff is already overextended. Sounds like we are abdicating our

role. Katherine said we are not ceding the authority, that falls on the Board. Katherine feels that there are no simple lots anymore in the Town, and complicated items are coming down the pike. The escrow fees will help with these issues. Mike Whitton said it should not be an extra burden; people should get their money back. Secretary to the PB Arlene Campbell noted there are simple issues like a simple lot line change and now you have a \$1000 escrow fee. This is going to cost the applicants a lot of money, feels that the lot line change in particular is too expensive. Alex Ferini reviewed previous applications and feels the charges are appropriate. Jeff Newman said the process is not being changed, it is being shifted on the timeline, with the escrow being collected up front rather than after coming before the board and then setting the escrow. Arlene is already managing the escrow process; this is not additional work. The consultants' role will not change. His job is to look at the zoning law, he is not an engineer, that is the job of the consultant. The escrow helps to streamline the process for applicant, eliminates a full meeting and codifies the escrow schedule.

MM Councilwoman Mustello, 2nd Councilman Dykas that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 7 of 2025 a Resolution amending the Town of Clinton fee schedule by adopting uniform escrow fees for certain Planning Board applications Labeled Attachment A, as an addendum to the Fee Schedule, Resolution 29 of 2024.** All aye except Deputy Supervisor Werner who voted No. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve AFR Annual Financial Report extension– Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves requesting a two-month extension to file the AFR for proper accounting of the 2024 finances. This in an annual request. All aye. Motion carried.

2. Approve Supervisor Whitton to AOT training and as delegate – Werner

MOTION TO ATTEND:

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves Supervisor Whitton's attendance at the AOT's Annual Meeting and Training in NYC from February 16 - 19 at a total cost for conference registration and accommodations not to exceed \$1200.00. All aye. Motion carried.

MOTION AS DELEGATE:

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz that the Town Board approves designating Supervisor Whitton as DELEGATE to the Annual Business Session of the AOTs Annual Meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

3. Approve Court Clerk Liz Johnson to AOT training – Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves Court Clerk Liz Johnson's attendance at the AOT's Annual Meeting and Training in NYC from February 16 - 18 at a total cost for conference registration and accommodations not to exceed \$700.00. All aye. Motion carried. (Cost split with Rhinebeck where she is a Justice Clerk also.)

4. Approve Appraiser for Tax Cert – Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves hiring Hudson Valley Appraisal Corporation for an appraisal on the property of Ragsdale at the rates listed and authorizes, empowers and directs the Town Supervisor to sign the agreement. All aye. Motion carried.

5. Approve Agreement to Spend Highway funds, the 284 Agreement – Auspitz

MM Councilwoman Auspitz, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 8 of 2025 the Agreement to Spend Highway funds.** All aye. Motion carried.

6. . Discuss Cell Service in Clinton – Dykas

Councilman Dykas said that cell phone service is nonexistent, he worked in communications and disaster recovery and we are vulnerable to a disaster with the inability to communicate. He will contact the state and federal elected officials to help us with this lack of service. Eliot Werner said we have had cell towers come before the PB and they eventually chose to move on to build in other Towns. Mike Whitton agreed that lack of service is a safety issue. We also have the option to have our own cell tower on campus.

7. Approve Dog Housing Agreement for 2025 – Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the 2025 Dog Housing Agreement between the Town of Clinton and HUDSON VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, and authorizes, empowers and directs the Town Supervisor to sign the agreement. All aye. Motion carried.

8. Approve Animal Control Agreement for 2025 – Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the 2025 Animal Control Shared Services Agreement, and authorizes, empowers and directs the Town Supervisor to sign the agreement. Supervisor Whitton said the Animal Control Officer only works 9-5 weekdays, we are entering into the agreement for this year, we may do an agreement with someone else to cover other times. Next year, we will choose the best option. Katherine Mustello alluded to a discussion about the animal control officer housing dogs at her home in a kennel that the Town buys. Supervisor Whitton said is too expensive to fund the kennel at this time. All aye. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

1. Resignations and appointments – Werner

APPOINTMENTS:

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello o approve the appointment of Connor Burns as pt seasonal winter employee “Wingman” at \$16.80 per hour as needed effective January 1, 2025. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the appointment of Brian Dingee as Winter employee- highway at \$16.80 per hour for 32 hours per week from January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the appointment of Steve Giannone as HMEO effective December 16, 2024 at a rate of pay as per CSEA contract for Year 2024 of \$25.73 per hour with \$1.00 less per hour for 6 months or 1000 hours, and in Year 2025 at a rate of pay of \$26.57 per hour with \$1.00 less per hour for the remaining 6 months or 1000 hours plus full medical, eye, and dental coverage with an employee contribution of 15%, and paid leave benefits as per the CSEA contract. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz to approve the appointment of Grace Folmsbee as an unpaid intern to the MCEI for 6 months until July 14, 2025 renewable at that time. Katherine Mustello said Jeff Newman is the only person supervising Grace and Grace will work when Jeff works. All aye. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Warrants

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

January General Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 1 through 30 totaling \$ 33,848.34

and the

January Highway Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 1 through 27 totaling \$ 70,538.73

All aye. Motion carried.

3. Motion to Move Funds – Whitton/Werner

NONE

4. Supervisor's Report - Whitton

The December 2024 Supervisor's Report will be approved when the Annual Financial Report is complete.

OTHER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk