

This is the regular meeting of the Clinton Town Board held on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Whitton, Councilmen Eliot Werner, Dean Michael and Katherine Mustello. Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin was also present. Chris Juliano was absent. There were six people in the audience.

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

PRESENTATION – To Arthur Weiland, for his 23 years of volunteer service to the Town on the ZBA as a member.

Comments from ZBA member Ron Mustello, given by Katherine Mustello, on his detail and insight to the law. Dean Michael expressed his appreciation for Art's dedication and attention to detail and served as an example when he served on the ZBA 16 years ago. Norma Dolan sent her comments, read by Dean Michael: he brought insight and knowledge to the Board. Eliot Werner was introduced to Arthur when Arthur voted "no" for a variance that Eliot has submitted to the Board as a homeowner; he will be missed and appreciates his service. Russ Tompkins, who joined the ZBA a year ago, said Art is a valuable member of the ZBA, we are losing a tremendous asset. John Calogero expressed Art's attention to detail; he will be missed along with the sense of history he brings, his experience and the balance he brings to the Board. Supervisor Whitton said last month the Board accepted the resignation of Arthur Weiland from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Arthur was first appointed to the ZBA on March 9th, 1999 and has served for over 23 years. In addition to that, Arthur worked with the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and spent many evenings at public workshops of the Zoning Revision Committee. He spent 4 years serving as a commissioner to the East Clinton Fire District. Arthur has also been a strong advocate for maintaining the Clinton Historical Society cemetery. On a personal note, Art has invited Michael into his home to discuss important town issues and has provided him with valuable advice over the last several years. His dedication to the Town of Clinton should serve as an inspiration to those looking to volunteer their time in meaningful ways. The Town of Clinton gives a heartfelt thank you to Arthur for so many years of service. Supervisor Whitton presented a plaque to appreciate his service.

Arthur commented that others led him along and helped him learn; it was a great learning experience, recommends getting involved in the town boards. Thanked all for the kind words.

PRESENTATION – Teresa Stegner, Assessor

Supervisor Whitton said Teresa Stegner has been tirelessly working to keep our town at the 100% equalization rate for assessments. The recent spike in real estate activity has presented a challenge and required a near total reassessment of the community. Many residents have received letters this week informing them of their new assessed value. We have received emails and phone calls about this, so the Town Board invited Teresa to speak to the community tonight to help explain the role of assessments in determining an individual's property taxes, along with other factors, such as the tax cap and tax rate. Next month Supervisor Whitton plans to introduce an amendment to the Town Code which will increase the income threshold for our senior citizen exemption. This should provide some property tax relief to our seniors for 2023.

Teresa Stegner, Assessor: To maintain equity is to reassess on a regular basis. Explained how she approaches reassessments: the town is broken up by property class, school district,

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neighborhood and building style, within that there are four property classes. Utilities' assessments are done by the state. Other properties saw an average 19.3 percent increase in the town, last year was just under 8 percent increase. She explained the method she used to determine assessment increases, spending a lot of time researching the markets, and comparables to do a mass appraisal. Each property has an analysis, which will value most properties well. Asked the board to do an rfp for a full reassessment by an outside vendor for better data; the better the data, the better the value. She noted that Zillow is a good website for checking your home's value. She spoke to certain recent sales in Town and can't believe the high prices they are selling for. To maintain 100 percent assessment she has to keep up with these numbers. Exemptions were proportionally changed as well.

Eliot Werner – how do reassessments affect school taxes? Teresa – we share the school with other Towns and our make-up is similar to most of the other small towns around us. But the Hyde Park school district causes a real difference because Hyde Park has such a different make-up, with commercial properties and different home styles. She analyzed the tax rates and Hyde Park School district will have a 2.86 percent levy increase. If your assessment increase is above 14.5 percent, you will see an increase in your Hyde Park School taxes, the most significant of the other school districts we share.

Dean Michael - said in terms of managing assessments, there are several ways to approach it: we can do nothing, a full reassessment or do what Teresa is doing this year, the data collection. Dean asked of Teresa, what if we do nothing? We can do nothing but Teresa chose to increase assessments this year because of all the data she had on file, it made sense and then we maintain our 100 percent rate. May 25: grievance day, file a grievance if you want to challenge your assessments. Teresa added that there is no mandated periodic review of assessments by the State and it's a problem because it creates inequity in assessed values. Next month Supervisor Whitton will introduce a local law to increase the threshold to the senior citizen exemption.

Lynne Micili - asked about the medical exemption to the senior citizen exemption. Teresa explained it and said the Board can choose to include that in the senior citizen exemption.

APPROVE MINUTES

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Town Board special meeting. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Public Hearing. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Town Board meeting. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 Highway Heating bid opening. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

NONE

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS

- The Clinton Town Offices, Highway Department, Justice Court Office, and Court will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 30. The Clinton Community Library will also be closed.

- The Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force is hosting a Green Fair this Saturday at Fran Mark Park, from 11am to 3pm. The Task Force has spent the past year tackling the global climate crisis by promoting and supporting local actions that make a difference. An important aspect of this work is educating the general public about the impacts of climate change. We are hoping this Green Fair will show people what they can do in their own lives to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy generation, and preserve our natural environment. Reducing and reversing the impacts of climate change requires an all-hands-on deck effort, and we are working locally to do our part.

- The New York State burn ban remains in effect for 4 more days through May 14. Open burning is the single greatest cause of wildfires in NYS. Since the spring burn ban was implemented in 2009, the number of wildfires has decreased by more than 40%.

- Many people are aware of the drastic increase in electricity supply rates over the last few months. Most of the residents of Clinton have been protected from these high rates due to the towns participation in a Community Choice Aggregation program. Our rate in that program is 6.5 cents/kWh, as compared to the current Central Hudson rate of 13.6 cents/kWh. The third-party supplier in the CCA program is Columbia Utilities. Recently, Columbia Utilities has expressed the position that Central Hudson’s billing system failures qualify as a Force Majeure per the CCA Electricity Supply Agreement, and has indicated their right to terminate as a result. This would force about 25,000 customers to revert to Central Hudson’s supply rate, effectively doubling our rates. Joule Assets, our CCA administrator, along with all of the municipalities involved have sent a letter to the Attorney General and the Public Service Commission, asking for injunctive relief, and forcing Columbia Utilities to live up to the agreement they have made. If we do not receive assurance from the PSC that the residents will not be returned to the utility, we will draft a letter to be sent to residents and informing them of Columbia's decision. Right now, we are just awaiting a decision by the PSC. I will do my best to keep the community updated as this situation progresses.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS: Town Board reports are posted on the web:

Townofclinton.com, including: 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)

Eliot Werner – Planning Board had one STR; Cornerstone was removed from the agenda. ZBA met; regarding the cemeteries, met with Melissa and Todd and talked about maintenance and developed a schedule. Getting a lot of favorable comments on the condition of the cemeteries.

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Dean Michel said he brought the following issue up last year, there is a cemetery plot on Browning Road, stones are gone but bodies are there, it is on private property. Suggests we care for that also. There is also a family burial ground on SPT, perhaps we can put a marker there and care for it. Arthur has information on other small plots in Town. Zoning Revision is ongoing, working on definitions; in the final stretch.

Catherine Mustello– Library looking for Trustees, book sale is May 19 – 22.

Mike Whitton for Chris Juliano, who is absent – Camp is open for registration, the Rec hike is this Saturday, we need lifeguards and camp counselors. The Music in the Park series is July 7, 14 and August 12, music and food trucks.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Library lease update – Whitton

Supervisor Whitton: At the last Town Board meeting I made a motion to accept the final ten-year extension of the library lease. After much discussion, we left the motion on the table, allowing Councilpersons Mustello and Juliano to confer with the Town Attorney. To refresh everyone’s memory, the motion on the table read as follows.

MM Supervisor, 2nd Councilperson Werner to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the extension agreement between the Town of Clinton and the Clinton Community Library for a ten-year period beginning May 14, 2020 and ending May 13 2030. In discussion, Supervisor Whitton explained that the motion was left on the table so the Board members could follow up with the Town Attorney. Katherine Mustello spoke to Town Attorney and feels we must have a vote to continue the lease. A lot has happened in the time since last month where many other considerations have been presented to her but she wants to vote with common sense; she feels the Library should pay for utilities; the stalemate needs to end and we need to compromise, but doubts that will happen. Supervisor Whitton called for a vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE: WHITTON: AYE; WERNER: AYE; MUSTELLO: NAY; MICHAEL: NAY; JULIANO: ABSENT. **MOTION FAILS.**

2. ARPA update – Juliano/Whitton

Michael Whitton presented an updated ARPA project list showing the most recent expenses. The park will get extenders so the wifi can expand beyond the pavilion. The updated project list is attached.

3. Approve highway heating bid – Michael/Mustello

MM Councilman Michael, 2nd Councilman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **the contract with Stants Capital Combustion at a cost not to exceed \$69,691.00 to furnish the materials and services for the highway garage heating replacement project** and authorizes, empowers and directs the Town Supervisor to sign the contract. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

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4. Approve revised motion for bidding for Library Ramp project with DASNY funds – Whitton

We need to revise the resolution to extend the bid return date to **July 5, 2022 at 10 am.**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve amending the April 20, 2022 resolution for the bid for the Library ramp using BidNet extending the deadline; the **sealed bids will be received by July 5, 2022 at 10 AM** by Town Clerk Carol Mackin, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 and opened as soon thereafter. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

5. Approve rebidding Masonic hall painting project – Whitton

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board rescind the April 20, 2022 motion to approve the contract with Robert Hollingsworth for the painting of the Masonic Hall at a cost not to exceed \$48,640 due to the vendor lacking the proper insurance certificates. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **rebidding for painting of the Masonic Hall through Bid Net, the sealed bids will be received by Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 10 AM** by Town Clerk Carol Mackin, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 and opened as soon thereafter. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

6. Approve rebidding culvert pipes – Michael/Mustello

The original supplier can not supply the culvert pipes, so we have to rebid.

MM Councilman Mustello, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **rebidding for culvert pipes through Bid Net, the sealed bids will be received by Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 10 AM** by Town Clerk Carol Mackin, 1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 and opened as soon thereafter. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

7. Approve special meeting to award culvert pipe bid – Michael/Mustello

MM Councilman Michael, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve a **special meeting be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 in the Clinton Town Hall at 6:30 PM** for the purpose of awarding the bid for culvert pipes, and to discuss any other business that may come before the Board. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Proclaiming May: Mental Health Awareness Month – Whitton

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Town of Clinton is teaming up with the National Alliance on Mental Illness. When you are visiting the Town campus you may notice large ribbons promoting the campaign to eliminate the stigma of discrimination and prejudice surrounding mental health conditions. We are all wearing these green ribbons tonight in support of that message.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve Proclaiming The Month of May in the Town of Clinton **Mental Health Awareness Month and authorizes the display of ribbons on Town Hall property supporting the education and advocacy of mental health awareness.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

2. Approve World Knitting Day Event on June 11th – Mustello

MM Councilwoman Mustello, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the Recreation Committee-sponsored World Knitting Day event, hosted by Councilwoman Mustello on June 11, 2022 from 11 am – 3 pm in the Clinton Town Hall. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

3. Approve contract with Mia Tomik, Yoga Instructor for June 11th – Mustello

MM Councilwoman Mustello, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve the contract with Mia Tomik for yoga instruction at the June 11, 2022 World Knitting Day event at a cost not to exceed \$40.00 and authorizes, empowers and directs the Town Supervisor to sign the contract. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

4. Approve Bike NY using Town complex as rest stop June 26, 2022 – Whitton

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve permission to Bike NY to use the Town Complex as a rest stop for the June 26, 2022 Bike NY event. In discussion, Supervisor Whitton said The certificate of insurance is on file; they place port o pottys on site and remove them the following day and have a table with water for the riders. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

5. Approve 284 Agreement – Michael/Mustello

MM Councilman Michael, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 24 of 2022, the 284 Agreement.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

6. Approve Bidding CDBG projects at Friends Park – (2 motions) – Whitton

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board approve going to bid through Bid Net for the purchase and installation of fencing around the ball field at Friends Park using CDBG funds

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upon the receipt of Bid documents from The Town Engineer. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve going to bid through Bid Net for the construction of ADA-compliant bathrooms and paved walkway at Friends Park using CDBG funds upon the receipt of Bid documents from The Town Engineer. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

1. Resignations and appointments

Resignations:

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board accepts the resignation of **Michael Galantich** from the Planning Board effective May 10, 2022. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

Appointments:

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the appointment of Lisa Lambert as **Cleaner** effective May 11, 2022 at an annual salary of \$8550 for 6 hours per week on campus and an additional two hours per week at Fran Mark Rec Park from May 28 – September 13, 2022. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried. 6000 savings

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves **a leave of absence for Samantha Campbell** as Clerk from May 27 – September 7, 2022. In discussion, Samantha will be our Aquatics Director during that timeframe. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the appointment of **Samantha Campbell as Substitute Clerk** at \$15.30/hr for a maximum of 4 hours/week from May 27 – June 24, 2022. In discussion, DC HR agreed to this substitute position because Samantha is only working weekends as a lifeguard during that timeframe. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the appointment of **Samantha Campbell as Aquatics Director** from May 28 – September 7, 2022 at \$16.38/hour for a maximum of 470 hours. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the appointment of **Brandon Campbell as Lifeguard** from May 28 – September 7, 2022 at \$15.30/hour. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

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MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the appointment of **Noah Bancroft, Lyndsey Tiedemann, Madeline Marchant and Jared Nolan as Recreation Assistants (Gate guards)** from May 28 – September 7, 2022 at \$13.00/hour each. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the following resolution: **Resolution No. 25 of 2022 Community Day Committee members**, effective April 26, 2022. All aye Motion carried.

Eliot Werner asked for clarification on Samantha' s positions; Town Clerk Mackin explained her positions.

2. Approval of Warrants get numbers

MM Councilman Michael, 2nd Werner approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the May General Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 128 through 180 totaling \$ 67,157.69 and the May Highway Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 96 through 124, totaling \$81,949.46, and the May Capital Project warrant, number 3, totaling \$3455.59. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

3. Motion to Move Funds – Whitton

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 26 of 2022 a motion to move funds at the May 10, 2022 Town Board meeting**. Supervisor Whitton is amending the budgeted totals for Chips/Pave/EWR to match the actual revenue for this year. I am also amending the budgeted expenses for those lines in order to make sure we are matching up expenses and revenues in our budget. This was something that turned into a problem at the end of last year. The same problem was built into this year's budget. Dean Michael said all town highways are struggling with paving projects due to cost of paving. Todd is working to figure out how to best take care of paving in town. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Report

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the Final Supervisor's Reports for January, February, March and April, 2022. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION


None

ADJOURNMENT

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael that the Town Board adjourns the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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

Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk