

November 12, 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 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 to approve the following sets of minutes:

October 8, 2024 PH Tax Cap override

October 8, 2024 PH STRs

October 8, 2024 PH Ruskey Lane

October 8, 2024 Regular Town Board meeting

October 23, 2024 Special Meeting Preliminary Budget

November 6, 2024 PH Budget

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.

Todd Martin – Disagrees with the Supervisor’s comments with the preliminary budget concerning the Secretary to the Highway Superintendent. He commented if you go back in 2020 the rate was \$18 an hour for 18 hours a week, in 2021 it was \$18.36 an hour for 22 hours a week in 2022 it was \$21 an hour for 32 hours per week, in 2023, it was \$21.63 an hour for the same 32 hours and for 2024, the rate is \$22.33 an hour for 32 hours stating the Supervisor’s comments that were made are not true.

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 read by Deputy Werner

-Offices closed for Thanksgiving.

-Annual Tree and Menorah lighting is Dec 6th at 4:30 pm here at Town Hall

- Workshop on Nov. 19th at Creek Meeting House to provide the public information on the restoration of the building. The town is spending no money on this workshop a workshop was called as the five Board members will attend.

Deputy Supervisor Comments

-A small committee has been convened to review the conference center law. We will consider holding a workshop in the future for feedback before we present something to the town board.

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 – Clinton residents are always invited to visit the CAC and CSC website for updated information. clintoncac.com. A group is working on enshrining the NRI maps into our zoning law.
- Planning Board –report posted on the web; on file in the Town Clerk’s office.
- ZBA – report posted on the web; on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Regarding the Town Board workshop at the Historical Society. The Town Supervisor chose to schedule a TB workshop at the Creek Meeting House, in the event of anyone commenting on a quorum being present at the meeting, the Town Attorney feels it is not an issue. The Town Board has no say in Historical Society, we are spending no funds, she wishes Supervisor Whitton had spoken to other Board members about this before calling the meeting. Hopes it does not affect the Historical Society negatively.

Councilwoman Auspitz –

- Highway - report posted on the web; on file in the Town Clerk’s office. Offers condolences to Foreman Chris Burns on the passing of his father, Stuart Burns.
- Library – report posted on the web; on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Deputy Supervisor Werner –

- Building Inspector - report posted on the web; on file in the Town Clerk’s office.
- MCEI – report posted on the web; on file in the Town Clerk’s office.
- Recreation Committee – discussed the activities of the Rec Committee, next meeting is November 25. The gate is closed at Fran Mark and bathrooms winterized; painting is done.
- CSC - We achieved Bronze certification with a \$10,000 grant to study highway garage heating. Discussed applying for a grant on composting, we will table that for a later time, working on a municipal climate action plan with the Regional Council. Mike Whitton said we were approved for the \$10,000 grant.

Councilman Dykas-

- Hometown Heroes – Got notification of the \$8000 grant. Did a mailing to about 125 veterans, to date we have 17 that will kick off the program. The banners are here and ready, we are preparing the scheduling in the coming days starting with Ray Oberly. Thanked Cathy and the Town Clerk for their work.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adopt 2025 Budget – Whitton

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board **approves Resolution No. 40 of 2024, titled: A Resolution Adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025. (as amended)**. In discussion, Mike Whitton discussed the changes made as noted:

Changes Made:

- D5110.131 and D5110.132 The increase from last year was more than 3.25% accidentally. It has been corrected in the final version.
- The New Clerk was cut in the building department after several conversations (A8020.120).
- The Groundkeepers can do up to 30 hrs/wk. They were changed to \$18.67 at 30 hrs/wk, adding \$9 to the total.

THE ABOVE CHANGES LEAVE US \$1,909 OVER THE CAP, so he suggests the following:

- Changing the substitute clerk in my office will put us \$913 under the tax cap.
- Cutting one computer in A1620.2 will put us \$291 under the tax cap.
- These two changes together will put us \$1204 under the tax cap.
- Judy Malstrom asked for \$2,500 to be added to a new Zero Waste budget line. It is unclear to me how this money will be spent. I have heard from a couple of board members. The consensus seems to be that this budget line may be added, but at less money.
- Library funding was voted to increase to \$154,800.

Councilwoman Auspitz emailed Judy Malstrom with no response as to what the money will be used for. Katherine Mustello is ok allocating some money, but not now as they have no information. We should leave it at zero for now. Eliot Werner suggests adding the three hours back to the sub clerk. The help is need in the Planning and Zoning dept. Katherine is in favor of adding 3 hours to the sub clerk and we will still be under the tax cap. The tax rate will go down from \$1.74 to \$1.72 per \$1000 of assessed value.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MUSTELLO: aye
DYKAS: aye
WHITTON: aye
WERNER: aye
AUSPITZ: aye
Motion carried.

Supervisor Whitton thanked the board and the public.

2. Discuss LL XX STR Amendment – Werner

Eliot Werner will follow up on the items discussed in the PH.

3. Discuss Ruskey Lane property – Whitton

The PH remains open, they applied for permits and they are good for a year.

4. Approve bid for Solar Panels – Whitton

MM Deputy Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves awarding the bid for solar panels using ARPA funds to **Hudson River Solar at the recommendation of the Town Engineer at a gross system price not to exceed \$53,468.** Mike Whitton said we are spending about 27,000 on electric. Over the next ten years it is predicted this will save us 117,000 dollars, representing 44% of our electric spending. The total Cost is about 35,000 with all incentives received. Councilwoman Mustello asked about the warranty. And they will service the system. No storage battery included. All aye. Motion carried.

5. ARPA Update – Whitton

See attached update. We have about \$45,000 left. The Board members discussed what projects to consider. There has been discussion about EV chargers, but Mike is concerned about how often they would be used. Katherine wants to investigate finding a vendor who will install and maintain the charger, but we allow it on our property. Our electrical panels are not sufficient to power the EV charger and would need an upgrade.

Marion Auspitz is getting bids on the Town Hall wood floor maintenance.

Mike Whitton asked for playground equipment cost, he wants some for Friends Park. If we put it here at Town Hall, it requires maintenance and mulch, which is more money. We need to commit the ARPA money by the end of December 2024 and spend it by the end of next year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve date change for December meeting – Whitton

MM Deputy Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves changing the date of the regular December Town Board meeting to December 9, 2024 to the Monday before the regular meeting night. All aye. Motion carried.

2. Approve going to bid for highway materials – Auspitz

MM Councilwoman Auspitz, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the following resolution: the Town Board authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for sealed bids for highway materials; the sealed bids are due by 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 and awarded at the regular Town Board meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024 to the lowest responsible bidders whose bid has been filed in conformity with this notice. All aye. Motion carried.

3. Approve purchase of used highway truck and accessories – Auspitz (Two motions)

MM Councilwoman Auspitz, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the purchase of a used 2020 International Dump Truck model CV with plow attachment from Ruge's at a cost not to exceed \$59,197.50. Todd and Mike talked, there is money in the highway budget so we are pooling the money from several lines to buy the truck, All aye. Motion carried.

MM Councilwoman Auspitz, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the purchase of the following accessories for the used 2020 International Dump Truck: A sander from Bonesteel at a cost not to exceed \$13,000, and lights and radio from NYCOMCO at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. (The total cost for truck and accessories not to exceed: \$80,000.) All aye. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

Katherine Mustello – on the CSC plaque for Bronze status, she suggests hanging it at the entrance to the Nature Trail.

1. Resignations and appointments – Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz to accept the resignation of Roberta Grant as Groundskeeper effective October 18, 2024. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz to approve the appointment of Chris Burns as Working Supervisor in Highway effective October 7, 2024 **at a rate of pay as per CSEA Contract of \$30.05 per hour with the continued full medical, eye and dental benefit coverages with an employee contribution of 15%, and paid leave benefits as per the CSEA Contract. 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:

November General Fund Warrant, Vouchers Numbered Vouchers Numbered 555 through 614 , Totaling \$217,019.56

and the

November Highway Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered Vouchers numbered 260 through 292, Totaling \$392,732.01. All aye. Motion carried.

And the

November Capital Project Fund Warrant Voucher Numbered 1, Totaling \$948.59.

All aye. Motion carried.

3. Motion to Move Funds –Werner

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Supervisor Whitton that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 41 of 2024 a motion to move funds.** All aye. Motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Report - Whitton

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MM Deputy Werner 2nd Councilman Mustello to open the floor to public discussion. All aye. Motion carried.

Cynthia Koch – president CHS – concerning the Workshop on Nov. 19th, she tried to make sure the Town Board was aware of the plans well before the meeting. She read a prepared statement. She is here to invite everyone in Clinton to attend a special workshop on the restoration of the 1777 Creek Meeting House, it will be held next Tuesday November 19th at 6: p.m. at the Creek Meeting House. This is a Town Board Workshop jointly sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the Clinton Historical Society. The workshop is purely informational no funds are being requested from the town. It is Clinton's oldest public building it is on the national register of historic places. The plan is to restore the interior to its historic appearance, install modern HVAC and improve its Energy Efficiency, make structural repairs, and put it in compliance with modern building codes. We want to make sure that it continues to serve our community as a meeting place as it has for nearly 250 years when complete it will be available to the people of Clinton as a community center available for meetings exhibits performances and social Gatherings as well as the programs of the Historical Society.

Arlene Campbell – Questioned the penalties on the STR law. She said we have to adjust the fee schedule to reflect the fines and try to make sure the public is aware of them.

Arlene Campbell – STR update, asked about imposing the penalties and charges. Jeff Newman said it has to go to court to impose fines.

Jeff Newman, – the law mentions a septic system needs to be inspected every two years.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carol-Jean Mackin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Mackin" clearly distinguishable.

Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk