

2023 Reorganization Meeting
January 3, 2023

Schultzville, NY

The Town of Clinton Reorganization Meeting was held on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Michael Whitton and Councilpersons Eliot Werner, Katherine Mustello, and Dean Michael. Chris Juliano was absent. Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin was also present. There was one person in the audience.

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

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Good evening and Happy New Year! As we enter 2023, I would like to take the time to reflect on what we have accomplished, together, as a community. First, I'd like to thank our amazing team of department heads, employees, and elected officials for all that they do to serve the residents of Clinton. I continue to have the utmost appreciation for all of those that are serving in our local government. That said, it is our residents that make it all worthwhile, supporting our programs, parks, and services.

This year, we successfully reconstituted the Clinton recreation committee, and saw what we can accomplish with a dedicated and selfless group of citizen volunteers. They organized a series of clubs for residents to enjoy, including the knitting, hiking, skiing, and card clubs. There were dog obedience classes and rabies clinics. Clinton rec successfully brought music and movie nights to Fran Mark Park, along with a basketball clinic for children. At the same time, new and continuing sources of revenue are being utilized, from renting out the soccer field at Fran Mark park on a regular basis, continuing to run a summer camp, and renting the pavilion all summer long. All of these exciting recreation developments will continue in 2023, with new programs being introduced as we move forward. We can start by announcing our Annual Bonfire, taking place this Saturday at 5:30pm at Fran Mark Park.

Last year we saw the return of Clinton Community Day for the first time in 16 years. It was a wonderful event, organized by a large group of volunteers from the community and led by Todd Martin. Community Day was paid for with 100% donated funds from the community. We had food and craft vendors, demonstrations by law enforcement and the East and West Clinton volunteer fire departments. There was live music, a parade, and a fireworks display to finish off the day. We look forward to constituting a larger committee this year and keeping this event going for many years into the future.

In 2022, we had the opportunity to make improvements to town facilities and services using grant money from various sources. We added and replaced the AED's on the town campus and at town parks. The old and inefficient heating system in the highway garage was replaced. At Friends Park, the baseball fence was completely replaced after many years, and the bathroom was updated to be

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ADA compliant, along with a new ADA path to the pavilion. Grant money was used to install internet service at Friends Park, along with the new concession stand. With an eye toward improving services for our residents and making operations more efficient, Carol Mackin has been busy updating and organizing a new records room using ARPA funding.

The Town Board, with the detective skills of Eliot Werner and Cathy Gallinger, has been returning long dormant escrow funds to residents. When someone needs to appear before the Planning Board or ZBA for approval of a project, many times they must deposit money into an escrow account to pay for legal and engineering services. It is the responsibility of the resident to request their money back at the conclusion of their project. Unfortunately, many times, the money is not requested, and it remains in the escrow account. Sometimes for years. Eliot and Cathy have been methodically going through those accounting records, finding people that have money in the escrow account, and returning it to them. Many times, the money has been held for over a decade. We have returned almost \$9000 to residents since August, and will continue to make sure that our residents get their money returned to them.

This past year has seen great progress in two long running projects. First, we are a couple of meetings away from finishing the review of the Zoning Revision Committees work, which was started over a decade ago. The next step is to have it reviewed by Dutchess County and our attorney, and we should be able pass the new revisions into law by the end of 2023.

The second project is our pursuit of becoming a certified Climate Smart Community at the Bronze level. Our new Climate Smart Task Force has proven to be a powerhouse of ideas and energy. They hosted the first ever Clinton Green Fair over the summer, with varied presenters and vendors and a large turnout. The Task Force is nearing the completion of a road stream crossing inventory that will be the blueprint for our highway department to replace aging infrastructure. This report will be key to applying for grant money to accomplish those upgrades. The Task Force is also close to finishing a Government Operations GHG inventory, a Climate Action Plan for the community, and a Natural Resources Inventory. All of these are very large projects, requiring many hours of volunteer time and energy. I am so impressed with the efforts of the Climate Smart committee.

This year also saw the negotiation of a new 3 year agreement with the CSEA highway employees union. This contract was completed before the expiration of the previous contract for the first time in memory, and is a testament to the hard work of this Town Board and the representatives of the Highway Department. Obviously, it was not all successes throughout the year. We began 2022 in the midst of a spike in COVID cases, resulting in a short closure of our town offices to the public. Yet our admirable staff kept providing services throughout the closure. The spring brought about high inflation, making for some tough

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decisions to stay within budget, and tougher decisions in crafting the 2023 budget. The town successfully defended itself in a long running lawsuit, but the financial costs were significant. In the end, with careful financial management, we are ending the year with a surplus that can be put towards future projects and a continuing effort to keep town property taxes low.

So we turn to 2023 on solid fiscal ground and a plan to continue improving our services to the residents of Clinton. Over the next several months, we will begin the long overdue project of repainting the Masonic Hall, protecting this important historic building for future residents to enjoy.

Over the summer, we hope to finally begin the installation of a ramp and automatic ADA compliant doors on the front of the library building. This project has been in the works since 2018.

In the next couple of months, we plan to start scanning thousands of documents and records into a cloud based permanent storage system, making the operations of the town clerk, building and zoning departments more efficient than they already are. In the end, this project will speed up operations, and save money in the long run.

In the coming months, the Town Board will pass an increased senior citizen property tax exemption, helping those on fixed incomes remain in their homes. Finally, we will begin to allocate our substantial fund balances into reserve funds. We need to demonstrate to our residents that we are not interested in collecting excess tax dollars without a plan to use them. A rainy day fund is necessary for healthy operations, but an excessive rainy day fund is irresponsible. We need to demonstrate to our taxpayers that their money is being managed responsibly. It has been a busy year, with a great many successes for our small and close knit community. There will always be challenges, but I am 100% confident that when we continue to work together, focusing on the needs of our community, we will meet and overcome those challenges.

BUSINESS

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the record reflects that legal public notice was advertised to inform all about this Organization Meeting and written notice was made to all Councilpersons. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael that pursuant to Town Law Section 63, all prior adopted rules for meetings of the Town Board be adopted. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves that all undertakings for elected officials, appointed officials, and Town employees, where required, as indicated in the Town of Clinton Insurance Outline,

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be made part of the record of these minutes, and that the bonds and insurance provided therein be approved as to amount, form, and sufficiency and filed with the County Clerk by the Town Clerk. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to appoint a Deputy Supervisor and in the absence of the Supervisor, the Deputy Supervisor be authorized to sign checks and perform other business as required. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

Supervisor Whitton appoints Councilman Eliot Werner as Deputy Supervisor with term of office from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Town Clerk Carol Mackin reappoints Mary Molloy Deputy Town Clerk / Deputy Vital Statistics Registrar with a term of office from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Supervisor Whitton appoints the following **liaisons** for a term of office of January 1 to December 31, 2023:

Councilman Werner:

Planning Board
ZBA
SHRAC
Cemeteries
Review General Fund and Capital Fund warrant

Councilman Michael:

CSEA
Altice
Highway
Zoning Revision
Tax Certiorari cases
Review Highway warrant

Councilman Juliano:

Recreation
Building Inspector
Zoning Administrator
Recycling
Building Maintenance (as needed)
Review General Fund and Capital fund warrant

Councilwoman Mustello:

Highway
Library
CAC
WIC
Review Highway warrant

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Supervisor Whitton:

HR

Personnel

All Insurance Matters

CSEA Contract Negotiations

Powerlines

DC Transportation Council

Northern Dutchess Alliance

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 1 of 2023, a resolution to make annual appointments to establish town positions and their rates of pay.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 2 of 2023, a resolution to appoint consulting professionals.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 3 of 2023, a resolution to designate regular meeting nights for all Boards and Committees.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 4 of 2023, a resolution to designate official media.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution on No. 5 of 2023, a resolution to designate official Banks of Deposit for Town Funds.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 6 of 2023, a resolution to make appointments to Town Boards and Committees.** All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the payment of contracts, electric, telephone, postage, insurances, cable modem service, bond and bond interest payments, wages, Town's credit cards, and copier rental fees upon receiving their billings. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes in advance the payments for seminars, conferences, and other meetings are paid at the time of registration after prior approval of the Town Board. All aye except

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Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves Town Supervisor, Town Board members, Town Justices, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Town Highway Superintendent, Tax Collector, Assessor, Assessor Clerk, Building Inspector, Fire Inspector, Zoning Administrator, and Justice Court Clerks be reimbursed for meals at their Dutchess County Association meetings up to \$35.00, or actual cost, whichever is less. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Werner to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves establishing a biweekly payroll for all Town employees, including Highway employees and elected officials with the first payday on Friday January 6, 2023. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael that Town personnel shall be paid \$0.655 per mile when on official Town business with their personal vehicle. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilperson Michael that the Town Board adjourns the meeting. All aye except Councilman Juliano who was absent. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk