

**Clifton Park Town Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2005**

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m. in order to hear comments on the 2005 Preliminary Budget, Supervisor Barrett presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Present: Councilman Paolucci
Councilman Speckhard
Councilman Roth
Councilwoman Walowit
Supervisor Barrett
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Also Present: Michael Shahan, Town Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING, 7:00 PM TO CONSIDER THE 2006 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing as it appeared in the Daily Gazette on October 27, 2005.

Supervisor Barrett reported the town is doing well fiscally but the community does have needs. He said it may be appropriate to take \$400,000 out of the 2006 Clifton Common Equipment line and use the county surplus money. He noted the arena has made over \$300,000 over three years and all monies come back to the arena. The rainy day fund is at \$30,000. The Supervisor stated the arena locker rooms are unsavory and the town needs to provide a good product for the money people are paying.

Additions to the 2006 budget include an armed guard at the Justice Court due to increased level of activity and offenses; Open Space Coordinator to fill a vacancy that will be upgraded – this individual will work with major landowners and provide support in that area; \$2000 for the Literacy Volunteer Program; and, due to a growing workload, an additional Deputy Town Attorney – handling CK Sanitary legal work, help with general research and special projects. The salary is \$10,000 with half paid from the Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1 and half from the general fund.

Councilman Roth spoke in support of monies for the arena locker rooms explaining two new locker rooms and improvements to the two existing locker rooms are proposed at a cost of \$229,000. He also noted there is funding for Riverfront projects in the budget.

Councilman Speckhard recommended including the Riverfront in the description for

Open Space Coordinator and that this individual act as a liaison between the Riverfront Committee and the Open Space Committee.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:25 p.m.

George Peterson, Chairman of the Rexford Water District Study Committee, thanked the Town Board and Messrs. Shahan and Heggen for the handling of the Rexford Water District budget.

Dave Miller, Co-chairman of the Open Space Committee, stated the Open Space Coordinator is a critical position as need and interest will grow. He said the Open Space Committee hopes to meet with the Riverfront Committee in the near future as there needs to be coordination between the two. He expressed support for the additional deputy town attorney. Speaking for the baseball league, Mr. Miller expressed support for the sprinkler system repair. He reported the baseball league has invested over a half million dollars in the past 3-4 years. He thanked the Board for their past support of the World Series and looks forward to their support this year.

Margaret Catellier, Royal Oak Drive, representing the Friends of Clifton Park Open Space, read a prepared statement. She said the statement was written before Friends of Clifton Park Open Space were aware the Open Space Coordinator was in the budget. She stated most of the concerns have been taken care of in the budget. She expressed appreciation for the Board's hard work and for establishing the Open Space Coordinator position. Ms. Catellier stated she agreed with the previous speaker.

Ann Franti, Principal of Orenda Elementary School, spoke in favor of funds for Literacy Volunteers, noting this is for adult learners and would partner with the Senior Center and Library. She said there are over 5000 volunteer hours in 2005 and related success stories.

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Lane, stated the budget looks good and the town is going in the right direction. He is interested in the surplus funds and how they are spent. Regarding Grooms Tavern, he said the town needs to start using the building to let taxpayers see the history, as well as to proceed with riverfront projects. Mr. Baisley said the contracts with the Sheriff and State Police are working well and urged the town to keep going in that direction. He asked if money expended for CK Sanitary has been paid back. Mr. Shahan responded yes.

MOTION by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Paolucci, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 8:57 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell
Town Clerk