

TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD

September 3, 2024

The meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Barrett presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Supervisor Barrett  
Councilman Morelli  
Councilwoman Reid  
Councilwoman Walowit  
Councilman Manir  
Town Clerk Brobston

Also Present: Town Attorney Pelagalli  
Mark Heggen, Comptroller  
Michael Woerner, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Dahn Bull, Highways Superintendent  
John Scavo, Director of Planning & Zoning  
Norah Hofer, Communications and Technology Coordinator

MINUTES

MOTION by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Morelli, to approve the Town Board minutes of August 19, 2024, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barrett announced the wrap-up of the concert series on the Clifton Common. Thank you to Starpoint Church for supporting the children's series each Wednesday by providing cotton candy and other concessions free of charge to the kids. Also, thank you to the Parks & Recreation and Buildings & Grounds Departments for their hard work with creating such a successful program. Next year's planning has already begun.

Supervisor Barrett announced Farm Fest celebration coming up September 14 & 15. Various activities over the two days to attend and take part in. Free to the public.

PRESENTATION- Winners "Searching for Big Foot" Scavenger Hunt

Supervisor Barrett explained a large wooden Big Foot in the summer and Yeti in the winter is placed throughout the parks in Town with clues for the scavenger hunting. Winners receive free ice cream certificates and a mug. Thank you to Stewarts Shops and Hayners Ice Cream and Country Store for the donation of ice cream gift certificates.

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Sue Parent  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Tanya Ambriz  
1<sup>st</sup> place – Lauren Gallitelli

PUBLIC HEARING- Amending Chapter 208-95 (E)(3)(j), related to construction of communications towers and structures 7:10 PM

Town Clerk Brobston read the public hearing notice that was advertised in the August 23, 2024 edition of the Daily Gazette.

No one wished to be heard.

Public Hearing closed at 7:13 PM

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 207 of 2024, a resolution authorizing the Highways Superintendent to install “Right to Farm” signs on Town Roadways.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, the Town of Clifton Park is proud of our farming community and the positive impact our farms have had on our Town for generations, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clifton Park has and should always work to support our farms, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board continues to build on the successful efforts of permanently preserving four working farms, offering tax incentives for large landowners, the annual Farm Fest and the newly established initiative and committee to develop a Farm Preservation Plan, and

WHEREAS, Town Councilwoman Agatha Reid has requested that “Right to Farm” signs be posted on Town of Clifton Park roads at various locations in the Town, and

WHEREAS, through Councilwoman Reid’s request, “Right to Farm” signs have been installed at the following intersections and locations: Grooms Road and Riverview Road, Hubbs Road and Schauber Road, and at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Town line on Ushers Road, and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Reid has identified additional locations for “Right To Farm” signs to be installed including: Hatlee Road at the Clifton Park/Ballston Town line; on Longkill Road where Longkill Road becomes Eastline Road at the Clifton Park/Malta Town line; on Route 146 at the Rexford Bridge; on Glenridge Road at the Clifton Park/Glenville Town line; and on Riverview Road at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Town line; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Highways Superintendent is authorized to post “Right To Farm” signs on Hatlee Road at the Clifton Park/Ballston Town line; on Longkill Road where Longkill Road becomes Eastline Road at the Clifton Park/Malta Town line; on Route 146 at the Rexford Bridge; on Glenridge Road at the Clifton Park/Glenville Town line; and on Riverview Road at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Town line.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Councilwoman Reid explained the signs are to bring awareness of the “Right to Farm” laws in the NYS and Town Codes and recognize our farmland community.

Resolution No. 208 of 2024, a resolution accepting the sponsorship/logo placement proposal from Capital Bank for the Clifton Park Ice Arena.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir.

WHEREAS, the Town published a Request for Proposal (RFP) for proposals to support the Clifton Park Ice Arena through a sponsorship/logo placement relationship for various periods of time depending on the logo placement location, and

WHEREAS, bids were due on Monday, July 29, 2024, and

WHEREAS, Capital Bank submitted the sole responsive proposal, in an amount of \$2,000 per year, to be paid to the Town for a three (3) year logo placement at the Clifton Park Ice Arena, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to accept the proposal from Capital Bank that is both compatible with Clifton Park’s positive image within the southern Saratoga County region and with the activities and facilities at the Ice Arena and Clifton Common to support and enhance these facilities, and to promote the business activities of Capital Bank in a mutually supportive environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to accept the proposal from Capital Bank, to support the Clifton Park Ice Arena through a Sponsorship/Logo Placement relationship, for a period of three (3) years, with a payment to the Town of \$2,000 per year, to be deposited in the Town’s general fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Supervisor Barrett explained there is no expense to the Town. Total sponsorship package is valued at \$6,000. Supervisor suggested since they were the only response to the RFP, and originally submitted for one of the areas outside of the center faceoff circle, that the company logo should be placed in the middle circle for aesthetic reasons.

Resolution No. 209 of 2024, a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Highways to hire Michael Gessler and Kevin Clark as Motor Equipment Operators (MEO) in the Highway Department.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Councilman Manir.

WHEREAS, openings exist in the Highway Department for MEO’s, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Highways, Dahn Bull, has recommended the hiring of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>License Type</u>	<u>Address</u>
Michael Gessler	Class A	Rexford, NY
Kevin Clark	Class B	Ballston Lake, NY

, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gessler has been working as summer help within the Department and has performed well working with vehicles, machinery and equipment, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark brings a year of experience in State Highway maintenance and has experience plowing and operating various pieces of equipment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the hirings of Michael Gessler and Kevin Clark, both as Motor Equipment Operators for the Highway Department, at Grade 5, Step 1, with a salary of \$56,571/year, at a rate of \$26.99/hr., effective at a start date no earlier than Wednesday, September 4, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer funds as detailed in the attached Schedule A.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 210 of 2024, a resolution reallocating funds within the Highway Budget.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, Dahn Bull, Superintendent of Highways, has requested a re-allocation of funds to provide for the purchase of parts and hand tools, as well as for tree line maintenance, and

WHEREAS, a warmer 2024 winter led to the reduction in salt use, making this budget line, DA-05142-138 (Highway – Snow Removal – Salt/Road), a good candidate for reallocation for the parts and hand tool purchases and tree line maintenance expenditures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the reallocation of \$44,000 based on the attached Schedule A.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 211 of 2024, a resolution authorizing the purchase of a 20-foot aluminum cargo trailer for use by the Highway Department.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Highways Dahn Bull, solicited quotes for the purchase of a 20-foot enclosed aluminum cargo trailer for general use by the Highway Department, for piping and catch basin jobs, and for tool storage, and

WHEREAS, quotes were received from five sources, and Anderson Boat submitted the lowest quote for the equipment, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bull has advised that the 2023 20-foot Lightning Trailer enclosed hauler will meet the needs of the Highway Department and is currently available from Anderson Boat, Burnt Hills, NY; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Highway Department is hereby authorized to purchase a 2023 Lightning Trailer enclosed aluminum hauler, model #LTFCH820TA2, in an amount not to exceed \$11,450, to be paid from DA-5130-219 (Highway – Machinery – Highway Truck).

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 212 of 2024, a resolution authorizing Burn Boot Camp of Clifton Park to use Town roadways for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5k charity road race on Sunday, September 15, 2024.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, Burn Boot Camp has requested the use of the Town of Clifton Park roadways as specified in the attachment hereto, for the purpose of holding a 5k charity road race on Sunday, September 15, 2024, from 10:00am until the last participant completes the course, and

WHEREAS, the event will raise awareness of Poland Syndrome, a disorder in which affected individuals are born with missing of underdeveloped muscles on one side of the body, resulting in abnormalities that can affect the chest, shoulder, arm and hand, as well as raise funds for the Shriners Children’s Hospital in Springfield, MA, and

WHEREAS, Burn Boot Camp of Clifton Park has presented an insurance certificate to the Town Clerks’ Office, and

WHEREAS, the event sponsors have coordinated with the Town Highways Superintendent for the safe use of Town roads; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Burn Boot Camp of Clifton Park to use Town roadways, as specified in the attachment hereto, on Sunday, September 15, 2024, at 10:00am, for the purpose of holding a 5k charity road race to benefit the Shriners Children’s Hospital in Springfield, MA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this approval is expressly conditioned upon the roads not being closed, but employees of Burn Boot Camp are permitted to temporarily stop traffic at each end of the course in the event both a vehicle and race participant arrive at the same time.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 213 of 2024, a resolution authorizing the Director of Planning & Zoning to execute a NYSERDA grant agreement with Electronic Signing Authority.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, the Town has received a NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) grant in the amount of \$ 77,900 for a qualified contractor to complete an energy audit that includes eligible NYSERDA energy upgrade measures recommended in a CEC Energy Study for 1 Town Hall Plaza, Clifton Park, NY, and

WHEREAS, the NYSERDA grant agreement utilizes a digital signature and security certificate in Adobe for signing authority to certain persons authorized to execute the document on the Town’s behalf; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes John Scavo, Director of Planning & Zoning and project manager for the CEC Energy Study, to execute the grant agreement using his digital signature and security certificate credentials in Adobe format, on behalf of the Town of Clifton Park as required.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 214 of 2024, a resolution authorizing Town Historian John Scherer to attend the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) 2024 Annual Conference.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, Procurement Policy #10 states that all requests to attend classes, seminars or professional conferences involving overnight stays must be approved by the Town Board, and

WHEREAS, Councilman Morelli, Town Board Liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission, recommends that Town Historian John Scherer be authorized to attend the APHNYS 2024 Conference in Port Jefferson, NY, September 16-18, at a cost not to exceed \$1,115, and

WHEREAS, John Scherer's attendance at the APHNYS Conference would confer a benefit to the Town; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that John Scherer is authorized to attend the Association of Public Historians Conference in Port Jefferson, NY, September 16-18, 2024, at a total cost not to exceed \$1,115 including registration, meals, lodging and transportation, to be paid from budget line item A- 7510-001 (General Fund-Historian-Training/Conferences), which would require a transfer of \$315 from A-07510-00008 (General Fund-Historian-Printing).

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

No one wished to be heard.

OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisor Barrett announced the Town had just closed on 6 acres located on Sugarhill Road, the property between the Grange and the Grooms Tavern.

Councilwoman Walowit announced its paving season and thanked the Highways Department for all the publicity on the website and Facebook alerting resident where the paving is taking place. She asks the residents to be patient in those areas and reroute where possible.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE 7:35 PM

Bill Koebbeman, Riverview Road, representing himself and not any one group, requests the public's right to be heard at the Planning Board meetings. A single hearing is required but most projects will change in some way after that required hearing. He stated that there is no substitute for public privilege as the project changes and evolves. He feels the Chairman of the Planning Board is bias to the developers. The Friends of Clifton Park requested a meeting with the Chair and received no response. At a later meeting a video was presented that was boycotted by the Chair and members to not view/show during the meeting.

Supervisor Barrett explained some of the comments are unwarranted and unfounded. He stated at a recent Town Board meeting a resident criticized the Planning Board for not having additional public hearings for a specific project in the Western part of Town. The Planning Director informed the Town Board and residents at that meeting that a second hearing was already approved and scheduled. He explained that when a project is being considered and ongoing, there are multiple public hearings. The Town has been working on a balance, especially in the Western part of Town for the past twenty-five years and have made great strides.

Director of Planning & Zoning John Scavo stated under NYS Subdivision Laws the Planning Board is required to hold one public hearing during preliminary plan consideration. After a SEQRA determination is made, that is when the current board elects to schedule the public hearing, if any substantial changes or community output, they have the option to schedule a second hearing, which they did with a recent project. Also, special use permits require a special public hearing, and the site plan is optional at the discretion of the Board.

Councilman Morelli stated, as the previous Planning Board attorney for several years, that at times there were a lot of public comment during meetings and the meetings would go very long at times, and the complaint at that time was some of the most substantive applications came before the board would often not be heard till 10-12 PM, and a lot of the people had left the meeting before then. The current chairwoman has tried to streamline the process so that it would not be so late, and people are still in attendance for application presentations and would have an opportunity to participate and be heard.

Councilwoman Reid suggested the video to be scheduled for the Planning Board review.

Lisa McCarthy, Summerset, requested affordable houses to be built.

Supervisor Barrett stated construction is determined by supply and demand.

No one else wished to be heard. Public Privilege closed at 8:03 PM.

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

Motion carried at 8:04 PM

Teresa Brobston  
Town Clerk