

TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

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 Ranze

Also Present: Town Attorney Pelagalli
Mark Heggen, Comptroller
Daniel Clemens, Director of Parks, Buildings & Recreation
Michael Woerner, Director of Parks & Recreation
Dahn Bull, Highways Superintendent
John Scavo, Director of Planning & Zoning
Norah Hofer, Communications and Technology Coordinator
Scott Reese, Zoning Administrator and Stormwater Management Officer

MINUTES

MOTION by Councilwoman Reid, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, to approve the Town Board minutes of the February 3, 2025, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Abstained: Councilman Morelli

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Councilwoman Reid earlier in the month sent a memo to the Superintendent of Highways Dahn Bull and the Director of Buildings, Parks & and Recreation Daniel Clemens requesting they send the Town Board Members an accounting of all equipment and vehicles within their department including the mileage on the vehicle. Providing the Town Board with this information will be useful when considering purchasing additional equipment. Councilwoman Reid thanks the Buildings & Grounds and the Highway Department for getting that information to the Town Board promptly.

Supervisor Barrett presented a check to HicksStrong from Saratoga County for the work they do operating several programs that take action against the military suicide epidemic. The program assists by matching active duty and veteran military members with qualified therapists and covering their care. HicksStrong was created to honor US Navy Sailor ABH Macoy Hicks.

Councilman Morelli thanks Supervisor Barrett and the County for the grant and reminds all that mental illness affects all walks of life in the Military and continues to be a large problem. Councilman Morelli very much appreciates HicksStrong's dedication in the memory of US Navy Sailor ABH Macoy Hicks.

Supervisor Barrett thanks all the Veterans for attending the Town Board meeting this evening and will continue to support all the efforts of HicksStrong.

PRESENTATIONS

Winner of the Winterfest Taste of Clifton Park Soup Contest–Councilwoman Reid, 7:10 PM

A few weeks back we had Winterfest and our ever-popular Soup Contest. We had over 400 people taste test and vote, even bringing muffin tins to collect all the soup samples.

It was a very close contest this year with 10 total participants. The reigning champion Powers Inn & Pub was defeated this year and came in 3rd place. Peddlers Bistro came in 2nd place. And this evening we are awarding our 1st place winner, Ravenswood Pub that submitted their delicious Cheesy Chicken Quesadilla soup. Jackie from Ravenswood is here tonight and we would like to congratulate her.

Supervisor Barrett thanks Ravenswood for being such an important member of the community. Ravenswood was an incredible partner during COVID supplying the community with hundreds of prepared meals for people while volunteers delivered them to those who didn't feel safe leaving their homes.

Jackie of Ravenswood accepting the 1st place plaque, appreciates everything the town does for the community and knows that Mama has a big smile on her face and is looking down on us.

Supervisor Barrett again congratulates Ravenswood. Powers Inn & Pub was mentioned, and recent sad news was delivered that Randy Gifford has passed. Most are familiar with Giffy's Bar-b-que. Randy was a former member of the zoning board and prominent member of our business community.

Supervisor Barrett closed the Presentation at 7:14 PM

Environmental Conservation Commission – Update on Battery Energy Storage Systems, Daniel Mathias & David Alexander, 7:20 PM

Supervisor Barrett – Another new item for us to consider. New technology is evolving all the time regarding energy and in this case battery storage systems.

Dan Mathias – In January we were alerted to a situation in Monterey County, CA at Moss Landing Power Plant, battery storage facility. We will review the challenges battery storage systems create. We see a lot of solar farms due to the Climate Act and New York State (NYS) commitments are: 6,000 MW Distributed Solar by 2025, 9,000 MW Offshore Wind by 2035 and 1,500 MW Energy Storage by 2025, and 3,000 MW by 2030. We will see more proposals coming to town for battery storage. Two types of storage we will see are Pumped Hydro and Batteries which is what we are looking at in Moss Landing.

David Alexander – We are playing a video of the Moss Landing fire in the background. Battery storage is coming on strong for many reasons such as Climate Change fears, Solar, Wind Power, Offshore Wind. None of these renewable types have a generated capability to work unless you have a way to store the power and get it to the grid when you need it. What we are discovering with battery plants is that it's not a tried-and-true technology. They all involve some complex chemistry reactions. Batteries are at a constant state of heating and cooling and that's what causes spontaneous events. Many have been killed due to massive explosions. They cannot be fought with water; chemical foam is helpful but are dangerous and expensive. Most of these fires must burn out on their own. The Moss Landing fire is still burning since January. There are currently 77 storage projects in Saratoga and there will be that many coming to Clifton Park. We want to bring awareness as to what is coming to Clifton Park as we will be seeing a lot of battery storage in areas of solar farms, a river or a dam and where wind turbines exist are all logical places for a battery plant.

Supervisor Barrett – There is a slow eradication of local decision making on many fronts that’s creeping in. A recent decision in the Appellate Court on a solar farm where the locality was fighting it, and the Appellate Court gave reason for solar and green energy has been deemed for the public good as to why the project would move forward. Puts new spin on local decision making and raises more concern.

Kratom – Cari Scribner, 7:50 PM

Cari Scribner – First would like to thank Supervisor Barrett on behalf of her family for honoring her son Nick who died on November 17, 2024. Nick was an associate electrician for the county sewer system and Supervisor Barrett had all the county flags at half-mast for a week to honor Nick.

Nick had insomnia and a doctor prescribed some medicine, but before he started taking it a friend told him about an all-natural, herbal energy enhancer. The energy enhancer was Kratom. Kratom is an evergreen tree native to tropical Southeast Asia, where the natives chew the leaves and spit them out, never ingesting. Nick started using Kratom products and that’s what killed him.

Kratom signs are seen all over town. Going into one of the local gas stations picking up a Kratom energy drink. In a colorful, attractive can for about \$7, watermelon candy kratom seltzer. Looking at the can and the description it would be marketed towards teens.

Kratom is not federally regulated. It has recently been called gas station heroine and is currently a 1.5-billion-dollar industry in the US. It is ground into powder and shipped to the US. The product is never tested or inspected upon arrival in the US, and it has been known to contain fentanyl, opiates and even salmonella. It is hugely addictive. Most do not know that Kratom is lethal and there are currently no age restrictions in NYS to buy it.

In 2016 in response to an increase in calls to poison centers DEA classified Kratom as a schedule one drug. This means it has no medical use but has a high propensity for abuse. If something had been done since 2016 Nick would still be here. Nick did not overdose on Kratom or mix with other drugs or alcohol. Two side effects of Kratom are pentatonic sleep and vomiting. While sleeping on his back began to wretch, couldn’t turn over and died from asphyxia.

There are currently four bills on the NY Assembly page. Please contact your legislature to support these bills and. help save other children.

Supervisor Barrett – Nick was a valued team member at the county and very well liked. It was a huge loss on the professional side, and we were very sad to hear the news at that time. Good to hear that there is momentum with state legislation. We hope at least one passes to implement warnings and parameters. Thank you for bringing this to the people’s attention.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consider 180-day moratorium on commercial and industrial cannabis warehousing, processing and cultivation operations within the Town, 7:14 PM

Town Clerk Stephanie Ranze read the Public Hearing Notice as advertised in the Daily Gazette on January 24, 2025

Supervisor Barrett- We have a 6 month moratorium that we are considering which will give us an opportunity to study the issue a little further. These are large operations so it’s important to know what the effects may be on homeowners or businesses. It will give us time to do some site visits, and our Attorney will be able to review the state regulations. Before any of these locate in town it’s important to take pause and review our code, NYS regulations and get a better understanding of effects on property owners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Connolly, Valdepenas Ln. – a 20-year resident of Clifton Park. The Town Board has always done an excellent job. It is reasonable for any municipality to take pause as NYS has 283 pages of regulations to review. The safety and impact of our residents and environment is paramount. Other municipalities in NYS have 9 months or 270-day moratoriums in place. How do these regulations fit into our local laws? How do we have a smooth transition into accepting a business operation that was never accepted before? All this is relatively new and as elected officials we depend on you to do your due diligence. Thank you for doing your job and not disappointing us by putting this moratorium in place.

Supervisor Barrett closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 38 of 2025, a resolution adopting a Local Law to establish a 180-day moratorium on commercial and industrial cannabis warehousing, processing and cultivation within Clifton Park.

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

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2021, the New York State Legislature passed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA), legalizing adult-use cannabis, and

WHEREAS, by Local Law No. 9 of 2021, the Town Board authorized opting out of permitting cannabis dispensaries and facilities for consumption of marijuana products within Clifton Park, and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the interest in cannabis warehousing, processing and cultivation operations, as well as their potential impacts on the Town’s infrastructure, environment, and community character, and

WHEREAS, the Town is committed to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, and to the proper regulation of land uses within Town, and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2025, the Town Board held a Public Hearing on a proposal to impose a 180-day moratorium on cannabis warehousing, processing, and cultivation operations to provide sufficient time to study and address any concerns, including but not limited to, zoning, environmental impacts, public safety, and economic implications of such operations, and

WHEREAS, the Saratoga County Planning Board has reviewed the proposal pursuant to Section 239-m of the NYS General Municipal Law, finding that the proposal serves the community’s interest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10, the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No 1 of 2025, and be it further

RESOLVED, that The Town Clerk is directed to file same with the Office of the Secretary of State and to provide appropriate notice of same, and that the Local Law be posted prominently on Cliftonpark.org.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 39 of 2025, a resolution appointing Richard Craver as a member to the Emergency Services Advisory Board (ESAB).

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of Lenny Casper, an opening exists for a member from the Jonesville Fire Department to the ESAB, and

WHEREAS, the Supervisor recommends Richard Craver, Clifton Park, NY, to fill the position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Richard Craver is hereby appointed as a member of the ESAB, representing the Jonesville Fire Department, for the unexpired term of Lenny Casper, term to expire December 31, 2027.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 40 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Supervisor to sign an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the County of Saratoga for single-stream recycling at the recycling facility at the Town of Clifton Park Transfer Station.

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

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 318 of 2014, approved the Inter-Municipal Agreement with the County of Saratoga, for single-stream recycling at the Town of Clifton Park Transfer Station, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes that the program for single stream recycling be continued between the County and Town, and

WHEREAS, both County and Town desire to formalize the continued agreement for services provided for the 5-year term of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2029, and

WHEREAS, the attached proposed agreement has been adjusted to reflect the dates of this 5-year term; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement with Saratoga County for recycling services between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2029.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 41 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign an agreement with the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Department for Specialized Law Enforcement Services.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Clifton Park has found it to be effective and efficient to obtain law enforcement services within the Town through the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Department, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to renew the existing Agreement for Specialized Law Enforcement Services with the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Department, per the attached agreement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to sign the attached agreement with the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Department whereby the Sheriff’s Department shall provide Specialized Law Enforcement Services within the Town of Clifton Park for a one (1) year period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$712,466.20, to be paid in monthly payments of \$59,372.19 from A-3120-15 (General Fund-Security-Other Contractual); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Comptroller transfer from Unassigned Fund Balance, A-00914, \$42,000 to A- 03120-00015, to cover the cost of the contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 42 of 2025, a resolution authorizing Tim Ward and Dig Deep, Inc. to serve alcoholic beverages at a fundraising event to be held at Veterans Memorial Park on August 30, 2025.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, Tim Ward and Dig Deep, Inc. are hosting a fundraising softball tournament on August 30, 2025, from 11:30am-6:30pm., and

WHEREAS, Tim Ward has requested permission to serve alcohol in the form of beer and wine at the event; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Tim Ward and Dig Deep, Inc. are hereby authorized to serve beer and wine at a fundraising softball tournament at Veterans Memorial Park on August 30, 2025, from 11:30am-6:30pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 43 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the Comptroller to transfer funds from Contingency for the Town Historian.

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

WHEREAS, John Scherer, Town Historian, has requested funds to reprint three (3) books, each detailing part of Town history, and

WHEREAS, existing copies of *Bits of Clifton Park History* (2003) were destroyed in the 2021 White Building fire, and *Greek Temples on the Towpath: A History and Guide to the Vischer Ferry Historic District* (1985) and the booklet *Beautiful Vischer Ferry* (1907) have been out of print and unavailable for years, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Scherer has provided an estimate in the amount of \$4,732 for reprinting these three (3) books, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board supports Mr. Scherer’s efforts to have these publications back in print as we celebrate the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal, the upcoming 250th anniversary of American Independence and the Town of Clifton Park’s own upcoming Bicentennial in 2028; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer the sum of \$4,732 from A- 01990-00015 (General Fund - Contingency Funds - Other Contractual) to A-07510-00008 (General Fund - Town Historian – Printing) for the reprinting of three (3) books detailing parts of Town history.

Councilman Morelli – This aligns with upcoming town celebrations. It’s important to have these publications available for our residents and visitors during our upcoming celebrations. We are very fortunate to have a town with such a rich history.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 44 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the hiring of 2025 seasonal help for the Buildings and Grounds Department.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, openings exist for seasonal help in the Buildings and Grounds Department, and

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks and Recreation, has recommended that the individuals listed on the attached Schedule A, be hired to fill the positions at pay rates as indicated on the Schedule; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the individuals listed on the attached Schedule A, be employed as seasonal workers for the Buildings and Grounds Department for the summer of 2025, at the rates of pay shown and budgeted from the accounts indicated, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 45 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the purchase of a Toro Greenspro 1260 Greens Roller and Scraper, under NYS Contract.

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

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks and Recreation, requested authorization to purchase a Toro Greenspro 1260 Greens Roller and Scraper, for use at the Barney Road Golf Course, and

WHEREAS, Grassland Equipment & Irrigation Corporation, Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY, as an authorized Toro Dealer, has the Greens Roller per the attached quote, at a total cost not to exceed \$17,783, for purchase under New York State Contract #PC69682, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemens has also recommended the equipment be purchased from Grassland Equipment & Irrigation pursuant to the New York State Contract identified above; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Director of Buildings, Parks and Recreation to purchase the Toro Greenspro 1260 Greens Roller and Scraper, from Grassland Equipment & Irrigation Corp., in a total amount not to exceed \$17,782, to be paid from A-7190-200 (General Fund – Barney Road Golf Course – Equipment).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 46 of 2025, a resolution accepting a proposal from DLC Electric, LLC, Troy, NY, for the electrical maintenance, inspection and emergency repair of Clifton Park Traffic Signals and Crosswalks, and to transfer funds from Contingency.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Clifton Park is responsible for maintaining the operation of 10 traffic signals and crosswalks on Town-owned streets, and

WHEREAS, Dahn Bull, Highways Superintendent, received bids for the maintenance and emergency repairs on January 17, 2025, and

WHEREAS, DLC Electric, LLC, Troy, NY, submitted the sole conforming quote, in the same categories as listed on the attached quote cover sheet; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes Dahn Bull, Highways Superintendent, to retain DLC Electric at hourly rates quoted, to perform monthly preventative maintenance on all 10 signals, and emergency repair callouts on the traffic signals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the monthly maintenance on the signals is estimated to be \$37,050 and the emergency callouts, based on past history, is estimated to be \$25,500, to be paid from A-03310-00215 (General Fund – Traffic Safety - Traffic Safety); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer \$10,550 from Contingency (A-01990-00015) to A-03310-00215 (General Fund – Traffic Safety - Traffic Safety).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Supervisor Barrett MOVED for the Town Board, and Town Attorney, Town Clerk, and Director of Planning & Zoning John Scavo to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter, and contract negotiations seconded by Councilman Morelli. All yes. MOTION CARRIED 8:33 p.m.

Councilman Morelli MOVED to return to the regular Town Board meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, All yes. MOTION CARRIED. Town Board returned to the regular Town Board meeting at 9:40 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

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 9:42 PM

Stephanie Ranze
Town Clerk