

TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD

July 21, 2025

The meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:01 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, Paul Pelagalli
Mark Heggen, Comptroller
Michael Woerner, Director of Parks & Recreation
John Scavo, Director of Planning & Zoning
Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation
Dahn Bull, Superintendent of Highways
Louis Pasquarell, Director of Safety & Security
Walter Smead, Sole Assessor

MINUTES

MOTION by Councilman Morelli, seconded by Councilman Manir, to approve the Town Board minutes of July 7, 2025, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Communications or Announcements were made.

PUBLIC HEARING

To Consider Adoption of a Local Law Establishing a Local Law to extend the moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

Supervisor Barrett – Recommends to the Board an extension of the existing moratorium on battery energy storage systems to allow time to review upcoming state regulations.

Joanne Coons – Spoke against extending the moratorium, stating it is unnecessary. Highlighting expert input already provided to the Town, including guidance from Dr. William Acker, NYSERDA resources, a model law, and offers of assistance from energy advisors. She emphasized the safety, reliability, and benefits of battery energy storage, including backup power, cost savings, and grid stability, citing her own positive experience with a home system.

Daniel Mathias – Chair of the ECC, recommended extending the moratorium on battery energy storage systems until New York State finalizes its regulations and the Town can assess potential risks. He highlighted concerns including fire safety, public health, environmental impact, and emergency preparedness, and noted that ECC members are willing to help draft future legislation.

Councilwoman Walowit – States that the Services Advisory Board is also awaiting updated state codes and is not inclined to move forward with any new proposals until that guidance is released. There is a consensus to wait for the forthcoming state regulations before taking further action.

Supervisor Barrett – Emphasized the importance of waiting for state guidance and potential funding to help prepare for emergencies related to battery energy storage systems, noting that earlier concerns from fire service personnel are being taken seriously.

Councilman Manir – Supports the technology but emphasizes the need to wait due to safety concerns raised by the fire department, which is currently unprepared to handle battery fires requiring large amounts of water and special chemicals. In agreement with a six-month delay to gather more data and ensure readiness.

Councilman Morelli – Agrees with Councilman Manir about extending the moratorium, citing serious concerns about fire safety and lack of preparedness from local fire departments. The risks currently outweigh the benefits and support waiting at least six more months for additional information and state guidance.

To Consider Adoption of a Local Law amending Town Code Chapter 152-2(D) relating to the annual schedule for duck hunting in the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Supervisor Barrett – The proposed change to the town code would allow more flexibility in scheduling duck hunting days due to recurring conflicts. The total number of days would stay the same, but they wouldn't need to be consecutive. This aims to prevent future scheduling issues without expanding hunting beyond current limits.

No one present wished to speak on this matter.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 153 of 2025, a resolution adopting Local Law No. 5 of 2025 to establish and extend a 180-day moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems facilities within the Town of Clifton Park.

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

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the interest in battery energy storage systems facilities, 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, the Town deems it prudent to temporarily pause the approval or establishment of any new battery energy storage systems facilities 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, on April 07, 2025, the Town Board held a Public Hearing on a proposal to impose a 180-day moratorium on establishing any new battery energy storage system facilities 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, Local Law No. 3 of 2025 set the end of the moratorium as July 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, additional time is necessary to review the approval or establishment of any new battery energy storage facilities; 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. 5 of 2025 extending the moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems facilities until January 21, 2026, 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. 154 of 2025, a resolution amending Chapter 152-2(D) of the Town Code relating to the annual schedule for duck hunting dates in the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve.

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

WHEREAS, Municipal Home Rule Law §10(12) authorizes local governments within New York to protect the health, safety, and well-being of persons and property within its jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, Town Code §152-2(D) currently limits duck hunting in the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve to the first seven (7) calendar days of duck hunting season as established by the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2025, the Town Board held a Public Hearing to solicit public comments on a proposal to amend the Town Code to permit the Town Board to alter the days for duck hunting in the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, subject to the limits set by the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, there were no public comments in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Town Code, and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to the Town Code provides flexibility to the Town Board in the event of a conflict, but does not extend the duck hunting season; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §10(12), the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 6 of 2025, amending Chapter 152-2(D) of the Town Code to permit the Town Board to alter the annual schedule for duck hunting days in the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve; and be it further

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 155 of 2025, a resolution reappointing Walter D. Smead as Sole Assessor for the Town of Clifton Park.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor has recommended Walter Smead be reappointed as Sole Assessor, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board appreciates his experience and expertise and his consistent accuracy in assessment formulation, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smead provides courteous and timely service to property owners within the Town; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board concurs with the Supervisor’s recommendation to reappoint Mr. Smead as Sole Assessor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Walter D. Smead is hereby reappointed as Sole Assessor, Town of Clifton Park, for a term of six years effective October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2031.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 156 of 2025, a resolution scheduling a public hearing to consider amendments to the Town Code regarding permit fees.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park wishes to increase certain fees for permits issued by the Department of Building and Development, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor and the Director of Building and Development have reviewed the current permit fee schedules and have recommended increases to certain fees set forth in §103-16 Permit Fees of the Town Code, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board also wishes to add a definition and fee for short-term rentals to the Town Code to §103-16 Permit Fees, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to obtain public comment regarding the proposed amendments and addition to §103-16 Permit Fees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a public hearing to consider amendments to §103-16 Permit Fees of the Town Code will be held on August 4, 2025, at 7:02 p.m., in the Wood Memorial Room, One Town Hall Plaza, Clifton Park, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to publish appropriate notice of same.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 157 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the residents of the cul-de-sac of Glenwood Drive in the Country Knolls Subdivision to conduct a Block Party on August 16, 2025.

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

WHEREAS, the residents of the Country Knolls Subdivision plan to conduct a block party within the subdivision on August 16, 2025, from 12:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. and have requested permission to use the cul-de sac of Glenwood Drive to Morningside Drive, for their party activities; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Highway Superintendent recommends that the request be approved, for the use of a portion of Glenwood Drive, August 16, 2025, from 12:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. to be used for party activities, so long as those activities do not block off the streets, and make sure emergency vehicles can gain access to the street if needed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the residents shall be responsible for all clean-up activities on Town property or on the street right-of-way resulting from the social activity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the applicable Fire Department, the Ambulance Corps., the Sheriff's Department and the State Police.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 158 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Highways to hire Brandon Mount and Brandon Hitchcock for Motor Equipment Operator positions within the Highway Department.

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

WHEREAS, Kevin Clark and Matthew Winkler have resigned from the Highway Department seeking higher paid positions, and two vacancies exist within the Department, and,

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position of Appointment</u>	<u>Address</u>
Brandon Mount	Motor Equipment Operator	Stillwater, New York
Brandon Hitchcock	Motor Equipment Operator	Cohoes, New York

and

WHEREAS; Mr. Mount, who will fill the vacancy created by Kevin Clark, has been operating commercial vehicles for six years, and has spent time in the construction and maintenance field locally, as well as four years in the private sector working with local rental and commercial properties, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hitchcock, who will fill the vacancy created by Matthew Winkler, brings with him 8 years of various experience, while earning both his CDL B and CDL A licenses; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the hiring of Brandon Mount and Brandon Hitchcock to the positions stated above, to be paid 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.159 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Highways to install one (1) STOP sign on Thunderbird Drive at Meridian Lane.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Clifton Park Highway Safety Committee received a referral from a resident of Thunderbird Drive requesting a review of traffic control measures at the intersection of Thunderbird Drive and Meridian Lane, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Safety Advisory Committee reviewed the request and conducted a site evaluation at its April 2025 meeting, taking into consideration traffic volumes, intersection geometry, and sight distance limitations, and

WHEREAS, the Committee determined that vehicles approaching the intersection from Thunderbird Drive may likely experience compromised sight distance due to roadway curvature and landscaping, particularly when evaluating traffic traveling at or near the 85th percentile speed on Meridian Lane, and

WHEREAS, the Committee concluded that the installation of a STOP sign (MUTCD R1-1) on Thunderbird Drive for vehicles entering the intersection and then turning onto Meridian Lane is warranted to ensure that drivers have the opportunity to come to a complete stop and safely assess oncoming traffic in both directions before proceeding, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that the recommendation is consistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines for STOP sign placement based on intersection visibility and safety considerations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park hereby supports the recommendation of the Highway Safety Advisory Committee and authorizes the installation of one (1) STOP sign (MUTCD R1-1) on Thunderbird Drive at the approach leg of the intersection with Meridian Lane; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Highway Department is directed to install the STOP sign in accordance with MUTCD standards and ensure proper visibility and placement.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

John Scavo – The Highway Safety Committee reviewed a neighborhood intersection with a horizontal curve affecting visibility. Their recommendation is to ensure vehicles can stop safely before entering the intersection. The issue was brought forward by a resident referral.

Resolution No. 160 of 2025, a resolution authorizing Change Order #1 for a bid awarded for the new Highway Garage Fueling Island project, and to transfer from Contingency.

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

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 98 of 2025, the Town Board awarded a bid to Metro Environmental Services, LLC to replace the existing fuel station structure at the Town’s Highway Facility, and

WHEREAS, John Scavo, Director of Planning & Zoning, has submitted a request for additional funding, to allow for full galvanization of both canopy support columns, a proactive investment to enhance the durability and performance of the structure, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Scavo recommends accepting Change Order #1, to cover the additional costs involved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute Change Order #1 from Metro Environmental Services, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$9,450 for the additional work for the new Highway Garage Fueling Island project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer from Contingency, A-01990-00015, \$9,450 to A-05132-00200 (General Fund – Highway Garage – Equipment).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

John Scavo – The project is on track, but due to challenges with partially galvanizing large steel beams for the water canopy, the team will fully galvanize them instead. This change will improve durability and help maintain the schedule, though it may slightly increase costs.

Resolution No. 161 of 2025, authorizing the Town Supervisor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding regarding collaborative trail connection from Town Center Park to the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Clifton Park (hereinafter the “Town”), the Shenendehowa Central School District (hereinafter the “SCSD”), and the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library (hereinafter the “Library”) wish to explore and plan for a public trail connection from the Town Center Park to the Library, and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter the “MOU”) has been drafted setting forth efforts by the Town, SCSD, and Library to advance the trail connection and seek grant funding, and

WHEREAS, the MOU has been signed by the Interim Superintendent of the SCSD and forwarded to the Town and Library, and

WHEREAS, the MOU will further the efforts to design, fund, and construct the trail connection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute the attached MOU Regarding a Collaborative Trail Project.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Supervisor Barrett – Acknowledges an initiative that originated during the planning process for the Town Center Park and thanks John Scavo for his efforts in advancing it. This is a crucial first step in advancing a future connection.

John Scavo – The town aims to connect Town Center Park to the library through school district land. A three-way agreement is the first step toward securing grants, estimating costs, and planning future construction.

Resolution No. 162 of 2025, a resolution hiring a WSI Instructor for individual swim lessons at Country Knolls pool for the 2025 season and to authorize position changes for two (2) current hires at the Jonesville Half-Day Camp.

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for a WSI Instructor for the 2025 season, and

WHEREAS, Michael Woerner, Director of Parks & Recreation, recommends hiring Delaney Michels, Ballston Lake, NY, for the position, retroactively to 07/07/2025, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woerner wishes to have two (2) current hires change positions at the Jonesville Half-Day Camp, as detailed on the attached Schedule A; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the hiring of Delaney Michels, Ballston Lake, NY, at Step 2, \$18.15 per hour, to be paid from A-7310-E4575, (General Fund – Summer Rec Programs - WSI Instructors), retroactively to 07/07/2025, and the position changes at the Jonesville Half-Day Camp, 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

Supervisor Barrett – Town camps and swim programs are thriving, with strong participation and support from dedicated seasonal staff. Pools have been especially busy. Despite a rough start to the season, things are running well.

Resolution No. 163 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the hiring of a Part-time Security Officer, and the addition of Part-time Armed Court Officer to the job title of a current Part-time Security Officer.

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

WHEREAS, an opening exists for a Part-time Security Officer, and

WHEREAS, Lou Pasquarell, Director of Safety and Security, has recommended that Drew Rentz be hired provisionally for this position, pending Civil Service Certification, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 162 of 2017, the Town Board authorized the hiring of Alden Saddlemire as a Part-time Security Officer, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pasquarell wishes to add Part-time Armed Court Officer to the job title of Mr. Saddlemire; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to hire Drew Rentz as a Part-time Security Officer at Grade 5, Step 1, \$27.62/hr., as needed, effective immediately, to be paid from A-03120-E4010, (General Fund – Security – Part-time Security Officers), and to add Part-time

Armed Court Officer to the job title of current Part-time Security Officer Alden Saddlemire at Grade 6, Step 2, \$30.54/hr., also effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Supervisor Barrett – Two part-time security officers were recommended: Mr. Rentz, who was welcomed aboard, and Alden Saddlemeyer, a longtime officer now officially cleared to serve after completing training.

Resolution No. 164 of 2025, a resolution to retain MA Schafer Construction for the construction of two (2) buildings to cover recycling boxes at the Transfer Station.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to retain services associated with the construction of two (2) buildings, each to be designed to cover a 40-yard roll-off recycling container at the Transfer Station, and

WHEREAS, sealed bids were opened on June 27, 2025, with MA Schafer Construction submitting the lowest conforming bid, for an amount not to exceed \$49,200, for the construction of two (2) buildings to cover recycling containers at the Transfer Station, and

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation, recommends that the bid from MA Schafer Construction be accepted; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Supervisor is authorized to execute an agreement with MA Schafer Construction, Altamont, NY, for the construction of two (2) buildings at the Transfer Station, in an amount not to exceed \$49,200, to be paid from A-8160-200, (General Fund – Solid Waste Management – CTS Equipment), with a transfer from A-00914 (General Fund – Unassigned Fund Balance).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Daniel Clemens – The transfer station project is on track, with steel repairs in progress, electrical work complete, and final construction steps scheduled for early September completion.

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 7:45 PM

Stephanie Ranze
Town Clerk