

## TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD

November 17, 2025

The meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 6:59 p.m. Supervisor Barrett presiding.

## Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also Present: Paul Pelagalli, Town Attorney  
 Mark Heggen, Comptroller  
 Daniel Clemens, Director of Building Parks & Recreation  
 John Scavo, Director of Planning & Zoning  
 Michael Woerner, Director of Parks & Recreation

MINUTES

MOTION by Councilman Morelli, seconded by Councilwoman Reid, to approve the Town Board minutes of November 3, 2025, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Supervisor Barrett  
 Abstain: Councilwoman Walowit  
 Noes: None

## MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Councilman Manir** – Announced the formation of a transition team to support a smooth transfer of responsibilities for the new Town Board taking office January 1, 2026. They emphasized that civil service employees will not be affected and thanked staff for their professionalism. A brief clarification was made regarding name formats on submitted certificates. The speaker concluded by stating that local government is about serving the community – not political parties – and expressed hope for continued cooperation.

**Councilman Morelli** – Emphasized that throughout his tenure he has repeatedly stated and continues to believe that the Town has exceptional staff who are fully dedicated to serving residents. He expressed gratitude for their professionalism, echoed the acknowledgement made in the earlier statement, and stated that it has been a pleasure to work with them. Concluding with this, he looks forward to employees continuing their service well into the future.

**Councilwoman Reid** – Affirmed app recitation for town employees and volunteers, citing Canal Fest as an example of their hard work. Emphasizing that volunteers come from all backgrounds and that appointments have never been based on political affiliation urging continued collaboration and inclusiveness. Thanked Councilman Manir for his service and raised a concern about data privacy, questioning why residents are being asked to send resumes to a private Gmail account instead of through official Town channels. The question was then turned over for a response.

**Councilman Manir** – Stated that anyone willing to serve the community is welcome and no one will be excluded. Acknowledging concerns about data privacy and agreed that personal information should be managed through official Town channels. Saying that an official Town mailbox be created for the transition committee instead of using a private email account.

**Councilwoman Reid** – Noted that appointments and hiring decisions require a full board vote and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration. They then asked whether all Town Board members would have access to the emails and resumes submitted to the transition committee’s mailbox requesting shared access for transparency.

**Councilman Manir** – Explained that newly elected individuals have no prior experience with Town Hall or operations. Noting his own experience when first joining the Board, new members will need time to learn and will rely on employees and department supervisors to understand how the Town functions. Emphasizing that, the goal is simply to help the incoming members gain the experience necessary to perform their duties. Further explained that the understanding of the transition committee is based on practices seen in larger municipalities such as New York City and Albany, where transition teams are formed after elections to promote accountability and help incoming officials understand operation.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Stated such models apply to mayoral systems with broad appointment authority, which is not the structure in Clifton Park. Expressing concern that asking employees in specialized, long-serving positions to “reapply” is unnecessary and could be seen as heavy-handed, noting that new officials can meet with department heads, review credentials, and learn directly from experienced staff.

**Councilman Manir** – Acknowledged the concern, stating the feedback would go back to the transition team, and agreed that experience is essential in department head roles. Reiterate, not being aware of the full plan of the transition committee but will share more information when available.

**Supervisor Barrett** – emphasized that many town positions require specialized credentials, and long-term experience, and therefore employees would not be asked to reapply for their jobs. Expressing strong concern that the transition committee’s approach appears heavy-handed and may be repeating past political conflicts. Stating firm opposition to any actions that jeopardize the careers of dedicated, apolitical staff members. Clarifying that remarks were not personal toward Councilman Manir but reflected disappointment that the Councilman’s name appeared on the press release. Reaffirming support for town employees.

**Councilwoman Walowit** – Highlighted the extensive work done by Town employees and volunteers across recreation, planning, zoning, and property maintenance. Emphasizing that staff are highly trained, work every day in all conditions, and provide services that residents often rely on but may not fully notice. Stressing the importance of the expertise and dedication of department heads and employees. Asking why the transition team is politically aligned?

**Councilman Manir** – Noted that the transitions teams work is not intended to be political and stating the committee was not political, offering others on the Board to join the transition committee. Indicating the desire to move on to the next agenda item and that there is nothing serious about it.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Reminding Councilman Manir he mentioned the discussion and disagreeing, stating that the issue is indeed very serious for the employees whose positions could be affected.

**Councilwoman Reid** – Encouraged anyone interested in being part of the transition to reach out and get involved with the town. They noted that, as with past transitions, new council members can meet with department heads to learn about each department’s operations and needs, and all department heads are willing to help them get oriented. Emphasizing appreciation for the town’s dedicated volunteers, who give their time and meetings and events and play a major role behind the scenes. Highlighting a recent joint meeting with the chairs of both official and unofficial town committees. Members shared updates, goals, and future plans. These committee chair meetings will continue several times a year to encourage collaboration, avoid siloed work, and support shared goals. The next meeting is planned for January, and the public is welcome to attend.

**Councilman Manir** – Agreed with the previous comments and emphasized the importance of supporting incoming board members. Thanking Councilman Morelli for meeting with them early on and explaining how town operations work, noting that this guidance was valuable. Expressing the expectation that current board members will offer the same support and willingness to help new members.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Recalls in 26 years of voting for volunteers, there has never been a political litmus test. Volunteers are selected based on interest and willingness to dedicate the considerable time and effort required, not on political affiliation. Committees include people with a wide range of political views, backgrounds, and expertise, which leads to well-informed, fair decisions. Expressing gratitude to all volunteers who invest their time in making Clifton Park a better community

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 248 of 2025, a resolution authorizing Granicus to develop and deploy a Government Experience Engagement Cloud Essentials Platform for the Town.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Clifton Park recognizes the importance of enhancing public engagement and improving government service delivery through modern digital platforms, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board acknowledges that the proposed platform will enable streamlined communication, improved citizen interaction, and greater operational efficiency for the Town of Clifton Park from the deployment of a professional services agreement with Granicus, and

WHEREAS, the cost includes \$4,095 for one-time setup, configuration, and training milestones 2 & 3, as specified in the proposal and invoice, and

WHEREAS, funds for Milestone 2 & 3 outlined in the invoice are available in the approved Town budget for the fiscal year 2025; now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, Milestone 1, was approved by the Town Board by Resolution No. 6 of 2025; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute any necessary agreements or documents to facilitate this project, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Clifton Park hereby authorizes the payment of \$4,095 to Granicus for the essential set-up, configuration, and training milestones 2 & 3, as outlined in the invoice, to be paid from A-01620 – 00004 (General Fund - Town Hall Operations - Computer); and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Staff are authorized to process these payments in accordance with Town financial payment procedures.

## ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

## DECLARED ADOPTED

**John Scavo** – Reports that Milestone 1 the initial setup of the Granicus platform was completed early in the year. Milestones 2 and 3, totaling \$4,095, are now finished, with staff fully onboard. The platform has been operational since the summer, with minor adjustments made along the

way. They look forward to continuing to use it as an important communications tool for engaging residents.

Resolution No. 249 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the installation of “No Parking Anytime” signs on Boyack Road.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park has received a recommendation from the Highway Safety Committee regarding the installation of "No Parking Anytime" signs on Boyack Road within 200 feet of the approach to the center of the intersection with Jonathan Drive, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Safety Committee has reviewed the existing conditions and determined that frequent on-street parking along the west side of Boyack Road heading south has significantly reduced sight visibility at the intersection with Jonathan Drive, thereby increasing the likelihood of accidents involving turning vehicles, and

WHEREAS, the proposed signage is intended to improve public safety by enhancing sight distance and reducing potential vehicular conflicts at the intersection, and

WHEREAS, the signs shall conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards, specifically sign designation R7-1, with a vertical rectangular shape, dimensions of 12" x 18", white background, red legend and border, and appropriate directional arrow, and

WHEREAS, the signs shall be placed at each end of the regulated zone and at intervals not exceeding 200 feet, mounted facing approaching traffic at an angle of 30-45 degrees to the line of traffic flow, and shall be retroreflective for nighttime visibility; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Highway Department to install "No Parking Anytime" signs on the west side of Boyack Road heading south, within 200 feet of the approach to the center of the intersection with Jonathan Drive, in accordance with MUTCD standards and recommendations of the Highway Safety Committee.

#### 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 the intersection during the spring and summer and provided a recommendation for the Town Board to consider. Although some visibility has improved after vegetation was cleared from the line of sight, there are still safety concerns. Specifically, vehicles approaching from the north remain difficult to see from the intersection, and sight distance issues continue to pose a risk.

Resolution No. 250 of 2025, a resolution appointing Toby Watkins as a member to the Historic Preservation Commission.

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

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Clifton Park has recommended the appointment of Toby Watkins to serve as a member of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins has expressed a sincere interest in preserving the historical character and cultural heritage of Clifton Park, drawing inspiration from his upbringing in Jersey

Shore, Pennsylvania, a community known for its Revolutionary War-era legacy and the Tiadaghton Elm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins brings over a decade of professional experience in project management and facilities oversight, currently serving as a Senior Facilities Manager with expertise in infrastructure maintenance, including electrical, HVAC, and refrigeration systems, which may support the Commission's efforts in evaluating and preserving historic structures; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins has demonstrated a strong commitment to civic engagement through his volunteer leadership with the Elks of Clifton Park, coordinating numerous community outreach initiatives such as Welcome Home Kits for homeless veterans, holiday gift programs for local veterans' homes, and public events that foster community connection and appreciation for service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins has further contributed to the community through volunteer efforts with Sidewalk Warriors, Girl Scouts, and Toys for Tots, reflecting a broad and inclusive approach to public service that aligns with the Commission's mission to preserve and promote Clifton Park's historic assets for the benefit of all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the value of appointing individuals with both technical expertise and demonstrated community leadership to advisory boards and commissions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park hereby appoints Toby Watkins to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to be determined in accordance with the Town Code and Commission bylaws, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall notify Mr. Watkins of his appointment and provide all necessary documentation and onboarding materials to support his participation in the Commission's work.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

#### DECLARED ADOPTED

**Councilman Morelli** – Introduced Toby, noting that he and the Historic Preservation Commission Chair Linda Seymour were present. The Commission unanimously recommended Toby for appointment, recognizing his growing involvement over recent months and his strong interest in preserving the town's historical character. Toby has an extensive background in volunteer service, including serving as the Exalted Ruler of the Elks, an organization known for its community-focused volunteer work. The speaker expressed full support for Toby's appointment and encouraged the Town Board to unanimously approve, adding him to the Commission.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Thanked Toby for stepping forward to join the Commission and noted the Commission's success in meeting important goals and priorities for the town. Expressed appreciation for the entire Commission's work and confidence that Toby will integrate smoothly and contribute meaningfully to ongoing discussions and preservation efforts.

**Councilman Manir** – Welcomed Toby, thanking him for his willingness to work with the group and join their efforts.

Resolution No. 251 of 2025, a resolution authorizing Addendum #1 to the agreement with Community Planning and Environmental Associates (CP&EA) for the Clifton Park Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan and transferring funds to support the expanded scope of work.

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

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 131 of 2024, the Town Board authorized the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Community Planning and Environmental Associates (CP&EA) to develop a comprehensive Agricultural and Farmland Protection and Enhancement Plan for the Town in an amount not to exceed \$49,860.00, and

WHEREAS, the Town was awarded a \$25,000 Farmland Protection Plan Grant (FPPG) from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, with reimbursement available for eligible project costs, and

WHEREAS, the initial scope of work has been substantially completed, and the Planning Department and consultant have identified tasks necessary to finalize the plan, including development of the final plan, final presentation, and public hearing support, as detailed in the attached scope dated September 18, 2025 and additional tasks such as developing an implementation matrix, community solar capacities map, and holding 12 steering committee meetings to date when 8 were originally anticipated, and

WHEREAS, CP&EA has proposed Addendum #1 to the existing agreement, outlining a cost increase not to exceed \$14,320.00 for the completion of these remaining tasks, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to authorize this expanded scope and allocate the necessary funds to the appropriate budget line; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Addendum #1 to the agreement with Community Planning and Environmental Associates (CP&EA), increasing the contract amount by \$14,320.00 for completion of the Clifton Park Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan, as outlined in the attached scope of work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes a budget transfer of \$2,320 from A-1440-135 (General Fund – Engineering – Engineering) to A-1440-015 (General Fund – Engineering – Other Contractual) to support the expanded scope of work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the total of \$14,320 be charged to A-1440-015 (General Fund – Engineering – Other Contractual); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to sign Addendum #1 to the agreement with CP&EA, and that eligible costs incurred under this addendum shall be submitted for reimbursement under the awarded Farmland Protection Plan Grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

#### DECLARED ADOPTED

**John Scavo** – The town has been working on a Farmland and Agricultural Protection Plan with a consultant, the steering committee, and the public throughout the year. The process has expanded from eight to twelve highly productive meetings due to the amount of valuable input collected. Because of the extensive information gathered, the scope now needs to be expanded to include an improved “story map” to better communicate the plan to the public, state agricultural partners, and potential economic markets. The board members and planning staff have been actively involved throughout the process.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Praised a recent public meeting with the agricultural community, noting it was especially productive due to active discussions at multiple tables. Strong engagement throughout the process will result in excellent farmland and agricultural protection plans. The town has already permanently preserved four farms, and this plan will help further progress

alongside landowners and the agricultural community. Councilwoman Reid was thanked for her leadership on the effort.

**Councilwoman Reid** – Yet another strong example of volunteerism and collaboration in the community. The committee has dedicated considerable time and effort, producing meaningful work that will benefit Clifton Park and have broader regional impacts.

**John Scavo** – The consultant will finalize a draft of the Farmland and Agricultural Protection Plan over the holiday season. Once completed, the steering committee will review it and forward it to the Town Board, triggering a 45-day public comment period with both electronic and hard copies available at public locations like the library and Town Hall. The draft will also be sent to the County Agricultural Review Board for approval. After the comment period closes, any needed revisions will be made, with final adoption expected about 30 days later targeting a public hearing in March 2026 and final plan adoption May 2026.

Resolution No. 252 of 2025, a resolution authorizing alcoholic beverages to be served at a gathering to be held at the Locust Lane Clubhouse on January 23, 2026.

Introduced by Councilman Manir, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, the Skano Elementary School staff is hosting an event on Friday, January 23, 2026, and

WHEREAS, a request has been received from Randy Johnson, a representative for the Skano Elementary School staff, for permission to serve alcohol in the form of beer and/or wine at the event; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Randy Johnson and the Skano Elementary School staff are hereby authorized to serve beer and/or wine at a gathering at Locust Lane Clubhouse on January 23, 2026, from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. consistent with the terms of the permit application received in the Parks & Recreation office.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 253 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the replacement of a 35-foot aluminum streetlight pole with 10-foot arm on Wall Street.

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

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2025, a resident’s vehicle struck a streetlight pole on Wall Street, causing damage that required the replacement of the streetlight pole and 10-foot arm, and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Public Safety department has filed a claim on the residents’ automobile insurance, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 110 of 2024, the Town Board authorized acceptance of the proposals from T&J Electrical Associates, Inc., Clifton Park, as the lowest conforming quote, and DLC Electric, LLC, Troy, NY, as the second lowest conforming quote, for the electrical repair and maintenance of Town-owned streetlights, and

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation, contacted T&J Companies, as one of the Town’s contractor for streetlight repairs, for the replacement of the 35-foot streetlight, including the 10-foot arm, pursuant to an invoice for \$14,500 dated 10/23/2025, attached; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Mr. Clemens is authorized to hire T&J Companies to replace the damaged Wall Street 35-foot streetlight pole, and its 10-foot arm; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to pay the amount of \$14,500 to T&J Companies from SL-5182-24 (Special Districts – Lighting – Maintenance); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to increase 2025 Budget revenues, A-02680 (General Fund – Insurance Recoveries) and increase expenditures to SL-5182-24 (Special Districts – Lighting – Maintenance) by \$14,500.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Daniel Clemens** – Streetlight pole at the busy intersection near Wall Street and Clifton Country Mall Rd. needs replacement after being struck by a car. An accident report identified the driver responsible. The impact tore the pole’s foundation out of the ground, and the damaged pole is currently laying across the YMCA parking lot. This approval is to install a new pole and restore the light at the intersection.

Resolution No. 254 of 2025, a resolution declaring a public emergency pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 103(4) for the replacement and rerouting of the vent pipe and blower assembly for the unit heaters in the Highway Mechanic Shop.

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

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2025, when the Buildings & Grounds department staff attempted to start the unit heaters, they discovered rust holes and that material had melted on the exterior of the Highway Mechanic Shop building, and

WHEREAS, Section 103(4) of the NYS General Municipal Law provides that in cases of an emergency situation arising from unforeseen circumstances affecting public property or the health or safety of the public, the Town Board may authorize the purchase of service, material, and equipment without competitive bids, and

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation, contacted Postler & Jaeckle Corp. (P&J), to replace and reroute the vent pipe and blower assembly for the unit heaters in the Highway Mechanic Shop, pursuant to an invoice for \$5,456 dated 10/24/2025, attached; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board determines that the replacement and rerouting of the vent pipe and blower assembly for the unit heaters in the Highway Mechanic Shop, as determined on October 22, 2025, constitutes an emergency for procurement purposes under Section 103(4) of General Municipal Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Mr. Clemens is authorized to hire P&J Corp. to replace the vent pipes and blower assembly of the damaged unit heaters; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to pay the amount of \$5,456 to P&J Corp. from A-5132-24 (General Fund – Highway/Traffic Safety/Garage – Garage Repairs).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Daniel Clemens** – A damaged exhaust pipe in the hydromechanics garage had rusted through, burned part of the building’s exterior, and was venting fumes into the eaves. The entire system had to be replaced, including rerouting the exhaust out the side of the building and adding an extra blower due to the long distance. The repair was necessary to safely maintain heat in the building.

Resolution No. 255 of 2025, a resolution awarding the construction contract for the paving of an existing trail along Kinns Road in Clifton Park, pursuant to competitive bid.

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

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks, and Recreation, solicited quotes for a project consisting of prepping and paving an existing trail from Temple Hills to Twilight Drive along Kinns Road, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemens recommends that the work be awarded to B.D.B. Paving, as lowest conforming bidder, at a total cost not to exceed \$7,740; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the recommendation of the Director of Buildings, Parks, and Recreation, and hereby awards the quote for the trail paving project to B.D.B. Paving, at a cost not to exceed \$7,740, to be paid from A-7629-200 (General Fund-Trails Contractual-Equipment).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Supervisor Barrett** – The town’s trail and sidewalk system has expanded significantly, with over seventeen miles built to date. An older trail along Kinns Road now needs resurfacing only the top layer will be removed and replaced. Several new projects are also underway. These improvements continue to strengthen inter-neighborhood connections and enhance safe pedestrian travel throughout Clifton Park.

Resolution No. 256 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to execute a three-year contract for telephone and internet service with FirstLight.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir.

WHEREAS FirstLight as successor to Tech Valley Communications has provided telephone and internet service to the Town through fiber optic cables installed in Town facilities since 2012, and

WHEREAS, with the addition of cloud-based software, the Town requires more data to maintain the efficiency of Town computer programs and telephone systems, and

WHEREAS, FirstLight has offered a competitive proposal for telephone and internet service at an upgraded bandwidth than previously supplied, and provides the Town with an opportunity to lock in long term rates of \$1,017 per month, which will include local and long distance telephone calling and 1 gigabyte per second download by 1 gigabyte per second upload speed internet service, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to execute the attached thirty-six-month term service order form and contract with FirstLight, 12 Metro Park Road, Albany, NY.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Supervisor Barrett** – Noted the purpose of the upgrade is to expand the Town’s bandwidth to support current and future activity.

**Councilman Manir** – Added that this improvement will allow for significantly faster data transfer enhancing the internet performance video recording capabilities, and live conferencing quality. Emphasizing that the update is a strong, beneficial idea.

Resolution No. 257 of 2025, a resolution adopting the 2026 Budget for the Town of Clifton Park.

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the Preliminary Budget on November 6, 2025, to obtain comment from the public regarding the proposed Budget for 2026; and

WHEREAS, the comments of the public have been incorporated into the proposed budget; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2026 Town of Clifton Park Budget is hereby adopted.

**Amend the Budget, increasing the VFW by \$1,000 and the Tree Committee by \$400**

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

ROLL CALL VOTE – Adopting the 2026 Budget

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

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Supervisor Barrett** – Noted that the Town is nearing the end of the budget process that must be completed by November 20<sup>th</sup> under Town Law. Several additions were made to the budget to address the projects needed and facility improvements across town. Proceeded to recap those projects mentioned at the Public Hearing.

**Councilman Morelli** – Requested two budget adjustments for 2026: a \$1,000 increase for the VFW to support their community service and veteran assistance, and a \$400 increase for the Tree

Committee based on their updated goals. Moving to amend the budget by a total of \$1,400. And the motion was seconded by Councilman Manir.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Praised staff for their budget work and highlighted the challenges created by the tax cap. Despite rising taxes elsewhere, Clifton Park continues to operate with no general fund town tax and ranks near the bottom statewide in overall taxes. He noted that, given the many services the Town provides, Clifton Park offers exceptional value to its residents.

#### PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

**Caryl Hugg** – Addressed the Board and specifically Councilman Manir to express concern and frustration over a press release issued by Councilman Manir regarding a “transition committee.” Questioning his earlier statement that he “didn’t know” certain details, emphasizing that his name was on the press release and therefore he is accountable for its content. Also asking why members of the transition committee were not present at the meeting and questioning the committee’s purpose. Asked why current board members and the Town Clerk were not included on this transition committee. Stated that the press release appeared threatening to employees, particularly the language encouraging non-union, non-civil service employees and board/committee members to submit resumes if they wished to continue in their roles. Expressing that if she were a town employee, she would feel her job was at risk and would be updating her resume to find another job.

**Councilman Manir** – clarified that he did not personally post the press release on Facebook but confirmed that the press release itself was issued under his name. maintaining that the request for resumes was not intended as a threat.

**Caryl Hugg** – Reiterated her belief that the message was intimidating and urged him to stop alarming employees and to involve the current Town Board in any transition planning

**Joanne Coons** – Shared a personal story about losing her teaching job without notice to illustrate how workplace communication can sometimes fall short. Suggesting that requesting resumes might simply be a way for new leadership to gather information and get to know staff.

**Councilman Manir** – Noted that his press release was not intended to be a threat.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Responding to Joanne’s comments by noting that, while her former employer may have managed staffing communication that way, the Town of Clifton Park has not historically operated like that. Stating that if information gathering or introductions were the goal, there are ways to do that without appearing heavy-handed or threatening. He then asked if there were any further comments.

**Linda Seymour** – Thanked the Board for recognizing volunteers and emphasized the committee’s focus on mission rather than politics. Describing the strong professional backgrounds of its members and invite the transition team to attend a meeting to learn about their work. She recommended reconsidering the request for resumes from all committee members, noting many may be uncomfortable with it, and suggested having in-person conversations instead.

**Councilman Manir** – Thanked Linda for her input and service.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Welcomed newly appointed Toby. Reiterating that there were better ways to handle the transition-related issues discussed earlier. While stating he would take Councilman Manir’s comments at face value, adding that the situation was handled this way for a reason, which is unfortunate.

**Councilman Manir** – Thanked everyone for their feedback, saying learning is ongoing and expressing genuine appreciation for Town employees and their hard work. Acknowledged that wording can sometimes come across differently than intended but emphasized there is always room for improvement. Reiterated his pride in the Town and thanked everyone again.

**Councilwoman Reid** – Encouraged all residents to volunteer, emphasizing that enthusiasm and a desire to serve the community are enough to qualify anyone regardless of experience or political background. Stating differing ideas strengthen the town and urged everyone to work together for the community’s benefit.

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 8:23 PM

Stephanie Ranze  
Town Clerk