

August 10, 2022: August Minutes - Approved

Body:

TOWN OF CLIFTON

REGULAR 2022 MEETING

AUGUST 10, 2022

6:30PM CRANBERRY LAKE

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER:

The Town of Clifton held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at the Cranberry Lake Fire Department. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Supervisor C Hooven.

Board Member	Present	Absent		Town Officials	Present	Absent
Supervisor Charles Hooven	X			Town Clerk, Karen Soltau	X	
Council Member William Griffin	X			Deputy Clerk, Cynthia Whitmore	X	
Council Member Julie Lanphear	X			Bookkeeper, Nancy Russell	X	
Council Member John Russell	X			Highway Superintendent, Kelly Smith	X	
Council Member Mary Zuhlsdorf	X			Code Enforcement Officer, Nicholas Snyder		X
				Dog Control Officer, Ronda Williams		X

GUESTS:

S. Griffin, M. Leroux, K. Provost, M. Zimmer, D. Roberts, L. MacDonald, E. Hamilton, C. Hayes, H. Hayes, L. Denesha

READING OF THE MINUTES: The board, having received a copy of the minutes for review prior to the meeting, voted to forego the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as is, motion to approve was made by J. Russell with a 2nd by, J. Lanphear, Ayes all, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Eric Hamilton – Newton Falls resident. Are they going to do anything with Route 60? Supervisor Hooven's response was, No.
 - Wrote the Sheriff and State Police for extra protection for the criminal activity going on. ATV's running all over, speeding, etc. State Police is short staffed, they don't have enough to cover the area. Supervisor Hooven replied that we have asked for more patrol on many occasions
 - The messes going on uptown with the properties is a concern to him, town people are getting frustrated about the current situation of their town, feel as if they are being totally ignored. Asking the board how far they are along in the process of cleaning up the properties?
 - House has 10 people living in a 2 bed 1 bath house, they are also living in pop up campers and trailers. Why isn't the property owner responsible for this? Supervisor Hooven replied we are working on a local law to deal with the situation and the code enforcement officer has been trained to deal with this kind of stuff. 2 Properties will be gone to first. It's a bad situation, something needs to be done. Town will write letters for more patrol and is currently working on putting laws in place, but it is going to take time.
- Deb Roberts – Representing the Cranberry Lake Boat Club.
 - C. Farnsworth reporting that they were going to put a new roof on the picnic pavilion this year, but they contacted A. Smith and upon inspection he states that the roof is OK for another year, the boat club will do the maintenance staining on the pavilions.
 - Firecracker Race had 175 participants, highest number of entries so far.
 - Poker Paddle had 92 participants and were able to raise \$1,825.00 for the Clifton Community Library.
 - New Kayak/Canoe race – August 13th, registration table will be on the front yard of the community center, race will take place at the Cranberry Lake Beach. This event will coincide with the art show and the chicken BBQ
- Marilyn Zimmer –
 - Art Show will be held this weekend, August 13th and 14th at the Cranberry Lake Fire Hall
 - A lot of places are selling here for a lot more than their assessed value, what is the extra money used for? Supervisor Hooven replied that there appears to be that there are a lot being sold above their assessed value, but when you look at the overall assessed value of the whole town that's a drop in the bucket and those numbers are not going to change the overall piece that we raise our taxes from by all that much, pennies on the dollar. W. Griffin states that the sale price doesn't always reflect the assessed value. More discussion was had on this subject.
 - Asked if there is a way to make room for the performers to be able to bring equipment at the pavilion behind the community center? Can we put cones up to mark a spot where they can unload.
- Kathy Provost –
 - What happened to the letters you were going to write a couple of months ago to the landlord of the people in Newton Falls? Supervisor Hooven states that we are working on the current law that is in

effect. Property owner is ultimately responsible. No letters were written, but the Code Enforcement Officer visited the renters and had a discussion

- Who is to mow the vacant lots in Newton Falls that the town owns? We don't own them anymore.
- Are the meetings ever going to move back to Newton Falls? If Covid ever goes away, the office is just not big enough to accommodate a large number of people.

· Cory Hayes –

- Proposing that the town do something with the beach in Newton Falls. It is private property; the Town does not own it.

· Larry Denesha –

- Will have a conversation with Sheriff Bigwharf to see if they can come up with some sort of Police presence in Newton Falls.
- Covid – Has gone to once a month reporting, the month of July there were 719 new cases 200 deaths to date. 61.6% of the population of St. Lawrence County has been vaccinated.
- Workers Comp – Town of Clifton – Increase in workers comp \$370 dollars.
- 3 new highway outpost –a resolution was passed to install motion activated camera surveillance systems at all 3 outposts for the sum of \$15,815.00.
- As of Monday, 113 properties scheduled for the 2022 property auction on September 10th. Last date for redemption is August 11, 2022. Online will be up on the 12th.
- Sales tax – revenue for June and July is 30% less than it was a year ago.
- Blighted properties in St. Lawrence County, are tax delinquent, bidders are out of the area, then they come see what they bought and change their minds. Highlights of the resolution – \$525,000 net gain on these property sales. The county treasurer and county attorney floated the idea of what if we take \$200,000 of that money and put it into a fund and then every year, put \$100,000 a year into the fund to address the blighted properties. Resolution did pass, more details to come. Towns are going to get some assistance from the county on these tax sales.
- 2021 Audit Results – financials – no findings.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Atlantic Testing Labs- Got a call from the engineer that we needed testing done for asbestos on the Highway Building in Newton Falls before they start work on the roof. He sent a proposal that needed to be signed and mailed, which Supervisor Hooven did on 08/08/2022.
- Cranberry Lake Mountaineers Snowmobile Club letter asking for town board support for a grant through the St. Lawrence County ARPA Tourism, Travel & Hospitality Capacity Building grant program for \$50,000 to purchase a new Kubota L6060 tractor with rubber tracks, drag and brushing attachment– motion to approve letter of support was made by, J. Lanphear with a 2nd by M. Zuhlsdorf, Ayes all, motion carried.
- Workers Compensation – list that we need to accomplish
- Copier lease – Old lease is up with Advanced Business Systems. Purchase a new one, instead of leasing.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cement around the pillars at the community center, done and needs to be painted. W. Griffin can do it when he does the steps if he has the paint.
- Clean up of Newton Falls properties was discussed above.
- Parking in Newton Falls, give them a warning in October about procedures on parking.
- C. Whitmore would like to see something done about parking on Columbian in the winter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Town will be applying for a grant through the county for \$74,346.00 for wastewater infrastructure from the ARPA funds.

HIGHWAY:

- Wildlife Damage Management, hired a beaver trapper, have him on a retainer, he did some work already, he is in the area and is taking care of things. Put some money aside next year, not to exceed \$2500 a year.
- Replaced the drive motor on the zero-turn lawn mower for \$900.00 and it didn't fix the problem. Going forward we need to come up with something different. Put both mowers out for bid and get 1 industrial mower. Table for now, talk about it during budget time.
- Will be paving in early September. Asked the board if are we paving the community center, just the main portion? It will be around \$20,000 range; Company will be here for 3 days of paving doing paving for the town. Motion to go ahead with paving the Community Center was made by J. Lanphear with a 2nd by W. Griffin, Ayes all, motion carried.
- Waiting on the screening plant motor.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Building code to replace your roof is currently charged by the square footage. Change it to \$100.00 flat rate. Motion to charge a flat rate of \$100.00 was made by J. Russell with a 2nd by J. Lanphear, Ayes all, motion carried.
- Getting a permit is the landowners responsibility

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- Supervisors Financial Report: motion to approve was made by J. Lanphear with a 2nd by W. Griffin.
 - Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Motion carried.
- Town Clerks Report: motion to approve was made by M. Zuhlsdorf with a 2nd by W. Griffin.

- Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Motion carried.
- Audit the Bills: motion to pay the bills was made by J. Lanphear with a 2nd by J. Russell.
- Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Motion carried.

	AMOUNTS
CF ARENA	\$626.75
GENERAL	\$30,759.32
HIGHWAY	\$24,938.53
NEWTON FALLS WATER DISTRICT	\$182.95
NEWTON FALLS SEWER DISTRICT	\$5,842.56
NEWTON FALLS DISINFECTING PROJECT	\$25,314.50

The next Town Board meeting will be a Regular meeting on September 14, 2022, at 6:30pm at the Cranberry Lake Fire Department, at 6:30pm

ADJOURNMENT: Was announced at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted

Karen Soltau

Karen Soltau, Town Clerk