

February 27, 2023: February 8, 2023 - Board Meeting Minutes - Approved

Body:

**TOWN OF CLIFTON
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2023
6:30PM CRANBERRY LAKE**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Town of Clifton 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	
Councilman Julie Lanphear	X			Deputy Clerk, Cynthia Whitmore		X
Councilman Bill Griffin	X			Bookkeeper, Nancy Russell	X	
Councilman John Russell	X			Highway Superintendent, Kelly Smith	X	
Councilman Mary Zuhlsdorf	X			Code Enforcement Officer, Nick Snyder		X
				Dog Control Officer, Ronda Williams		X

GUESTS: L. Denesha, M. Leroux, M. Zimber

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Board, having received a copy of the minutes for review prior to the meeting, voted to read the minutes and approve the minutes as read with corrections, motion to approve J. Lanphear a second was made by W. Griffin. Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Absent = 0
Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

L. Denesha

- Sales tax was higher than budgeted, County treasurer feels that the bulk came from the Covid relief checks that were sent out, and prices went up on everything.
- Passed a resolution modifying the 2022 budget for additional sales tax distribution to town and villages.
- Passed a resolution for the New York State Health and Service Commission to grant the application for re-energy holdings, for a bio-mass facility at Fort Drum as a renewable energy source.
- Passed a resolution urging NYS legislative leaders to focus their property tax relief efforts on physical reforms which will lead to permanent tax reduction by assuming the cost of state mandated programs currently made by St. Lawrence County. 90% of the county tax levy is due to unfunded mandates from NYS. The cost of Medicaid for St. Lawrence County is more than 1/2 of the county property tax levy. 300 million dollars of passthrough funds from the federal government to the state to help with Medicaid expenses. The state is supposed to pass that money onto the counties. Governors' budgets propose to keep that money at the state level, and not pass it onto counties, which could mean as much as a 6% property tax increase.
- ARPA funds for sewer and water improvements across the county, 3 towns were fully funded for their requests, Town of Clifton being one of them.
- Blighted property – delinquent properties in St. Lawrence County go up for tax auction the county would sell it trying to recoup the money. Slated for 29 Front Street, Newton Falls, controlled demolition, and backfilling will be paid for by the St. Lawrence County Blighted Residential Property Reserve Account. JEDA Environmental out of Massena will be doing the work. In the Governors proposed 2023 budget any foreclosed property that is sold for more than the delinquent back taxes, fees and penalties, the excess money will be given back to the delinquent owner. If the delinquent owner is deceased, or otherwise unreachable, the money then goes to NYS. If this goes through it could mean the end of the Blighted Property Program that was just started.
- Passed a resolution authorizing the chair to sign an agreement with Clifton Fine Central School District to be a satellite office for DSS, they will be there a couple of days a week.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Dog Control Report - there are 17 outstanding dog licenses that need to be renewed. Supervisor will talk to the dog warden about following up on the process.
- Justice Audit Agreement – Motion to give permission to the Town Supervisor to sign the Justice Audit Agreement was made by J. Russell, with a 2nd by M. Zuhlsdorf, Ayes all, motion carried.

- Town Audit Agreement – Motion to give permission to the Town Supervisor to sign the Town Audit Agreement was made by J. Russell, with a 2nd by J. Lanphear, Ayes all, motion carried.
- Audit Plan - Motion to accept the Audit Plan was made by J. Russell, with a 2nd by W. Griffin, Ayes all, motion carried.
- North Shore Solutions (Web Design) – Proposal on creating a new website. W. Griffin will research further. Table until next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Light Replacement at Community Center – W. Griffin met with Blackmer Electric and decided that the 4 foot lights need to be replaced and the ballast on the 8 foot lights should be replaced. There are 16 lights that need 32 bulbs, try 1 case first. W. Griffin can work on the lights if someone could show him how to do it. Motion to buy a case of bulbs to try them was made by J. Russell, with 2nd by J. Lanphear, Ayes all, motion carried.
- Post Office Repairs, ceiling needs 1 2x4 foot panel replaced, we can't buy just one, we will have to buy a case.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Res #2-2023 ARPA Funds – Newton Falls Disinfection Project – The expenditure meets the criteria in ARPA and is a permissible expenditure of ARPA Funds. The expenditure is authorized and paid for from the ARPA Funds in the amount of \$74,153.62. Motion of expenditure of ARPA Funds was accepted by roll call vote, Hooven = Yea, Griffin = Yea, Lanphear = Yea, Russell = Yea, Zuhlsdorf = Yea, motion carried.
- Res #3-2023 2022 Budget Adjustments to General, Highway, Arena, NFSD, NFWD motion to approve adjustments was made by J. Russell, with a 2nd by M. Zuhlsdorf, Ayes all, motion carried.
- Arena Insurance – Cost has gone up considerably, not sure why, will be discussed at the joint meeting in the spring. Make sure it's on the agenda.
- Litter Control – In July, the Town Law was sent to our lawyer, lawyer didn't do anything with it, implement our own law.

HIGHWAY:

- New Truck is scheduled to go into the shop tomorrow, building the body, and plow apparatus, should be ready by the end of March
- Fuel bills are coming down.
- Union was there last week to talk to the men about their contract.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- **Supervisor’s report** – The board, having examined the report, a motion to approve the report was made by J. Lanphear, with a 2nd by W. Griffin. Ayes all; motion carried.
- **Town Clerk’s report** – The board examined the Town Clerk’s report. A motion was made by J. Russell, to approve the report with a 2nd by M. Zuhlsdorf, Ayes all; motion carried.
- **Audit of the bills:** The board audited the bills for payment. A motion to approve payment of the bills as audited was made by J. Russell with a 2nd by M. Zuhlsdorf, Ayes all, motion carried.

	AMOUNTS
GENERAL	\$29,305.48
HIGHWAY	\$16,400.68
CAPITAL PROJECT NFSD DISINFECTING	\$2,614.00
CF ARENA	\$11,995.56
NEWTON FALLS SEWER DISTRICT	\$7,263.87
NEWTON FALLS WATER DISTRICT	\$252.27

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn at 7:28 was made by J. Russell and seconded by M. Zuhlsdorf. Ayes all; adjourned.

The next Town Board meeting will be a Regular meeting on March 8, 2023, in Cranberry Lake, at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Karen Soltau

Karen Soltau, Town Clerk