

**June 21, 2023: June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

**Body:**

**TOWN OF CLIFTON**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**JUNE 14, 2023**

**6:30PM CRANBERRY LAKE**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Town of Clifton was called to order at 6:31pm by Supervisor C. Hooven.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>		<b>Town Officials</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Supervisor Charles Hooven	X			Town Clerk, Karen Soltau	X	
Councilman Julie Lanphear	X			Deputy Clerk, Cynthia Whitmore	X	
Councilman William 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:** C. Backus, A. Backus, M. Leroux, L. Denesha, N. Nolan, M. Zimmer, S. Griffin, P. Towne, J. Woods, P. Woods, J. Ploof, R. Engle, M. Martin, P. Martin, T. Wendt, Jr. L. Peets, C. Peets, L. MacDonald, C. Burke, B. Blackmer, D. Leroux-Johnson, C. Yartz, B. Horne

**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, a motion to approve was made by J. Lanphear, a second was made by J. Russell. Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Absent = 0 Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- M. Zimmer –Cranberry Lake resident
  - Requested that access be made available at the pavilion behind the Clifton Community Center for people who are using it to be able to load and unload their vehicles closer to the pavilion.
- N. Nolan – Cranberry Lake resident
  - Asked if there was a law against the number of boats one could have on their property. Supervisor Hooven will contact the town lawyer about this.
- R. Engle – St. Lawrence County Sheriff’s Department
  - Discussion about the issues in Newton Falls. It will take a team to fix this problem. He cannot approach the kids without a parent or guardian present. He will talk to the parents but not sure how far that is going to get us. Asking the public if they have any ideas of how to fix this. He is building a case and needs evidence of happenings. It is hard to get the sheriff department to come to this part of the county with limited staff. He wants to gain knowledge of the situation. Encourage people to call 911 when they see someone breaking the law.
  - L. MacDonald stated that he had tried to be civil with these people with no success. Has called the sheriffs and state police numerous times with no response.
  - J. Woods asked if there could be a town ordinance put in place for noise or curfew. Kids all over to around 3am yelling and screaming. He has talked to some of them and things quiet down for a bit, then starts back up.
  - S. Griffin discussed the process of PINS (Persons in need of supervision).
  - P. Woods has asked if any member of law enforcement approached the parents? How many years does she have to wait for the house next door to be taken down?

If you have a complaint, you should call the Sheriff’s office at 315-379-2077, or 315-379-2222 or email Rick Engle at [rengle@stlawco.org](mailto:rengle@stlawco.org).

- L. Denesha – County Legislator
  - County passed a resolution passing the intermunicipal agreement with the towns of Clifton and Fine for the sighting of the EMS radios.
  - Adopted a resolution mortgage tax, Town of Clifton will receive a check for \$1,138.99.
  - Passed a resolution that June is Dairy Month

§ Recognized 14 family operated farms that have been in business for 100 years.

- State of Emergency passed – Title 42 – Opening of the Boarders. Some of the boarder states are sending migrants to New York state. Passed because if we get an influx, we could possibly get aid.
  - General Fund - \$11 million increase
  - Passed a resolution prohibiting Tic Tok on St. Lawrence County owned devices.
  - The Board of Elections are looking for poll workers, if interested please contact the board of elections.
  - L. MacDonald – Newton Falls Resident
  - Is there anything that we can start doing such as noise ordinances or curfews?
- § Supervisor Hooven explained that he has researched other towns' ordinances, and it looks like this is something that we could use.
- Is there anything that can be done about the ATV's riding up and down the roads?
- § Supervisor Hooven stated that law enforcement needs to be contacted on that issue.
- Is there anything the town can do to push back? Residents are upset.
- § The Town of Clifton has asked for more coverage from law enforcement. They have increased coverage but, whenever they are in the area, nothing happens.
- § S. Griffin suggested that when calls are made to law enforcement that you ask for a copy of the report.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- NYMIR recommendations
  - all vegetation and tree branches touching the side of the walls and the roof be removed/trimmed to prevent exterior damage in a windstorm at the Water Treatment Plant.
- § The highway department has removed the vegetation and trees per recommendation.
- Children at play signs should not be used and/or removed from use on roadways as they provide a false sense of security to parents and children and may serve to increase the municipality's liability in the event a child is struck by a vehicle in the vicinity of one of these signs.
- § The highway department will remove Children at Play signs.
- Snowplow Logs – suggested the snowplow operators maintain a log of snow removal activities for each day with date and time started, time completed, weather conditions prior to and during snow removal and deicing activities, etc.
- § The highway department will maintain logbooks.
- Noise Law
  - Supervisor Hooven has obtained samples of local laws on Noise ordinances. The town board has chosen to revise one of the samples to fit the Town of Clifton needs. The town lawyer will handle such revisions. There will need to be a Public Hearing.

§ A motion to send the sample of Norfolk town ordinance on noise to the town lawyer for revisions was made by J. Lanphear with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Griffin, Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Motion Carried.

- Williamson Law Book Company
- Williamson Cloud Hosted Software Proposal which includes, Town Clerk Plus, Municipal Accounting and Budget Preparation Program, and Payroll Program

§ A motion to accept the Williamson Proposal was made by J. Russell with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Griffin, Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Motion Carried.

- Union Contract
- A motion to have Supervisor Hooven sign the union contract was made by J. Lanphear with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Griffin, Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Motion Carried.
- Clifton Community Library
- Appointment of Library Aide

§ The library is recommending Terri Smith for the position of Library Aide. A motion to approve this appointment was made by J. Russell with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Lanphear, Ayes = 5, Noes=0, Motion Carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Blighted Properties
- 941 County Rt. 60, Newton Falls

§ The town board would like to see it torn down prior to the tax auction.

§ A Motion to begin demolition on this property was made by J. Russell with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Zuhlsdorf, Ayes = 5, Noes = 0, Motion Carried.

- Two properties have been given notice by the Code Enforcement Officer

§ 933 County Rt. 60, Newton Falls

- This property has been cleaned up.

§ 5 Leonard Drive, Star Lake

- Has not attempted to clean this property up.
- Air Conditioners for Clifton Community Center
- W. Griffin has researched air conditioning units and he believes that two 12,000 BTU units will be big enough to handle the Town Clerks office and the Post Office.

§ A motion to purchase 2 12,000BTU air conditioners was made by W. Griffin with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Russell. Ayes =5, Noes = 0. Motion Carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Clifton Community Beach
- J. Lanphear reported that a load of sand will be needed.

§ The highway department will deliver.

- J. Lanphear also reported that the beach sign is not installed yet.

§ Contact J. Dragan

- The lifeguard chair at the beach is in need of repair or replacement.
- The beach will open July 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Porta Potties

- Clifton Community Library arranges for porta potties behind the Clifton Community Center every summer from July – September. In past years the cost of rental has been split 3 ways between the library, the Cranberry Lake Boat Club, and the Town of Clifton.

§ A motion to pay the Town of Clifton’s third was made by J. Lanphear with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Zuhlsdorf. Ayes=5, Noes = 0, Motion Carried.

**HIGHWAY:**

- The new truck is done, and will be getting it on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The highway crew has been cutting shoulders between Newton Falls and Cranberry Lake.
- An employee retired at the beginning of June which leaves him with a 5-man crew.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- **Supervisor’s report** – The board, having examined the report, a motion to approve the report was made by J. Lanphear, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Zuhlsdorf. Ayes all; motion carried.
- **Audit of the bills:** J. Russell questioned a bill from the Town of Fine. The bill was for the total amount of shared expenses, and we agreed to pay only what was spent. Th bill will be adjusted accordingly. The board audited the bills for payment. A motion to approve payment of the bills as audited was made by J. Lanphear with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Russell, Ayes all, motion carried.

	<b>AMOUNTS</b>
GENERAL	\$26,814.33

HIGHWAY	\$104,503.88
CF ARENA	\$193.40
NEWTON FALLS SEWER DISTRICT	\$11,093.00
NEWTON FALLS WATER DISTRICT	\$217.85

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn at 7:54 was made by M. Zuhlsdorf and seconded by J. Russell. Ayes all; adjourned.

**The next Town Board meeting will be a Regular meeting on July 12, 2023, in Cranberry Lake, at 6:30pm.**

Respectfully submitted.

**Karen Soltau**

Karen Soltau, Town Clerk