

Regular Council Meeting  
September 12, 2006  
**AMENDED FOLLOWING MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2006**

Mayor Schaumburg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Insel, Quinonez-Perez, Ragozine, Schaumburg

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:**

Mayor Schaumburg read the following statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided, indicating the time and place of the meeting and the proposed agenda, which notice was posted, made available to newspapers, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Clinton in accordance with Section 3(d) of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975.”

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AMENDED & DISCUSSED SEPT. 26, 2006**

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the minutes of September 12, 2006 as submitted. Mr. Harrison questioned a few of the comments reported on in the September 12<sup>th</sup> minutes.

Under Resolution #102-06 – the minutes read “the Town has decided” Mr. Harrison questioned who is the “Town”? The minutes will now read “The Town Council”.

Under the section of Sign Ordinance Discussion – “If a merchant is not in compliance, they would be forwarded to the Board of Adjustment”. Mr. Harrison’s question, who’s forwarded to the Board of Adjustment? Mr. Ragozine explained that it is the merchant that would be forwarded to Board of Adjustment. The intent is that a merchant would have 90 days to come in to compliance, apply to the Sign Committee or apply for a variance through the Board of Adjustment. If not in compliance within 90 days, the merchant will be in violation. Another question of Mr. Harrison was the sentence “Following a Sign Committee meeting with the merchants, they would address their signs on an individual basis and then make recommendations to the Board of Adjustment.” Mayor Schaumburg altered the sentence, removing “they would address their signs on an individual basis. The sentence will then read, “Following a Sign Committee meeting with the merchants, the Sign Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Adjustment”.

Next questionable statement, the sentence reads, “Mr. Ragozine stated that vehicles with commercial plates are excluded in a residential zone.” Mr. Ragozine thanked Mr. Harrison for bringing that to his attention. Mr. Ragozine did not say that, and wanted that sentence removed. Mr. Tranquilli, 11 Rupells Road, asked Council to be careful about commercial plates and vehicles being parked at residences. Mayor Schaumburg stated that she does not want to over regulate. Mr. Tranquilli stated that he has a problem with someone in his neighborhood starting a commercial truck early in the morning and it is very loud.

At this point, a motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**THE ABOVE CORRECTIONS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE PERMANENT RECORD OF COUNCIL MEETINGS MINUTES. FOLLOWING ARE THE ORIGINAL MINUTES PRIOR TO BEING AMENDED.**

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber seconded by Mrs. Insel to accept the monthly reports for the month of August as submitted:

Clerk's Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Construction Control Account, Fire Official Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector's Report, Tax Collector's Report, Water Collector's Report, Treasurer's Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Report, Zoning Officer/Construction Official Report.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Scott Wintermute, Chief of the Clinton Fire Department, made a plea for people to attend the Blood Drive on Monday, September 18, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The drive is being held on behalf of Kearsten Higgins, daughter of Assistant Chief Steve Higgins and his wife, Sharon. Kearsten is undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia. Councilwoman Garber also announced that people are interested in starting a food chain, to bring dinner to the family on Wednesday evenings. Anyone interested should contact Councilwoman Garber or Diana Kubik, Kearsten's aunt.

Liz Harmon, 5 Rolling Hill Road, Alton Place Condo Association, came before Council to ask for support contacting Access Management Association. Several attempts to reach them by concerned residents have gone unanswered. Ms. Harmon wants the help of Council to get Access Management to look at safety and health problems being caused by mold on their homes, alleged overcrowding of affordable units, and fire concerns caused by people smoking. There are also issues regarding landscaping and garbage. Mayor Schaumburg explained that the matter has been referred to the Code Enforcement officer to look into the overcrowding, however, the Town has no direct involvement with the Access Management Association. Mr. Cutter further explained the Town's only obligation is qualifying applicants for the housing.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

1. Mayor Schaumburg commended the Parks & Playgrounds Commission for a great job on the hosting the Town Picnic, September 9, 2006. The final numbers were not available but a couple hundred people attended and the volunteers ranged between 50 to 100. Dr. D did an excellent job and the fireworks were fantastic! Thanks to Diane Bower, Councilwoman Garber, Councilman Ragozine, Rosemary Pendergast, Liz Cuthill and all who helped make the event such a success. Councilman Harrison was proud to drive Mr. Hooper's fire truck into Town, giving rides to many children during his seven trips. Thanks to Nancy Burgess and Dave Komorowski for their assistance.
2. Mayor Schaumburg and Chief Matheis met with the resident engineer in charge of the Exit 15 Project. NJDOT discussed installing cameras in the morning hours to help with signalization and adding additional patrols to help with traffic issues.

3. Mayor Schaumburg will be attending an I-78 Corridor Transit Study in Clinton Township on Monday, September 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Discussion will address the need, impact and feasibility of various transit strategies along the I-78 corridor and will be hosted by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

### **TAX ASSESSOR PRESENTATION**

Marcia Sudano-Kerwin, Tax Assessor, and David Centrelli, Assistant to the Tax Assessor, gave a presentation of the annual re-assessment process being conducted in the Town of Clinton. State mandates that 25% of the Town be assessed yearly. Ms. Kerwin explained that sales by neighborhoods are compared and that is how assessments are based. Mr. Centrelli conducts the inspections of the homes. Letters are sent to residents advising them of the upcoming inspections. Within a few weeks, Mr. Centrelli comes out to the neighborhoods and leaves a card at the homes where no one is home. It is up to the resident to contact the Municipal Building to set up an appointment to have Mr. Centrelli return and enter the home for the inspection. If he is not notified, the home will be assessed on similar homes in the neighborhood and what they have sold for.

Richard Ebersole, 27 Lingert Avenue, questioned his assessment and stated that his home has not been renovated or updated as those around him. He stated that he could never sell his home and reap the amounts of his neighbors. Ms. Kerwin explained that if Mr. Centrelli has not seen the inside of the home, he assumes it is similar to the surrounding homes and the comparison is made. Mr. Ebersole was advised, as well as any one interested, to reach out to Ms. Kerwin for further clarification during regular business hours and she would be happy to discuss individual properties with them.

Mayor Schaumburg stated that she learned from Ms. Kerwin that David ages your house during his visits. If your home has not been updated and Mr. Centrelli has not been there within a few years, an assumption will be made that your home is in the same category as some of the other homes in your area. It is your responsibility to contact the office and arrange for a visit.

Councilwoman Insel explained that she, herself, was once concerned with her assessment and before choosing to enter an appeal, visited Town Hall to review the property tax records of her neighbors. After the review, Ms. Insel felt much better and urged residents to do the same. The records are open to the public, and although property record cards of your neighbors are not public, information to provide you with a clear comparison is available.

Mayor Schaumburg thanked Ms. Kerwin and Mr. Centrelli for a very informative session and announced that Ms. Kerwin will return to a Council meeting in January to update Council and residents.

### **RESOLUTION #97-06 – MAYOR’S WELLNESS CAMPAIGN**

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #97-06 supporting the Mayors Wellness Campaign.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

Mayor Schaumburg informed the public that Clinton Public School’s 2006-2007 Theme is “Health and Nutrition”. Mayor Schaumburg met with Dr. Schilder and discussed ideas of promoting healthier eating and exercise. The State has prepared a tool box of ideas and Mayor Schaumburg said she would like to incorporate a program combining school and town activities. The Mayor said she would also like to reach out to Ann Holt, the new Senior Coordinator, to discuss some of

these ideas. Councilwoman Garber said the school is planning on starting a “fitness club” for teachers and children and everyone seems to be quite excited about the plan.

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

**RESOLUTION #98-06 – TAX LIEN CANCELLATION**

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to adopt Resolution #98-06 authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel Lien #2006-04 as requested.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

**RESOLUTION #99-06 – CANCELLATION OF TAX LEIN**

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #99-06 authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel Lien #2006-12 as requested.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

**RESOLUTION #100-06 – POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #100-06 allowing Christine Rizzo to refinance her mortgage with Mortgage NOW, Inc. in the amount of \$140,000. Ms. Rizzo is a resident of an Affordable Housing Unit in Alton Place.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

**RESOLUTION #101-06 – OPEN SPACE TRUST FUNDS**

Mrs. Insel explained that we recently applied for \$25,000.00, however, at that time, the County asked for additional information about the project. The original thought of the Grants Committee was to ask for \$25,000.00 for the first round and \$25,000.00 for the second round to fund the project. The Grants Committee now decided to go for the entire amount at this time while providing the information requested. This is a big process and the County meets only certain times of the year to review requests, therefore, the Committee decided to now request the entire amount to prevent holding up the study. The Vision Study is being prepared by the Town Planner, Carl Hintz, to go throughout the Town looking for ratables and redevelopment. Once the plan comes together and is complete, it will then be forwarded to the Planning Board. This study must be complete before going to further with other grants. A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #101-06 which is to be forwarded to the Hunterdon County Open Space Program in order to apply for \$60,000.00 of Open Space Trust Funds to fund a Smart Growth Vision Study for the Town of Clinton.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

**RESOLUTION #102-06 – TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR**

The Town of Clinton is in need of an electrical inspector. Building Underwriters Inspectors has been doing inspections with the Town in previous years, however, when it was time to enter into another contract, they placed unreasonable demands on the Town. The Town has decided to hire a temporary electrical inspector for 90 days, and at the end of the 90 days, possibly make a permanent appointment.

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt Resolution #102-06 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #06-16 – POSITION AND SALARY RANGE FOR ELECTRICAL OFFICIAL**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Ordinance #06-16 on first reading as submitted:

ORDINANCE #06-16

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE POSITION TITLES AND SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE TOWN OF CLINTON COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A copy of this Ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Review on September 20, 2006 edition. A public hearing will be held October 10, 2006.

(A copy of this Ordinance will be attached to these minutes)

**BANNER REQUEST – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Council is in receipt of a banner request from the Hunterdon County of Chamber to display a banner announcing the 2006 Home & Business Expo. The banner request is for October 2<sup>nd</sup> to October 18, 2006. The event is scheduled to be held October 26, 2006. A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Insel to approve the request as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**BANNER REQUEST – HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER**

Council is in receipt of a banner request from the Hunterdon Medical Center to display a banner from September 15 through September 30, 2006. The banner will be announcing “Breast Cancer Awareness Month”, the event will begin the end of September and run the entire month of October. A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to approve the request as submitted.

Vote all ayes

Motion carried

**SIGN ORDINANCE – DISCUSSION**

Council is in receipt of a memo from Mr. Cutter attached to a copy of a Sign Ordinance to review from John Barczyk, Code Enforcement and Housing Officer. Mr. Barczyk has copied an Ordinance from Readington Township that addresses specific problems in the Town of Clinton. An amendment to the Town of Clinton ordinance may be helpful in remedying the specific problem we are now faced with, a vehicle located in front of an Auto Parts Store that appears to be parked there only for advertisement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to forward the proposed amendment to Attorney Cushing for review and to draft an ordinance for Council to consider.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

The Sign Committee is also reviewing the current Ordinance and in compliance with the regulations, plan to send out a letter to the Clinton Business Community explaining that the Town will begin strictly enforcing the ordinance. The letter will stress the highlights of the ordinance clarifying permanent signage and temporary signage. Mr. Tranquilli, Chair of the Sign Committee, stated that business owners will receive the letter and have 90 days to comply. If a merchant is not in compliance, they would be forwarded to the Board of Adjustment. The Sign Committee would like to address these issues first with the merchants at an attempt to help them at no cost. Following a Sign Committee meeting with the merchants, they would address their signs on an individual basis and then make recommendations to the Board of Adjustment. Todd Pender, 137 Center Street, asked about home based businesses that park their vehicles in front of their homes with a sign on it as to advertise. Mr. Ragozine stated that vehicles with commercial plates are excluded in a residential zone. The ordinance and the proposed amendments will have to be reviewed by Attorney Cushing very carefully. The letter written by the Sign Committee will be forwarded to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment for their review and comments.

**ROLLING HILLS GIRL SCOUT TROOP #984 – FEE WAIVER**

Rolling Hills Girl Scout Leader, Nancy Scire, forwarded a letter to the Mayor and Council requesting that two fire permit application fees be waived. Girl Scout Troop #984 is a non profit group that hold annual events at the Clinton Public School, the Halloween Party on October 20<sup>th</sup> and the annual Parent/Daughter dance on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The group also provides hours of service time to the town and the community. Troop #984 is requesting that the fire permit application fees in the amount of \$42.00 each be waived. A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene to waive the fees as requested pending review by Attorney Cushing.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried**REFUND OF PLANNING BOARD FEES - BOHNEL**

Mayor and Council are in receipt of a letter from John and Joanna Bohnel, 76 Center Street, requesting a refund in the amount of \$1,500.00 for application and escrow deposits to the Planning Board. The Bohnel's decided to withdraw their application for a lot line adjustment. A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to refund the fees as requested.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT POSITION**

The Board of Adjustment, Alternate #2 position recently occurred when Arlene Quinones-Perez filled the Council vacancy of Janice Kovach in August. William (Bill) Berson forwarded to Council a Citizen Involvement application in which he expressed his desire to fill the seat. Mr. Berson presented himself to Council and stated he has been a resident of Clinton for 5 years, considers himself to be a logical, open minded person, interested in policies and procedures and would like to be considered for the position. A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to appoint Mr. Berson to the Alternate #2 position on the Board of Adjustment.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Mayor Lisa Uchrin, of Lebanon Borough, sent a letter of thanks to Mayor Schaumburg for her Assistance in helping the Borough finish preparing a Small Cities Community Block Grant application. The grant is being sought to make their municipal building handicap accessible and to comply with the American Disabilities Act. Mayor Schaumburg stated that much of the thanks should go to Allison McGinley for helping to get an inspector to the building so that they were able to move on with the application.
2. A letter of thanks to Mr. Cutter from Superintendent Michael Schilder of Clinton Public School for his assistance with the new school/bell project. Additional commendation to Art Dysart, Pete Bross and Wayne Smith for the attention they gave to their work. They did a fantastic job!
3. Hunterdon County Fact Book received from the Governor's Office. Available in the Clerk's Office for anyone interested in viewing.
4. David Merrill, 146 Center Street, wrote to thank Officer Jeff Ollerenshaw for his assistance to swiftly and very carefully help him back into his house after accidentally locking himself out.
5. Mayor and Council are in receipt of a letter of thanks from the Visiting Health & Supportive Services for the donation of \$1,000. The donation goes to the Services who help people in need.
6. Letter of thanks to Mr. Cutter for the nice job on the trees around the pump house at Pond Ridge from Tom & Gail Stepka.

**REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS****Councilwoman Insel**

1. Planning Board – next meeting October 3, 2006.
2. Smart Growth – next meeting September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. – Grant update

**Councilman Harrison**

1. Sewer Committee – discussed Grease traps – agreed to send “draft ordinance” comments to Mr. Cushing for revisions.

2. Personnel – next meeting September 15, 2006
3. Chamber of Commerce meeting – September 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., Clinton Municipal Building.  
Topic – Shared Services .

**Councilwoman Quinones-Perez**

1. Emergency Services Foundation held the “Baby Parade” and the Baby Guessing Contest, on September 9<sup>th</sup> on Main Street. Numerous entries were made. Pretty Little “Sunflower” won the Baby Contest.

**Councilman De Cleene**

1. Road Committee met – discussions included Rupell’s Road Speed Tables  
Route 173 bridge re-construction – due for completion end of November  
Halstead Bridge re-construction - due for completion end of November  
Condition of the Pony Truss Bridge
2. Rescue Squad – 119 calls - Finance Committee to meet September 21
3. Fire Department – September 18<sup>th</sup> 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Blood Drive – PLEASE ATTEND

**Councilwoman Garber**

1. Emergency Services Foundation – Next meeting - September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.
2. Clinton Guild next meeting – September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
3. Thank you to Lois Terreri who has been the Town Senior Coordinator for the past few years.  
Welcome to Ann Holt who has taken over the position.
4. Fire Department – plea for everyone to come to the Blood Drive on Monday for Kearsten Higgins and consider making a dinner for the family on a Wednesday evening.
5. Parks & Playgrounds – Town Picnic was held September 9 and it was fantastic. A special Thanks to the Boy Scout Troop #121 who came out early Sunday morning to clean up as a community service project. Mrs. Garber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to have the Mayor draw up a Proclamation to present to the Troop.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

Next Parks and Playground meeting – September 21 at 7:30 p.m.

**Councilman Ragozine**

1. Buildings and Grounds - Bids for 47 Leigh Street will be received September 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Community Center renovations in progress, looking good.

**Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator**

1. September 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m., attending first HART meeting as a member of the Board.



**APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the attached overtime and standby pay for the period of August 11 to August 24, 2006.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Insel, Quinones-Perez, Ragozine, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Insel, Ragozine, Quinones-Perez, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Ms. Insel, seconded by Mr. De Cleene to enter into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel seconded by Mr. De Cleene to come out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**SALARY FOR INTERIM ELECTRICAL SUBCODE OFFICIAL**

Mr. Cutter recommended the annual salary of \$4,500 per year for the position of Electrical Subcode Official. The temporary position is for 90 days and will be pro-rated. A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. De Cleene to accept the recommended as presented.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Quinones-Perez, seconded by Mr. Ragozine to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC  
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

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Christine Schaumburg , Mayor