

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – Christenson, De Cleene, Garber, Kovach, Pendergast, Schaumburg, Holt

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Holt 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

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mr. Christenson, to approve the minutes of the Budget meeting held February 2, 2005 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
1 Abstention (Pendergast)
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Christenson, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast, to approve the minutes of February 8, 2005 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Pendergast, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve the minutes of the Budget meeting held February 10, 2005 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve the Police and Tax Collector’s monthly reports for the month of January as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Evans, 34 Goosetown Road, questioned why the re-assessments went “sky high”. Mr. Evans said he was left a note from the Tax Assessor to schedule an appointment. He attempted to contact her three times and never received a call back. He said the assessor has never been able to enter the Evans’ home but his assessment increased \$76,000.00 this year. Mayor Holt attempted to explain that the Mayor and Council have nothing to do with the assessments and “that there is zero tax increase from this Council, however costs have gone up”. Mayor Holt will reach out to the assessor to contact Mr. Evans.

Mrs. Kovach stated that she reached out to the Hunterdon County Tax Board and asked for someone to attend a Council meeting for a Question and Answer Session on assessments. Mayor Holt also spoke to the County Tax Board and will reach out again to arrange a meeting before April 1st when tax appeals are due.

John Rinald, 30 Goosetown Road, asked what is the Town doing to decrease taxes for the residents? Mayor Holt explained that there are three vacant pieces of land and two pieces that have already received zoning approval, they are the hotel on Route 31 and two office buildings owned by Fallone Properties. The three vacant pieces are on Old Highway 22 across from STS, the Moebus Tract and the Industrial Tract located near the Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition to these sites, an office building is approved next to the Hunterdon County Library on Halstead Street and the Zirinsky Tract, located below Union Gap Village. This is approved for residential condos and town houses.

Councilwoman Schaumburg asked if the Town has a Industrial Development Committee and suggested an Economic Development Committee to study the locations and make recommendations to Mayor and Council and the Planning Board. The Master Plan Committee is expected to have the re-examination done in 2005.

Robert Ragozine, 24 Haver Farm Road, was happy to see that the Town voted to hire a new auditor at a savings but questioned why three Council members voted to keep the current professional at a higher rate. Mr. Ragozine questioned why the current auditor dropped his rate after Requests for Proposal went out? Mayor Holt explained Mr. Colantano has been with the Town for 25 years and wanted to keep the account. Mr. Ragozine also questioned how the current auditors rate was lowered so significantly and came within \$25.00 of another firm? "What a coincidence" suggested Mr. Ragozine.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Clean-Up will be held Saturday, March 12, 2005 at the County Complex on Route 12 in Flemington.

APPLICATION FEE REFUND

Allison McGinley, Board of Adjustment Secretary, presented Council with a letter from Clinton Assembly of God, requesting their application fee of \$200.00 be waived. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to waive the fee as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

BANNER REQUEST

Council is in receipt of a banner request from an organization, Satya Yoga, of Grist Mill Plaza, Lebanon. The event, NORWESCAP Sunami Relief, is scheduled to be held April 1, 2005 at the Clinton Community Center from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Their request is for a banner to be hung from March 19 through April 2. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Christenson, to approve the banner as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

READ ACROSS AMERICA PROCLAMATION

Read Across America is a New Jersey Education Association Project which promotes reading as the catalyst for students' future academic success. Mayor Holt will be reading to the children of Clinton Public School on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 in honor of this national reading celebration.

BID AWARD – LEE COMPANY

Mr. Cutter received a recommendation from Public Works/Water Superintendent, Thomas Tharp to award the bid for "Furnishing and Delivering Water Main Service Line Materials and Supplies" to THE LEE COMPANY. Mr. Cutter provided Council with the contract numbers and the actual expenditures of the last three years. Mrs. Kovach questioned why the amount seemed to jump this year compared to the last three years. Mr. Cutter explained that every type of fitting we could use is ordered and the price increase could be due to the cost of the raw material. Mr. Cutter will check with the LEE COMPANY for an explanation. A motion was made by Mr. Christenson, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast to award the bid to THE LEE COMPANY as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET 2005

Mayor Holt discussed the budget and the proposed cuts in Capital Items. The tax rate for the Town of Clinton has remained flat. Mayor Holt explained that the following resolutions to be read will be included as items of general revenue in the 2005 Budget.

RESOLUTION #41-05 - UNIFORM FIRE SAFETY ACT

The Town of Clinton anticipates an item of general revenue in the amount of \$17,800.00 to be included under the caption "Uniform Fire Safety Act". A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast, to adopt Resolution #41-05 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #42-04 – ANTICIPATED UTILITY OPERATING SURPLUS

The Town of Clinton anticipates an item of general revenue in the amount of \$250,000.00 to be included under the caption "Anticipated Utility Operating Surplus". A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #42-05 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #43-05 – HOTEL AND MOTEL OCCUPANCY FEE

The Town of Clinton anticipates an item of general revenue in the amount of \$49,000.00 to be included under the caption "Hotel and Motel Occupancy Fee". A motion was made by Mrs. Pendergast, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #43-05 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #44-05 – DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE BODY ARMOR FUND

The Town of Clinton anticipates an item of general revenue in the amount of \$960.41 to be included under the caption “Division of Criminal Justice Body Armor Fund”. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Christenson, to adopt Resolution #44-05 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #45-05 – MUNICIPAL STORMWATER REGULATION PROGRAM

The Town of Clinton anticipates an item of general revenue in the amount of \$6,822.00 to be included under the caption “NJ DEP – Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program”. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to adopt Resolution #45-05 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #46-05 – INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast, to adopt Resolution #46-05, introducing the 2005 Budget. Copies of the Budget will be available in the Clerk’s Office for anyone interested in reviewing it. Mayor Holt suggested to Council and the public, that if there were any questions concerning the 2005 Budget, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Smith, CFO, or Robert Cutter, PW/Business Administrator prior to the Public Hearing scheduled for March 22, 2005.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Christenson, De Cleene, Garber, Kovach, Pendergast, Schaumburg, Holt

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

A Synopsis of this Budget will be published in the Hunterdon Review on March 9, 2005. The Public Hearing will be held on March 22, 2005.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #05-02 – SALARY & WAGES

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast, to adopt Ordinance #05-02 on first reading as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

This Ordinance will be published in the Hunterdon Review edition of March 2, 2005. The Public Hearing will be held March 22, 2005.

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

RESOLUTION #47-05 – OVERPAYMENTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #47-05, authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund the overpayment in the amount of \$2,280.45 to David and Elizabeth Constant as requested.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

RESOLUTION #48-05 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

A motion was made by Mrs. Pendergast, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to adopt Resolution #48-05 authorizing a Transfer of Funds.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

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

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copies of the Clinton Guild Reporter and minutes of the Clinton Guild meeting of February 16, 2005 have been received. Mayor Holt asked that copies be made available to Council members.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Councilwoman Garber

1. Newsletter committee will be meeting on February 25th to insert web site information into the Newsletter.
2. Clinton Guild – Mrs. Garber reported on the Guild’s recent meeting, winner’s of the Valentine Drawing and the upcoming Springtime events.

Councilwoman Schaumburg

1. Historic Commission discussed the Pony Truss Bridge and one of their main goals this year was to determine the historic status of the Bridge. The Commission is happy to announce that it is protected as an historic site in the State Register and the State Historic Preservation Office.
2. The Historic Commission interviewed applicants to fill the open position.
3. Rescue Squad – next meeting March 1, 2005.

Councilwoman Kovach

1. Affordable Housing Round 3 Committee met to interview a Planner. The Planner reported that it may take 3 – 4 months maximum to complete in compliance with new Round Three requirements and tie back into the Master Plan.
2. Highlands Commission will meet March 17, Commissioner Susan Bass Levin will be in attendance. TDR pilot projects taking place in Oxford and Prospect Park.
3. This evening’s Cross Acceptance Committee meeting had many public comments for and against the Highlands Legislation.

Councilman Christenson

1. New Jersey Water Supply Administration has notified the Town of Clinton Water Department that there are a few items still needed for the pending application for Well #15. On February 23rd Tom Tharp, Water Superintendent and Andrew Holt, Water Engineer, will be going to Trenton to discuss the items.
2. Mural Project – A letter of support has been forwarded by the Mayor to NJDOT . The status Is now pending with the State.
3. South Branch Water Shed Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th.
4. Fire Department – Scott Wintermute has forwarded incident data sheets for January, 2005.

Councilwoman Pendergast

1. Senior Citizen’s Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the Clinton First Aid & Rescue Squad’s new building.

Councilman De Cleene

1. Mr. Cutter sent a follow up letter to Mr. Tozzi of New Jersey Department of Transportation Regarding the Leigh Street and Old 22 intersection traffic light.
2. Next Roads Committee meeting, March 1st at 9:30 p.m.

Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator

1. Attended a seminar sponsored by Congressman Mike Ferguson on February 18th in Branchburg. Homeland Security Funds being made available for grants to Fire and Rescue Squads nation wide.

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:

A motion was made by Mr. Christenson, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to pay the following overtime and standby pay for the period of January 27, 2005 – February 9, 2005.

<u>Public Works Department</u>	<u>Standby & Lead Op</u>	<u>B & G Roads</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>
Peter Bross	--	--	--	--
David Burdge	--	4 ot	4 ½ ot	--
Michael Cobb	--	--	--	--
Howard Deemer	--	--	4 ½ ot	--
Arthur Dysart	8 sb	--	6 ot	--
John Giordano	--	--	--	--
George Moore	--	--	4 ½ ot	--
Robert Niezgoda	--	--	--	½ ot
Roger Plaisted	--	--	4 ½ ot	--
Jeff Reed	8 sb	--	--	6 ½ ot
Wayne Smith	8 sb	4 ot	6 ot	--
Donald Tharp	8 sb	--	--	12 ot
David Zyck	--	--	--	--

<u>Police Department</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
Sgt.Cory Kubinak	4 Hrs.	--
Ptl. Jay Hunter	--	--
Ptl. Leon Cohen	4 ½ Hrs.	--
Ptl. Jeffrey Glennon	--	--
Ptl. James Crilly	--	--
Ptl. Tim McGuire	2 Hrs.	--
Ptl. Matt Thompson	3 Hrs.	--
Ptl. James Kramer	--	--
Ptl. Ryan Garbolino	3 Hrs.	--

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs.Schaumburg, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mayor Holt, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters of Personnel at 8:35 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

J. Matthew Holt, Mayor