

Regular Council Meeting  
February 14, 2006

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

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – Garber, Harrison, Insel, Kovach, Ragozine, Mayor Schaumburg  
Absent - De Cleene

**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**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve the minutes of January 24, 2006 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of January 12, 2006 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
1 abstention (Insel)  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Insel to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of January 26, 2006 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of February 2, 2006 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
1 Abstention (Kovach)  
Motion carried

Mr. Ragozine requested that the Budget Workshop minutes of February 9, 2006 be amended to reflect the decision to fund one police car in 2006, the car will be leased. A motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2006 as amended was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve monthly reports for the month of January as submitted.

Administrator's Report, Clerk's Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Fire Official Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector's Report, Water Collector's Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent's Report.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dena Pender addressed the closing of the Pony Truss Bridge for four weeks to do repairs by the County. Mr. Cutter explained that detour signs will be placed by the Clinton House and the corner of Leigh Street and Old 22, directing traffic to parking areas and Main Street. Maps have been prepared and wording for signage has been sent to Hunterdon County.

Mrs. Pender also addressed grant money to be used for the maintenance of the dam. Mrs. Pender stated that there are three or four large trees in the water near the dam and fears they may cause damage to the dam. Mr. Cushing took the opportunity to state that the dam is in "good shape", the dike is in need of repairs. The Red Mill plans to reach out to the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

Sal Latino, 58 Leigh Street, has been working on restoring the home and wishes to construct a wrap around porch to the building. Zoning Officer, John Leonard, recently explained to Mr. Latino that he would have to go to the Board of Adjustment for a variance due to an encroachment within the set backs. Mr. Latino was seeking guidance from the Governing Body tonight, however, Mr. Cushing explained that he would have to appear before the Board of Adjustment. The Governing Body does not have the authority to take action in matters such as this and it is the decision of the Board of Adjustment to address the request. Mr. Latino was directed to appear before the Board of Adjustment.

### MAYORS COMMENTS

1. Professional service agreements have been received from Robert J. Clerico of Van Cleef Engineering. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contracts.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

2. Police Chief Matheis is recommending that Patrolman Jim Kramer be advanced to the next pay Step of 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Patrolman with the annual salary of \$57,586.00 per year under the 2003-2005 Contract. A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Kovach to approve the request as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

### WATER REFUNDS

Water Collector, Nancy Burgess, is requesting water refunds be made. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to refund \$19.13 to Robert & Joan Khoury.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to refund \$20.06 to Ronald Kiska.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIAL**

Due to the bankruptcy of Garden State Electrical, John Leonard, Zoning Officer / Construction Official, has recommended that Peter Ball be appointed as Fire Sub Code Official at an annual salary of \$3,000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to grant the appointment of Mr. Ball as recommended. Mr. Cutter will notify Mr. Ball of his appointment and salary.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #06-01 – FIRE SUBCODE FEES**

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Kovach to open the public hearing on Ordinance #06-01:

ORDINANCE #06-01  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES,  
SECTION 73-3 (G) (5), FIRE SUBCODE FEES

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

Mayor Schaumburg explained the reason for adopting a Fire Sub Code Fees Schedule is for inspections and permits to be issued by a designated Fire Sub Code Official of the Town. There being no public comment, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Ordinance #06-01 as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Garber, Harrison, Insel, Kovach, Ragozine, Schaumburg

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE #06-02 – INDEX RATE**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to open the public hearing on Ordinance #06-02:

ORDINANCE #06-02  
INDEX RATE

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

Mayor Schaumburg explained that increases in the budget are limited to two and one-half percent (2.5%) and this ordinance will allow an increase, if needed, to three and one-half percent (3.5%). There being no public comment, a motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to close the public hearing.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Ordinance #06-02 as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Garber, Harrison, Insel, Kovach, Ragozine, Schaumburg

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**INTRODUCTION OF 2006 BUDGET**

Mayor Schaumburg thanked Council and Department heads who worked together and presented the 2006 Budget that has once again remained flat. Mr. Harrison questioned the reference made to absence liability and the Capital Budget, Mrs. Smith replied to the questions and explained that the absence liability is reserved funds that has been set aside and earns interest. Employees with 14 years of service are entitled to be paid for 1 for 4 sick days up to \$10,000.00 upon retirement. The Capital Budget questions pertain to a non-spending budget, amounts are a "wish list" for future projects. A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to accept the introduction of the 2006 Budget as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Garber, Harrison, Insel, Kovach, Ragozine, Schaumburg

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A summary of the 2006 Budget will be published in the Hunterdon Review edition of February 22, 2006. A final hearing will be held on March 14, 2006.

**RESOLUTION #38-06 – ANNUAL BUDGET EXAMINATION**

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Resolution #38-06, authorizing the Town of Clinton to conduct the annual budget examination. Towns that are in sound fiscal condition are granted permission to do so.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #06-03 – SALARY AND WAGES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Garber, to adopt Ordinance #06-03 on first reading as submitted.

ORDINANCE #06-03  
SALARY & WAGES

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

The Ordinance will be published in the February 22, 2006 edition of the Hunterdon Review. The second reading and public hearing will be held March 14, 2006.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #06-04 – AMENDMENT TO SECTION 77-8**

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Ordinance #06-04 on first reading as submitted.

ORDINANCE #06-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 77-8 OF THE  
CODE OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON TO ADD A NEW SECTION G

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

The Ordinance will be published in the February 22, 2006 edition of the Hunterdon Review. The second reading and public hearing will be held March 14, 2006.

**RESOLUTION #35-06 – LOSAP**

The annual certification list of all volunteer firefighters/first aid organization members that service the Town of Clinton has been submitted and posted. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #35-06 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

**RESOLUTION #36-06 – SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE**

A newly formed Committee to prepare a vision study pertaining to the various growth issues affecting the Town. The Mayor is authorized to serve and appoint a Planning Board Member, a Board of Adjustment member, Two Council Members, three residents and one merchant or business owner. Mayor Schaumburg submitted the following names to serve:

Laurie Insel, Chairwoman  
Mayor Schaumburg  
Rob Ragozine, Council Rep.  
E. Patrick McGuire, Planning Board  
Lou Tranquilli, Board of Adjustment  
Richard Urmston – Merchant  
Michelle Harrison, Resident  
John Baka, Resident  
Stephen Leoni, Resident

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #36-06 as submitted.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

Mayor Schaumburg thanked Mrs. Insel for her work on Smart Growth Grant applications that will help pay for a planner to do a vision study. Mrs. Insel has been devoting many hours to working on these applications.

**RESOLUTION #37-06 – INTENT TO BOND FOR SHORTFALL**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to adopt Resolution #37-06 which states that the Governing Body agrees to fund any shortfall in the affordable housing program which may arise due to inadequate funding from other sources. The Town has appropriated \$10,000.00 in the 2006 budget.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Clinton Assembly of God is requesting permit fees be waived at the Church. This request will be continued at the next meeting, February 28, 2006 when more information will be available.
2. A letter of resignation from Patrolman Ryan Garbolino, requesting that his last day of employment with the Town of Clinton be February 19, 2006. A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to accept Ryan's resignation with regrets.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

3. Lou Tranquilli has recommended the appointment of Mark DiReinz to the Sign Committee. Mayor Schaumburg accepted the recommendation and will notify Mr. DiReinz.
4. Letter of appreciation from Chief Matheis recognizing the conscientiousness and hard work of Road Foreman, Wayne Smith.

### **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS**

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

1. Mr. Cutter made the recommendation to Council to consider joining the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council. A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine, seconded by Mr. Harrison to participate in the Morris County Program.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

2. Due to the recent snowstorm, chipping has been postponed. Chipping will resume in two weeks when the snow clears. Mr. Cutter commended the Road Department on a job well done.

#### **Nancy E. Smith, CFO**

1. Parks & Playgrounds - Meeting has been rescheduled to February 23, due to the next budget meeting.

#### **Councilman Ragozine**

1. Buildings and Grounds:  
Committee will review the plans for 47 Leigh Street with the Historic Commission at their next meeting, February 15, 2006.  
DeMott Pond bids will be accepted and reviewed on March 7, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.  
Community Center upgrades to the bathrooms, interior painting, and flooring.
2. Sign Committee – Attorney Cushing is researching information regarding the authority of the Committee to enforce the ordinance. Discussion will continue at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Councilwoman Garber**

1. Fire Department – Tentative date for construction to begin on the Firehouse is February 27<sup>th</sup>. LOSAP list is posted in the Municipal Building
2. Clinton Guild meeting February 22 at the Holiday Inn. 7:00 p.m.
3. Emergency Services Foundation Commission – February 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.

**Councilwoman Kovach**

1. Mrs. Kovach explained that the Art Museum received an extension on their loan agreement until February 28, and is asking for Council's permission to submit a request to DEP for an additional 90 day extension due to the fact that there is no RFP started as of this date. Council supported Mrs. Kovach's request.
2. Visiting Department of Community Affairs in Trenton on Thursday, February 16 with Mr. Harrison. Plan to meeting with COAH and possibly Commissioner Susan Bass Levine.
3. Highlands Council preparing a Well Head Protection Ordinance, Clinton Township, Union and Tewksbury plan to consider it and asking that Clinton Town also give it consideration. When the document is available, Mrs. Kovach will supply Mayor and Council with a copy. A new Executive Director has been named to the Highlands Council, Dante DePiro, and Deputy Ex. Director. Tom Borden. The Highland's Scope Document is available on the web. A hard copy will be given to the Clerk when made available.

**Councilman Harrison**

1. Sewer Committee discussed monthly flows for November, December and January, 2006. Establishing a policy regarding grease traps.
2. Personnel Committee discussed the evaluation process, plan to begin evaluations in October. Amendments to the Personnel Policy have been agreed upon. Department heads will also be Asked to review their own progress and to set goals.
3. Attended the Hunterdon County Municipal Officers Association meeting January 31<sup>st</sup>, representatives from other municipalities attended as well as three representatives from the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, promoting a Business and Government Committee. Shared Services was discussed and a great enthusiasm was shown by all. Next meeting of the Business and Government Committee is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Chamber office.

**Councilman De Cleene (Councilwoman Garber)**

1. Road Committee:  
Discussed hiring two seasonal employees for Buildings and Grounds and Roads and one for the Water Department for the summer.  
Rupells Road – Speed Platforms – Fire Department reviewing the plan to assure clearance for the trucks.  
Additional drains have been requested by residents of Goosetown Road. Next Road meeting, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. road trip to Goosetown Road will take place.  
Mr. Cutter to coordinate "information meeting" with NJDOT and Contractor regarding Exit 15.  
Hunterdon County anticipates actual work on Halstead Street Bridge to begin June or July 2006.

**Councilwoman Insel**

1. Historic Commission will be giving awards for presentation to two recipients at their next meeting. Commission is looking forward to reviewing the plans for 47 Leigh Street.
2. Attended a meeting with Congressman Ferguson to learn different ways to obtain appropriations and grant money. Working with Councilman Harrison in gathering information to provide to Congressman Ferguson in seeking grant money for the Town of Clinton.

**APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to approve the attached overtime and standby pay for the period of January 12 - 25, 2005

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Ragozine seconded by Mrs. Garber, to approve the attached overtime and standby pay for the period of January 26 – February 8, 2005

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mayor Schaumburg, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Contract Negotiations at 8:40 p.m.

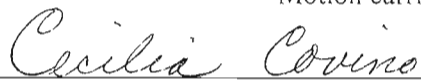
Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. Harrison to come out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

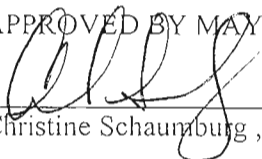
Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Ragozine seconded by Mrs. Kovach to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Vote all ayes  
Motion carried

  
Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC  
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

  
Christine Schaumburg, Mayor