

04/02/2007

April 2, 2007

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m., Supervisor Barrett presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Present: Councilman Paolucci
Councilman Hughes joined the Town Board at 7:30 p.m.
Councilman Roth
Councilwoman Walowit
Supervisor Barrett
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
Mark Heggen, Comptroller
Richard Kukuk, Superintendent of Highways
Michael Shahan, Town Administrator
Jeffrey Vedder, Superintendent of Convenience Transfer Station
Deputy Town Attorney Renzi

MOTION by Councilman Roth, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, to approve the minutes of the March 12 and 19, 2007 meetings as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Roth
Councilman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Roth reminded department heads to submit items they would like to have considered in the supplemental budget. He would like to present the supplemental budget at the first meeting in May.

Councilman Roth announced the Not So Common Players first production of 2007, "Little Mary Sunshine", is schedule for the last weekend in April and first in May.

Supervisor Barrett reported interviews were held with three people interested in being appointed to the Town Board and he would like to discuss qualifications in Executive Session.

MOTION BY Supervisor Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, to move into Executive Session to discuss a pending appointment to the Town Board. Motion unanimously carried at 7:14 p.m.

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Supervisor Barrett announced the name of Scott Hughes will be put forward for appointment to the Town Board.

Resolution No. 101 of 2007, a resolution appointing Scott Hughes, 20 Birch Hill Road, Ballston Lake, NY, to the Clifton Park Town Board.

Introduced by Councilman Paolucci, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Roth.

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists on the Clifton Park Town Board due to the resignation of Councilman Roy Speckhard, effective March 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS, ex-Councilman Speckhard's term of office expires December 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Town Law Section 64 Sub 5, the Clifton Park Town Board has the authority to appoint an individual to the Town Board to fill such seat; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Scott Hughes, 20 Birch Hill Road, Ballston Lake, NY, is hereby appointed to the Clifton Park Town Board, term to expire December 31, 2007, at a salary as budgeted effective immediately.

Supervisor Barrett thanked Margaret Catellier and Arthur Vandervoort for submitting their names for consideration for the Town Board seat. He said Mr. Hughes has a great deal of experience working in and around varying levels of government, as well as his volunteer commitment to various boards, including the Planning and Zoning Boards.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Roth,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

At this time Councilman Hughes took his seat on the Town Board.

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Town Historian, John Scherer, gave his annual report for 2006, attached. Mr. Scherer acknowledged Roy Speckhard and his endorsements of town history during his years on the Town Board.

Supervisor Barrett announced Mr. Speckhard has agreed to stay on as Deputy Supervisor and will be involved in many projects.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE ON RESOLUTIONS

No one wished to be heard.

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WHEREAS, Clifton Park Baseball has asked for town support in performing certain upgrades to the baseball facilities to be utilized for such tournament, and

WHEREAS, the league has identified Field 14 at the Clifton Common as the field for the tournament, and

WHEREAS, among the capital projects and durable items that the League has requested assistance for are dugouts for Field 14 at an estimated cost of up to \$17,000, and

WHEREAS, the League has also identified a need for a 4 wheel vehicle commonly used for baseball field maintenance and upkeep identified as a Polaris Mule 4 wheel machine at an estimated cost of up to \$7,000, and

WHEREAS, the League has identified a need for a roof over the electrical light boxes at the upper Common, and

WHEREAS, these items of capital and durable goods will benefit not only the players involved in the 12 and under tournament but will benefit the field and the Common for many years to come, and

WHEREAS, The Town also recognizes the valuable services to the community provided by Clifton Park Baseball in the area of youth sports, which enhances the health and fitness of area youth as well as recognizing the benefits of team sports and competition at all levels, and

WHEREAS, the Town also recognizes the economic benefits derived by area businesses through the presentation of significant sporting events at town facilities such as the Clifton Common; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby authorizes a grant of \$25,000 to support Clifton Park Baseball League's hosting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Baseball Tournament to be held on Field 14 at the Clifton Common, July 25-30, 2007, by providing funds to the league for construction costs of new dugouts and related fencing at Field 14 of the Common, provided that the Director of Buildings and Grounds approves selection of the contractor, and by providing funds for the purchase of a new Polaris Mule 4 wheel vehicle, and for a new roof over electrical units at the upper quad of the Common with the remainder of these funds to be used toward other capital improvements for the field such as additional bleachers or scoreboards for the tournament, and that the total grant of \$25,000 be transferred from contingency to A-7112-70 (Clifton Common Grants).

It was noted the 4-wheel vehicle comes out of the \$25,000. Mr. Shahen said they are replacing an older vehicle and this will belong to the Baseball League. Councilman Roth commented this is a large amount to take out of contingency and would rather see it come out of the town designated surplus. Councilman Paolucci said he is comfortable with the money coming out of contingency.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Roth,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

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Introduced by Councilman Roth, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2007 bids were received and opened for the above referenced contract, and

WHEREAS, The Town's consulting Engineer, John M. McDonald, has recommended that the Town enter into a maintenance contract for preventive maintenance and to guarantee the availability of prompt and qualified emergency repairs for the (10) ten town owned traffic signals, and has advised that this contract should reduce overall costs of signal repair and maintenance and improve signal reliability, and

WHEREAS the low bidder for the Traffic Signal Maintenance & Repairs contract is Traffic Signal Technology, and

WHEREAS, as per letter from McDonald Engineering dated March 14, 2007, McDonald Engineering has reviewed the bids and has recommended to the Town Supervisor that the bid in the amount of \$27,150, submitted by Traffic Signal Technology of Loudonville, be accepted as the lowest most responsible bid; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts and awards the above referenced bid to Traffic Signal Technology of Loudonville, in the amount of \$27,150, to be paid from A 03310-00215 (Traffic Safety / Signs).

Superintendent of Highways Kukuk reported the preventative maintenance would re-lamp all the lights and replace fixtures in the older ones. He noted this is a one year contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Roth,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Abstain: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 104 of 2007, a resolution honoring Christian Shay Silvia for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Introduced by Supervisor Barrett, who moved its adoption, seconded by the entire Town Board.

WHEREAS, Christian Shay Silvia, 5 Zamora Ct., Clifton Park, of Boy Scout Troop 45 has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clifton Park Town Board wishes to acknowledge and honor Christian Shay Silvia's achievements, including his project and his leadership in planning and building cages for animals that were in need of rehabilitation for North Country Wild Care, Ballston Spa, and

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ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Roth,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 105 of 2007, a resolution appointing Travis Taylor to the position of MEO at the Convenience Transfer Station.

Introduced by Councilman Paolucci, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, an opening for the position of MEO was created by the resignation of Anthony Simmons earlier this year, and

WHEREAS, a review of the qualifications of Travis Taylor indicates that he is qualified for this position, and

WHEREAS, the Convenience Transfer Station Supervisor has recommended appointing Travis Taylor, 121 Fairground Avenue, Ballston Spa, to the position of MEO at the Convenience Transfer Station; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Travis Taylor, 121 Fairground Avenue, Ballston Spa, be appointed to the position of MEO, at the Convenience Transfer Station, at Grade 5, Step 1, at an hourly rate of \$15.67 which would require a transfer of \$25,000 to cover the remainder of the year from A-8160-E67 (CTS-A. Simmons) to A-8160-E(CTS-Employee #).

Supervisor Barrett reviewed Mr. Taylor's credentials. Mr. Vedder reported he is an excellent candidate.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Roth,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Abstain: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 106 of 2007, a resolution extending the hours of the Convenience Transfer Station for the annual spring Clean Up/Green Up Week.

Introduced by Councilman Roth, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Paolucci.

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Week on Sundays April 22 and 29, 2007 with the extended hours to be as set forth in the attached Schedule A; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Sunday hours will be for the collection of leaves and brush only while all other items will be taken during the regular hours from Tuesday through Saturday and authorization is further granted for the overtime requirements as set forth in the attached Schedule A as budgeted.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Roth,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Abstain: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 107 of 2007, a resolution petitioning the State of New York to adopt legislation to provide for property tax reform.

Introduced by Councilman Roth, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, in New York State municipal revenues which support local spending for schools, public safety, and other public services are raised through the property tax levy, state aid, and other sources, and

WHEREAS, despite the increase of over 70% in New York State aid to school districts in the past 10 years, most New York State school district budgets have continued to skyrocket out of control causing local school tax levy increases of between 5% and 15% annually, and

WHEREAS, many residents of the Town of Clifton Park located in Saratoga County and other municipalities across New York State are unable to pay these excessive school tax rates which are forcing many families outside of their communities and, in some instances, outside the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, over half of all states throughout the United States have passed some form of property tax limitation statute which attempts to reasonably manage excessive property taxation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park requests its New York State legislators to review and conduct a comprehensive study and evaluation of all existing state property tax limitation statutes in effect, and be it further

RESOLVED, that New York State legislators and the New York State Governor, based upon the above study and evaluation, enact appropriate legislation which will provide necessary property tax reform for the benefit and relief of all New York State residents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Eliot Spitzer,

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Abstain: Councilman Hughes
DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 108 of 2007, a resolution authorizing the award for the Town's Liability, Casualty and Property Insurance needs.

Introduced by Councilman Paolucci, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Roth.

WHEREAS, the Town Administrator has obtained four quotes from qualified insurance carriers for the Town's overall insurance needs for the time period from April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Town Administrator has reviewed the quotes as well as the extent of the coverage offered by the responding insurance carrier, and

WHEREAS, the lowest quote for the town's insurance needs for the period from April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 is from Selective Insurance Company, and

WHEREAS, the Selective Insurance Company is an A+ X1 rated company, and is the largest private insurer of Public Entity Business in New York State whose quote enables the Town to also raise the Umbrella Liability coverage from \$9,000,000 to \$15,000,000, to decrease the Town's deductible limit from \$5,000 to \$1,000, both changes having the ultimate effect of increasing the town's actual coverage, and

WHEREAS, the quote from Selective Insurance Company is for a total annual premium fee of \$144,546, providing a savings of more than \$100,000 from the budgeted figure, which had been based on recent experience in the town's insurance costs, and

WHEREAS, Town Administrator Shahen has recommended that the Town accept the quote from Selective Insurance Company of New York for the town's insurance needs for the period April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the quote from Selective Insurance Company of New York in the amount of \$144,546, funds to be identified from A-1910-108, (Insurance).

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Roth,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Abstain: Councilman Hughes

DECLARED ADOPTED

Deputy Town Attorney Renzi gave an update on the required easements for the Sherwood Dawson Trail. He reported a signed writing has been received from the counsel for the five owners of the property, known as the Purcell property, for a nominal fee of \$1.00. Councilman

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Beverly Czub, Miller Road, expressed concern with telephone books left lying on the side of the road.

Norman Goldman, London Square Drive, welcomed Councilman Hughes to the Town Board. In response to Mr. Goldman's questions, Supervisor Barrett said he and Councilwoman Walowit interviewed candidates for the Town Board. Mr. Goldman read prepared remarks expressing concern about the quality of the television replay of Board Meetings.

Youseff Ballout, Torrero Drive, congratulated Councilman Hughes on his appointment but expressed concerned with the selection process.

Supervisor Barrett responded the best candidates are always hired for each particular position.

Councilman Roth stated the interview process for Councilman was extremely adequate and fair and far and above anything done before. He commended Supervisor Barrett for allowing the process.

Mr. Goldman continued his prepared remarks. He asked that questions he has submitted previously be answered. He stated member items are not good government and asked the Town Board to pass his comments onto the state legislature.

MOTION by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Paolucci, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 8:50 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell
Town Clerk