

May 16, 2016

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 Whalen  
Councilwoman Standaert  
Councilman Romano  
Councilwoman Walowit  
Supervisor Barrett  
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy

MOTION BY Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2016 meeting as presented.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Ayes: Councilman Whalen, Councilman Romano  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Abstain: Councilwoman Standaert

Noes: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Supervisor Barrett thanked all the volunteers and all who attended the Open Space Day and reviewed events at the various parks and nature trails. He announced the Open Space Award for 2016 was presented to Isabel Prescott, owner of Riverview Orchards.

Councilman Whalen announced Historic Preservation Day will be held May 21, 2016 from 11 am to 3 pm at Grooms Tavern. He noted there will be various exhibits, e.g. woodworking and tin-smithing.

Supervisor Barrett announced the town ice arena has seen a profit of \$37,000 for 2015, noting approximately \$400,000 profit has been realized since the management change in 2001. He congratulated and thanked Scott Bobrow on his management of the ice arena.

Councilwoman Walowit announced a microchip clinic will be held at the Public Safety Building from 10 am to 12 pm on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$20.

Supervisor Barrett thanked 3N Document Destruction for delivering over 1100 pounds of food donated at the Shredding Day to the Jonesville Food Pantry at Jonesville Methodist Church. He said there will be another Shredding Day in October.

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Eric Hamilton, Mohawk Towpath Byway, reviewed the 2015 Annual Report, noting new kiosk at the Lock 7 Dam Overlook, Bike the Byway event, self-guided cell phone based tours, and working with the Towns of Clifton Park and Halfmoon on the Towpath Trail Project, as well as improved access to the Vischer Ferry Preserve. Supervisor Barrett also noted the Connector Trail at Exit 8 currently under construction.

Katie Manuel, 13 year old student, reviewed her work on awareness of food allergies. Supervisor Barrett read the Proclamation from Governor Andrew Cuomo proclaiming May 8-14, 2016 as Food Allergy Awareness Week.

PUBLIC HEARING, 7:05 PM (7:33 pm)  
TO CONSIDER A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2016  
FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing as published in The Daily Gazette on May 9, 2016.

Supervisor Barrett reviewed the history of Local Law No. 1 and the proposed amendment, noting the process began at the County level. The proposed amendment removes the statement “The person so appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term” in order for the language to match NYS Election Law.

The public hearing was opened for comments from the audience at 7:35 p.m.

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Lane, asked that the County Supervisor speak at Town Board meetings every couple of months.

Everyone was given an opportunity to speak in favor of or against the proposed local law and no one else wished to be heard. Supervisor Barrett declared the public hearing closed at 7:40 pm.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE ON RESOLUTIONS

No one wished to be heard.

Resolution No. 135 of 2016, a resolution adopting Local Law No. 3 of 2016, amending Local Law 1 of 2016, a local law establishing procedures for filling vacancies in the office of a County Supervisor elected from Clifton Park, as an at-large member of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors.

Introduced by Councilman Whalen, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Whalen.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 58 of 2016, the Town Board adopted Local Law No. 1 of 2016, which provided a procedure to fill vacancies in the office of the at-large Saratoga County Supervisor, and

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 1 of 2016 provided that the Town Board would appoint, by majority vote, a qualified person to fill such a vacancy, and that the person so appointed would serve out the remainder of the unexpired term of office in any case, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to provide that vacancies occurring before September 20<sup>th</sup> in any year are to be filled for the remainder of this calendar year, so that persons appointed may run for the remainder of the term consistent with provisions of the Public Officers’ Law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Local Law No. 3 of 2016, is adopted, amending Local Law No. 1 of 2016, as attached, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is direct to publish notice thereof.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Whalen, Councilwoman Standaert, Councilman Romano,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 136 of 2016, a resolution appointing Jonathan G. Schopf to the Office of County Supervisor.

Introduced by Councilwoman Standaert, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Whalen.

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the Office of County Supervisor due to the resignation of Anita Daly, effective April 19, 2016, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Local Law No 1 of 2016, as amended, the Town Board established procedures for filling vacancies in office for the second Supervisor from Clifton Park, who holds office as an at-large member of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Local Law No. 1 of 2016, the Town Board is authorized to appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the 2016 calendar year, pending an election to be held on November 8, 2016 for the remainder of the unexpired term; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Jonathan G. Schopf, 611 Bruno Road, Clifton Park, is hereby appointed County Supervisor through December 31, 2016, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Whalen, Councilwoman Standaert, Councilman Romano,  
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

County Supervisor Schopf reviewed his interests, e.g. public safety, economic development, government finances, stormwater and infrastructure. He spoke in support of the town's funding of current Sheriff road patrols and noted he has a passion for animal law. Supervisor Schopf said at the county level he will work to ensure taxes remain stable but work to cut taxes. He stated he intends to attend Town Board meetings regularly and will have space in the town hall to meet with individuals.

Supervisor Barrett said an office will be available for Supervisor Schopf to meet with residents. Appointments can be made thru the Town Supervisor's office.

Supervisor Barrett noted a number of talented individuals were interested in the County Supervisor's position, however, Supervisor Schopf's unique background and experience in municipal government and specializing in animal issues in his law practice.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

Ethan Smith, Grant Hill Court, Chair of the Riverview Park District, said the parks in the Riverview Park District are in a degraded condition, not maintained, and showed estimates received for repair to be \$200,000. He noted the park district does not have money to make these changes and asked that the Town Board authorize the transfer of money from the general fund for the rehabilitation of park district's parks. Mr. Smith stated the parks need to be taped off until repaired.

Supervisor Barrett said park district representation has been in place for a long time and local control and decision making is given to the park districts.

Mr. Smith replied maintenance is not being kept up and he would like Level 1 playground inspection reports. He said park district taxes may need to be increased, noting the average cost is \$15.00 per year.

Supervisor Barrett said park district taxes could be increased to bring it more in line to where it should be. He said there is \$50,000 in reserves.

Mr. Smith explained due to trees taken down and drainage taken care of there isn't much left in reserve.

Veronica Smith, Grant Hill Court, asked when will the playgrounds be taped off or structures taken down. She said nuts and bolts are showing on the swings and she is concerned for children's safety.

Supervisor Barrett said he will have Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Handerhan look at it. The Supervisor explained he works with park districts all the time and establishes fee schedules. He reported Riverview Park District taxes are between \$11 and \$12 per year and are the lowest of all park districts. He continued the \$50,000 was used to take down trees and take care of drainage issues. Supervisor Barrett stated the fee structure of \$200,000 submitted by Mr. Smith is not realistic.

Councilwoman Walowit said this is a large park district and costs could be divided in a very fair way. She said she suggested over a year ago that the tax levy be raised.

Supervisor Barrett said the Riverview Park District needs to look at increasing park districts taxes and bonding as other park districts have done

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

Motion carried at 8:20 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell  
Town Clerk