

February 18, 2020

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.

Present: Supervisor Barrett  
Councilwoman Standaert  
Councilman Romano  
Councilwoman Walowit  
Town Clerk Brobston

Absent: Councilman Whalen

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy  
Dahn Bull, Superintendent of Highways  
Mark Heggen, Comptroller  
Daniel Clemens, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds  
John Scavo, Director of Planning  
Walter Smead, Assessor

MOTION BY Councilman Romano, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, to approve the minutes of February 3 and 10, 2020 meetings as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATION

Councilwoman Standaert reminded residents, non-profits, business owners of the upcoming February 24-27, 2020 Organic Lawn & Land Care free 30-hour training course. Sign-ups are required through [cliftonpark.org](http://cliftonpark.org). The classes will be held at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library.

Supervisor Barrett announced the Winterfest Idol competition winners. 6-12 Division was Timothy Looby and 13-17 Division was Julia Gold. The soup contest winner was Ravenswood. Supervisor thanked all involved in making it a successful day.

PRESENTATION OF KEY TO THE TOWN

Supervisor Barrett recognized William Sekellick for his 40 years of service to the town for his membership and chairman of the Board of Assessment Review. He was presented with a key to the town.

William Sekellick thanked the town for the opportunity and stated it was a privilege to serve the town.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE ON RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 32 of 2020, a resolution recognizing William Sekellick, Esq. for 40 years of service to the people of Clifton Park.

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

WHEREAS, William Sekellick has been a member of the town’s Board of Assessment Review for 40 years, having been appointed in 1979, and served as the board’s Chairman from 1985 through 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Assessment Review provides an administrative mechanism for the grievance of real property tax assessments throughout the town, and membership requires extensive knowledge of the factors impacting the valuation of a wide variety of types, classifications and uses of real property for the board’s effective review of tax challenges from residential and commercial landowners, and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Sekellick’s tenure on the board, he led the review of some 5,000 administrative appeals of tax assessments, providing expertise and good judgement as he guided many fellow board members over 40+ years, exercising leadership through larger scale assessment initiatives over the years, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sekellick is an experienced attorney whose institutional knowledge of real property valuations and comparisons throughout the town has enabled the board to provide a smooth and effective review process for landowners throughout four decades of growth, modernization, and expansion of the town’s tax base, and

WHEREAS, the board wishes to thank William Sekellick for his fair and diligent approach to the duties and responsibilities of the Clifton Park Board of Assessment Review, which he consistently discharged with grace and good humor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on behalf of the people of Clifton Park, the Town Board awards the Key to the Town to William Sekellick in recognition of 40 years of dedicated service to the town as its Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 33 of 2020, a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Highways to promote Matthew Farnsworth and Ryan Ensel, each to the position of Working Supervisor, within the Highway Department.

Introduced by Councilwoman Standaert, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, two vacancies exist in the Highway Department for Working Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Highways Dahn Bull, wishes to promote Matthew Farnsworth, 19 Forest Drive, Cohoes, and Ryan Ensel, 6 Pintail Place, Waterford, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Farnsworth has been with the department for nearly 20 years, is well acclimated with the job duties and practices of the department, and has experience in leading a team and project management, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ensel has 18 years in construction and highway maintenance experience, as well as previously being a department head with another municipality, and has led crews competently and effectively for the Highway Department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the promotion of Matthew Farnsworth and Ryan Ensel to the title of Working Supervisors, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Mr. Farnsworth will be promoted to a Grade 7, Step 4, year 1, and Mr. Ensel be promoted to a grade 7, Step 1, year 1, effective retroactively to February 3, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the funds necessary for these promotions be allocated as per the attached Schedule A.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 34 of 2020, a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Highways to hire Robert Coons, III as a Laborer in the Highway Department.

Introduced by Councilwoman Standaert, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, after the promotion of John DeSimone to the Building and Development Department, a vacancy exists in the Highway Department, and

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Highways Dahn Bull, has recommended the hiring of Robert Coons III, 115 Pruyn Hill Road, Mechanicville, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coons studied Mechanical Engineering at Clarkson University and earned a degree in Mechanical Technology from SUNY Canton, graduating in 2014, while having a past work history involving disaster relief response, landscaping and commercial construction, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bull recommends hiring Mr. Coons as a Laborer and initiating the training and certification necessary to become a Class B Commercial Operator and a Department of Motor Vehicles Licensed Inspector for the department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the hiring of Robert Coons, III, as a Laborer, at Grade 4, Step 1, at a salary of \$44,121, at a rate of \$21.05/hr., effective February 19, 2020, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer \$26,944 from DA-5110-E1500 (Highway-General Repairs-MEO) to DA-5110-3000 (Highway-General Repairs-Laborer), and \$11,283 from DA-5142-E1500 (Highway-Snow Removal-MEO) to DA-5142-E3000 (Highway-Snow Removal-Laborer), and be it further

RESOLVED, that Mr. Coons be paid at the above-mentioned hourly rate from Line DA-5110-E1300, (Highway-General Repairs-Working Supervisor), and from Line DA-5142-E1300, (Highway-Snow Removal-Working Supervisor), for the remainder of the calendar year, with a transfer to DA-5110-Exxx (Highway-General Repairs-Employee) and DA-5142-Exxx (Highway-Snow Removal-Employee).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 35 of 2020, a resolution authorizing SingleCut Beersmiths Brewery to use town roadways for their 5k charity road race on May 2, 2020.

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

WHEREAS, SingleCut Beersmiths Brewery has requested the use of the Town of Clifton Park roadways, as specified in the attachment hereto, for the purpose of holding a 5k charity road race on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 10:00 AM until the last participant completes the course, and

WHEREAS, the event sponsors have coordinated with the town’s Highways Superintendent for the safe use of town roads; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes SingleCut Beersmiths Brewery to use town roadways as specified in the attachment hereto, May 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM, for the purpose of holding a 5k charity road race to benefit Helping Hands School, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this approval is expressly conditioned upon receipt prior to April 20, 2020 in the Office of the Highway Superintendent, of an insurance certificate in the amount of \$1,000,000 naming the Town of Clifton Park as an additional insured; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this approval is expressly conditioned upon the roads not being closed but employees of SingleCut Beersmiths Brewery are permitted to temporarily stop traffic at each end of the course in the event both a vehicle and race participant arrive at the same time.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 36 of 2020, a resolution approving a grant contract with the County of Saratoga to support the purchase of 10-12 Thoroughbred Way for trail connection

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

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 258 of 2019, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors approved the extension of a farmland and open space preservation grant to help support the town’s purchase of land from the Clifton Park Water Authority for a trail connection between Mystic Lane and Thoroughbred Way in the Stony Creek Park District, and

WHEREAS, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Grant will provide up to \$34,450 in funds toward the purchase and related acquisition costs necessary to advance the project, contingent upon the town expending an equal amount in total project costs, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to accept the grant contract and to approve the purchase of the property; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to sign the attached grant contract with the County of Saratoga.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilwoman Standaert, Councilman Romano,

Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 37 of 2020, a resolution approving a real estate purchase contract with the Clifton Park Water Authority for a 1.03-acre parcel of land to facilitate construction of the Mystic-Thoroughbred Trail Connection in the Stony Creek Park District.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to advance the Mystic-Thoroughbred Trail Connection project in the Stony Creek Park District by acquiring a parcel of land identified as SBL: 283.12-1-70, located at 10-12 Thoroughbred Way which would provide a trail connection for the project, and

WHEREAS, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors has approved an Open Space Acquisition Grant to assist the town with the purchase of the property, and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2020, the Clifton Park Water Authority Board approved the sale of the property for \$62,000 based on its appraised value; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to execute the attached real estate purchase and sale agreement to acquire the property for the planned trail connection project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to transfer funds to offset the cost of the acquisition in the first instance, as follows:

- Revenues increased by \$31,000 from (A-914) Undesignated Fund Balance
- Revenues increased by \$31,000 from grant from Saratoga County (A-1289) Other Government Revenue
- Expenditures increased by \$62,000 (A-1940-15) General Fund – Other Town Payments – Other Contractual
- Expenditures increased by no more than \$2,000 from (A-1940-15) Undesignated Fund Balance for title work

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 38 of 2020, a resolution authorizing the establishment of a Veterans’ Committee for the purpose of honoring living and deceased veterans from or residing in Clifton Park.

Introduced by Councilwoman Standaert, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, the town is and always has been home to many men and women who selflessly have answered the call of service to our country, both in times of war and in time of peace, and

WHEREAS, the people of the Town of Clifton Park, and Town Boards over many generations, have always honored and remembered the many sacrifices made by such men and women, including through the World War II Honor Roll, Hometown Heroes recognition, supporting troops deployed overseas, and highway designations for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to appoint a committee who will examine and discuss the coordination of the recognition of and support of our veterans through events, ceremonies, workshops and programs throughout the year, and

WHEREAS, the committee will consist of the Supervisor and a Town Board member to serve as liaison, as well as up to seven volunteers appointed from the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board establishes the Veterans' Committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 39 of 2020, a resolution authorizing the promotion of Patrick Gibbins, Vince Bongermينو and Ray Zeller, currently Motor Equipment Operator (MEO) to Senior Motor Equipment Operator in the Buildings & Grounds Department.

Introduced by Councilwoman Standaert, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Daniel Clemens, recommends the advancement of MEOs within the department, due to the retirement of Thomas Nadler on January 31, 2020, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemens asked that Patrick Gibbins, Vince Bongermينو and Ray Zeller be promoted by the Town Board from MEO to Sr. MEO in the Buildings & Grounds Department, and

WHEREAS, the above referenced employees are qualified for the position per civil service classification; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Vince Bongermينو, 369 Lover's Lane, Amsterdam, is hereby promoted to Sr. MEO, Grade 6, Step 8, Year 3, (\$65,752/year) effective February 19, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Patrick Gibbins, 1345 Point Rd., Broadalbin, is hereby promoted to Sr. MEO, Grade 6, Step 7, Year 3, (\$63,215/year) effective February 19, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Raymond Zeller, 300 Stone Church Rd., Ballston Spa, is hereby promoted to Sr. MEO, Grade 6, Step 7, Year 3, (\$63,215/year) effective February 19, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the additional salary increases be paid with a transfer of \$7,882 from 7110-E0387 (Buildings & Grounds - T. Nadler), as per attached Schedule A.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 40 of 2020, a resolution creating the position of Valuation Assistant for the office of the Sole Assessor and promoting of Kelly L. Miller, currently Senior Assessment Clerk for the office, into the position of Valuation Assistant in the Assessor’s Office.

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

WHEREAS, Walter Smead, Assessor, has recommended the establishment of the title for a Valuation Assistant within the office of Sole Assessor based on the volume and complexity of valuation work required of the office, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Miller is qualified for the position, per the Saratoga County Department of Human Resources civil service eligibility list resulting from Exam # 69-239, and Mr. Smead has requested that she be promoted into the position based on her education, training and experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the position of Valuation Assistant is hereby created in the office of the Sole Assessor, per the attached job description provided by the Saratoga County Human Resources Department, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Kelly L. Miller, 13 Kimberly Court, Clifton Park, is hereby promoted to Valuation Assistant, Grade 8, Step 4, (\$69,784/year) effective February 19, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the additional salary increases be paid with a transfer of \$5,863 from A-1355-45 (General Fund – Assessment – Other Program Expense) to A-1355-E0201 (General Fund Assessment – K. Miller).

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 41 of 2020, a resolution appointing Gurinder Garcha as a member of the Town of Clifton Park Open Space, Trails & Riverfront Committee.

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

WHEREAS, an opening exists on the Open Space, Trails & Riverfront Committee, with the seat vacated by Paul Jesep at the end of 2019, and

WHEREAS, Gurinder Garcha, 6 West Wind Way, Clifton Park, has been recommended to fill the position, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to appoint Gurinder Garcha as a member of the committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Gurinder Garcha is hereby appointed to the Open Space, Trails & Riverfront Committee, for the remainder of a two-year term, term to expire December 31, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 42 of 2020, a resolution scheduling a public hearing on a proposed local law imposing a moratorium on residential subdivision applications and approvals in the town’s Conservation Residential Zone.

Introduced by Councilwoman Standaert, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2005, by Resolution No. 94 of 2005, the Town Board adopted the Western Clifton Park Generic Environmental Impact Statement, and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2005, by Resolution No 120 of 2005, the Town Board enacted Conservation Residential Zoning for residential development in the western part of the town, and

WHEREAS, as the fifteenth anniversary of the enactment of these land use planning regulations approaches, the Town Board wishes to study potential updates to the GEIS and resulting zoning regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to consider imposing a moratorium on further subdivision of land within the existing Conservation Residential Zone in order to provide sufficient time to conduct appropriate studies and analysis of the direction and trends for future development within the CR Zone, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to solicit public comment on a proposal to supersede and suspend Sections 276 and 267-b of the New York State Town Law relative to time period regulations and default provisions, as well as jurisdiction of the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant relief from the moratorium in order to adequately conduct studies of the future direction of such development that is most consistent with the best interests of the community, without conflicting projects and applications processed under existing statutory timeframes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a public hearing is hereby scheduled for March 9, 2020, at 7:05pm in the Wood Memorial Room, 1 Town Hall Plaza, Clifton Park, on a proposal to impose a 6 month moratorium on residential subdivision within the Conservation Residential Zone, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the attached proposal be referred to the Saratoga County Planning Board for its review pursuant to Section 239-m of the New York State General Municipal Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall publish and post the attached notice.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Noes: None



Absent: Councilman Whalen

DECLARED ADOPTED

Planning Director John Scavo explained what will be reviewed during this moratorium period. See attached.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

Matt Weber, Legends Way, stated concerns with the resolution on the moratorium on subdivisions in a CR Zone. He questioned the timing of the moratorium.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilwoman Standaert, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of town business.

Motion carried at 8:27 p.m.

Teresa Brobston  
Town Clerk