

TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD

March 20, 2023

The 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
 Councilman Morelli
 Councilwoman Walowit
 Councilman O'Hara
 Councilwoman Reid
 Town Clerk Brobston

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
 Mark Heggen, Comptroller
 Michael Woerner, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Daniel Clemens, Buildings, Parks & Recreation Director
 Norah Hoefner, Communications and Technology Coordinator
 Michael O'Brien, Collection System Manager
 Dahn Bull, Highways Superintendent

MINUTES

MOTION by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Morelli to approve the Town Board minutes of March 6, 2023, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman O'Hara,
 Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Morelli updated residents on previously reported traffic concerns at the intersection of Moe Road and the Shenendehowa School Campus. He stated Town Public Safety have placed message boards regarding speed and additional patrolling by State and Sherriff patrols. Traffic study to be begin.

PRESENTATION-Clifton Park & Halfmoon Emergency Corps

Suzanne Syzdek, CPHM EMS Executive Director, stated they are requesting a rate increase that the CPHM EMS charges for commercial and insurance companies, and will also affect a small percentage of private pay claims. She explained proposed rate adjustments. Last rate increase was in late 2018. Rate increase will not affect contractual amount paid by the Town of Clifton Park. Residents with commercial insurance coverage, will not see an increase and co-pay will stay the same. The increased rate will be paid by the health insurance companies to CPHM EMS. She explained only commercial insurance companies will pay increased rate and this would affect approximately 1,500 claims per year with 880 from the Town of Clifton Park. Basic Life Support Rate to increase \$500 per claim, affects 252 TOCP claims per year. Advanced Life Support-Level 1 Rate increase \$700 per claim, affecting 607 claims per year from the TOCP. Advanced Life Support-Level 2 Rate will increase \$900 per claim, affecting 25 claims per year for the TOCP. Ms. Syzdek explained proposed mileage rate increase of \$17 per mile. She stated mileage is only paid when the ambulance is "loaded", with a patient. Fuel costs have increased 44% since last rate change in 2018. She stated the rate increase will offset other skyrocketing costs. Data has been accumulated through billing companies. She stated CPHM EMS are currently the lowest rate in the Albany area. Town of Halfmoon and City of Mechanicville have approved the rate increases. Presentation attached.

Supervisor Barrett asked what the time frame is on the decision?

Ms. Syzdek answered, they would like the proposed rates to take affect April 1, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 70 of 2023, a resolution declaring a public emergency pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 103(4) within Clifton Park Sewer District #2.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2023, Clifton Park Sewer District #2 suffered a complete collapse of a sewer main on Town land in the southern portion of Town, and

WHEREAS, Section 103(4) of the NYS General Municipal Law provides that in cases of an emergency situation arising from unforeseen circumstances affecting public buildings or the health or safety of its inhabitants, the Town Board may authorize the purchase of service, material and equipment without competitive bids; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board determines that the sewer main collapse on the day/evening of February 10, 2023, constitutes an emergency for procurement purposes under Section 103(4) of General Municipal Law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes Michael O’Brien, Collection Systems Manager, to engage Bellamy Construction Inc., Schultz Highway Construction and such other emergency contractors and/or subcontractors to repair the sewer system and surrounding public and/or private property affected by the collapse; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to charge G11-8111-200 (CP Sewer District #2 - Sewer Contractual - Equipment) for the expenditures on this project.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman O’Hara, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Collection System Manager Michael O’Brien explained, the sewer break was in the Shirewood Subdivision and runs along a trail area. The problem is that area is unbelievable wet, all silt. After several repairs, within days the pipe would break. It became apparent, conventional repairs would not work. He stated Engineers were consulted and they will now be using directional drilling, using bomber material that will not sheer or crack. He explained the Department has been by-passing with a diesel pump since the break in February. He felt this situation has been the most complicated they have dealt with to date. He stated they will work with Buildings & Grounds in the Spring to repair the trails in the affected area. He explained the Department has the money to offset the expenses.

Resolution No. 71 of 2023, a resolution hiring Camp Counselors for the 2023 full day and half day Summer Day Camp Program.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to hire returning staff members for operation of the Town’s Summer Day Camp Program, and

WHEREAS, Michael Woerner, Director of Parks and Recreation, has recommended that the individuals, listed in the attached Schedule A, be hired; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the individuals, listed in the attached Schedule A, be hired as staff for the Town’s 2023 Day Camp Program for the 2023 summer season; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the staff be paid as indicated on Schedule A.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman O’Hara,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 72 of 2023, a resolution authorizing the promotion of Mike Barber from the position of Laborer to Motor Equipment Operator (MEO) Light, in the Buildings and Grounds Department.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman O’Hara.

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks and Recreation, recommends that Mike Barber be promoted from Laborer to MEO Light, and

WHEREAS, the above referenced employee has met the requirements for this position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Mike Barber is hereby upgraded to MEO Light, Grade 4, Step 1 (\$49,234, \$23.67/hr), effective immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the additional salary increase be paid with a transfer of \$3,656 from A-07110-00074 (Buildings & Grounds - Overtime) to A-07110-E0963 (Buildings & Grounds - Mike Barber).

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman O’Hara,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 73 of 2023, a resolution authorizing the replacement of the high dive board at the Country Knolls Pool.

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

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation, wishes to replace the existing Country Knolls Pool high dive board with a 14-foot commercial aluminum diving board, and

WHEREAS, three quotes were collected, per the job specifications, and Rec Supply offers the lowest conforming quote in the amount of \$5,782, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemens has recommended that the diving board be purchased from Rec Supply at an amount not to exceed \$5,782; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the replacement for the high dive board, at the Country Knolls Pool, be purchased from Rec Supply at a cost not to exceed \$5,782, to be paid from to A-7151-200 (General Fund-Country Knolls Pool – Equipment).

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman O’Hara,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No 74 of 2023, a resolution proclaiming April 24-30, 2023, as Arbor Week.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day, April 29, is now observed throughout the Nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our Town increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board urges all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board urges all residents to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being for future generations; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby declare April 24-30, 2023, Arbor Week in the Town of Clifton Park, to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman O’Hara,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Councilwoman Reid explained, Clifton Park, for the second year in a row, was named a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation, honoring its commitment to urban forest management. Councilwoman introduced members of the Clifton Park Tree Committee. She stated street signs will also be displayed around Town with the designation.

Anne Orgren and Lily Heffeman, Tree Committee Members, displayed an Arbor Day flag that was given to TOCP by the Arbor Day Foundation. She stated Arbor Day celebration will begin Sunday, April 30, with a tree planting near the Buildings & Grounds building. The Library will also be presenting a program during the week.

Lily Heffeman, as her Girl Scout Silver Award project, at the celebration, will be creating several tables for Scouts where they can participate in learning about Arbor Day and the environment and earn badges. She stated their will also be tables for the younger age as well.

No one else wished to be heard.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

Zabed Manir, Brighton Dr., voiced concerns about a communication issue pertaining to the Highways Superintendent, his website rights taken away.

Supervisor Barrett stated there are no issues. If a department has something they want to post, the Town has a person assigned to handle that process.

Mario Fantini, Leonardo Dr., questioned Councilman O’Hara about the disfunction in Town Government with missed communications and why the Highways Superintendent has lost access to the Town website. His concern is for the safety of the residents in an emergency.

Councilman O’Hara answered that no single supervisor has unrestricted access to the website. A process is in place where information to be posted, needs to come through the Supervisors Office or the designated representative to post. The process is already in place.

Discussion on website and communication ensued.

Highways Superintendent Bull submitted a letter regarding Interruption of Website Credentials.

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

Motion carried at 7:52 PM

Teresa Brobston
Town Clerk