

February 10, 2026

Schultzville, NY

The Clinton Town Board held the Regular Town Board meeting on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Mike Whitton, Deputy Supervisor Eliot Werner, Councilman Charlie Dykas and Councilwomen Katherine Mustello and Marion Auspitz as well as Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin. There were approximately 15 people in the audience.

Supervisor Whitton called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the January 13, 2026 public hearing (Wetlands) minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the January 13, 2026 Meeting minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

### **SPEAKER: JOE DRAGO, CHAIRMAN WCFD**

Carolyn Cookingham passed away, she and family were pillars of the firehouse. Jim Stutzman retired after 43 years as chairman. Speaking about transporting patients to the hospital. All fire districts give BLS service. If you require advance life support, it must come from somewhere else. NDP had handshake agreements to provide ALS. Last year they sold to Empress and Empress will honor agreements only until end of year. After that they will require contract for a fee. The costs will skyrocket. These costs will be passed on to the patients. Joe is trying to work with neighboring fire districts to pool our resources for these ALS services. There is active support in the county to minimize the costs moving forward.

WCFD and Company secured grants for a \$250,000 from our State representatives for a brush truck. The cost of the truck is 350,000 with a year to make up that gap by fundraising. Encourages people to volunteer as fire commissioners. And, he discussed the volunteer tax break.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION: (Agenda Items only) None**

### **SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Clinton Town Offices, Highway Department, Justice Court Office, and Court will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents' Day. The Clinton Community Library will also be closed on that day.

The Town of Clinton has a vacancy on our Planning Board. The term would be from the present day through the end of 2028, due to an early resignation. If you are interested in this vacancy, please contact me at [townsupervisor@clintondcny.gov](mailto:townsupervisor@clintondcny.gov) by Monday, February 23.

The New York Enhanced Energy Affordability Program (EEAP) provides monthly bill discounts for income-qualified households across New York State. Eligible customers can receive assistance based on their household size, income level, and utility provider. This EEAP application is available to customers of Central Hudson. To check if you are

eligible, you can visit CenHud.com, then go to “account resources”, and then “assistance programs”. Again, this is called the Enhanced Energy Affordability Program.

I have released the 2026 State of the Town report, detailing budget updates, accomplishments, and goals. That document is available on the Town website, and there are hard copies on the table in the Town Hall.

**TOWN BOARD REPORTS:** Posted on the web, townofclinton.com.

PLANNING BOARD, ZBA, CAC, CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE, RECREATION, BUILDING INSPECTOR, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, HIGHWAY, SCENIC AND HISTORIC ROADS, LIBRARY, ALTICE, ZONING REVISION, CEMETERIES, PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINES, OTHER (QUARTERLY: WIC, SAFETY)

**Councilwoman Mustello –**

CAC – meets tomorrow.

Planning Board – read from report, posted online.

ZBA - read from the report, posted online.

**Councilman Dykas-**

Recreation - read from the report, posted on line.

Hometown Heroes- on hold for the winter.

Cell phone service – mentioned an article in the Daily Catch.

**Councilwoman Auspitz –**

Library - read from the report, posted on line.

Highway – read from the report, posted on line.

Maintenance - none

**Deputy Supervisor Werner –**

Zoning Officer – read from report posted on line.

Building Inspector – read from the report posted on line.

CSC – approving NYSERDA funded grants tonight.

SHRAC – met talked about transfer station and looked at what other towns are doing. Looked at two proposals before PB.

Cemetery – no update.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **1. Approve LL1 of 2026 Wetlands Law – Mustello**

MM Councilwoman Mustello, 2nd Supervisor Whitton that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 7 of 2026** whereby the Town Board hereby adopts said **Local Law No. 1 of 2026, entitled “Local Law Amending Town Code §250-78: Freshwater Wetlands, Watercourses, Lakes, Ponds, and Floodplains” as amended** a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution. Charlie Dykas questioned a \$14,000 bill to get rid of poison ivy on Schilling property. Firedean Schilling explained his issue. Katherine said Charlie should go back and watch the planning board meetings where Firedean was presenting his issue. Supervisor Whitton said there is a GIS service at the County we can see if we can upload the maps so the ZA can measure properly. They agree we need to get the tools to the ZA to administer the law. Charlie Dykas wants to table this until next month.

MM Councilman Dykas to table the item until next month. Motion dies for lack of second.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Whitton, Aye; Mustello, Aye; Auspitz, Aye; Werner, Aye; Dykas Abstain. Motion carried.

### **2. Approve updated fee schedule – Whitton**

No responses and no changes.

### **3. Approve NYSERDA funded grant projects – Werner**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves awarding the following bids using NYSERDA funds to the lowest responsible bidders at the recommendation of the Town Engineer:

**EEM4 Insulated Garage Doors** to Access Anvil Corp DBA Overhead Doors of the Hudson Valley, Schuylerville for a bid price of \$27,438.80, and

**EEM 5 Double Glazed Windows** to Sierra Contractors, Manhasset, NY for \$21,926,

**EEM 2 Building Airflow** Reduction to Sierra contractors for \$8500,

And authorizes, empowers and directs the Town Supervisor to sign the contracts. Estimated heating savings to the highway building is \$2000. Mike Whitton said we will have to add about \$3100 of Town funds to complete the projects. All aye. Motion carried.

### **4. Approve Comprehensive Plan regular meeting nights, Chair and Vice Chair – Mustello**

MM Councilwoman Mustello, 2nd Councilman Dykas that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board designates the **FIRST AND THIRD Wednesdays of the month as the regular meeting night for the Comprehensive Plan** committee being held in person at Masonic Hall or other specified locations, and that the

Town Board appoints herself – **Katherine Mustello, as the chair** of the comprehensive plan committee effective Feb. 4, 2026, and that the Town Board appoints **Eliot Werner as the vice chair** of the comprehensive plan committee effective Feb. 4, 2026. All aye Motion carried.

**5. Discuss scope of NPV’s work for the Comprehensive Plan – Mustello**

Their estimate is \$85,000 over two years. There are several grants to help, totaling \$50,000. This will be money well spent. Their estimate is broken down into categories so we can choose how to use them. They will not be coming to every meeting.

**6. Discuss Delegate Packet AOT – Whitton**

Mike Whitton will be a delegate to vote on certain issues; Town Board members can forward their comments to him.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approve updated Standard Workday resolution for Retirement purposes – Werner**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 8 of 2026 adopting the standard workday and workweek for elected officials, appointed officials, and employees for the purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System.** This Resolution is effective on February 1, 2026. The resolution is being updated to include new positions. All aye. Motion carried.

**2. Approve 284 Agreement – Auspitz**

MM Councilwoman Auspitz, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board **approves Resolution No. 9 of 2026, the 284 Agreement, the Agreement to Spend Highway Funds.** All aye. Motion carried.

**3. Approve State Legislature consideration of Transfer Tax – Whitton**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 10 of 2026** that the Town Board hereby requests that the Legislature of the State of New York enact appropriate legislation to authorize the Town of Clinton to enact local legislation imposing a tax on real property transfers within the Town of Clinton; and

**Be It Further Resolved,** that the Town Board hereby requests that the Legislature of the State of New York authorize the Town of Clinton to create a Community Preservation Fund for the depositing of revenue from taxes imposed on transfers of real property; and

**Be It Further Resolved,** that the Town Board hereby requests that the Legislature of the State of New York authorize the Town of Clinton to take any further actions necessary to impose a transfer tax on transfers of real property in the Town of Clinton; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Dutchess County Attorney, Dutchess County Treasurer, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblywoman Didi Barrett so that those Legislators can properly sponsor the appropriate legislation which will make the granting of the Resolution herein possible. Whitton said this is on higher end purchases of homes which the Town Board will get to decide. He discussed the scale he is considering. Proposes the revenue be split between maintenance fund and a recreation fund. This is for a community preservation fund which we can then use the funds the way we choose. It requires a mandatory referendum which historically pass. The fee is paid by the buyer. All aye. Motion carried.

#### **4. Approve State Legislature consideration of Occupancy Tax – Whitton**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 11 of 2026, that the** Town Board hereby requests that the Legislature of the State of New York enact appropriate legislation to authorize the Town of Clinton to enact local legislation imposing an Occupancy Tax of no greater than 3% on Hotels, Motels, Conference Centers, Bed-and-Breakfast Establishments and Agricultural Event Venues within the Town of Clinton; and

Be It Further Resolved, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Dutchess County Attorney, Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblywoman Didi Barrett so that those Legislators can properly sponsor the appropriate legislation which will make the granting of the Resolution herein possible. Tax on overnight stays in Clinton. Omitted STRS from this tax. Paid by people who are not residents. Discussion on how this tax is collected. Omega Institute would pay also. All aye. Motion carried.

#### **5. Approve reclassification of road - Werner**

Request Pulled by the County.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

#### **RESIGNATIONS:**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the resignation of Justin Carroll as a member of the Planning Board effective January 26, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz to approve the resignation of Lisa Lambert as the Cleaner effective January 30, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz to approve the appointment of Viviana Morales as the Cleaner at an annual salary of \$8843 effective February 6, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Dykas to approve the appointments of Charles Near III and Joseph Carao as Wingmen at a rate of pay of \$17.35 per hour from January 24 to March 31, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the appointment of Misrrahin Carrero as Constable at a rate of pay of \$26.28 per hour effective February 11, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Auspitz to approve the temporary appointment of McKenna D'Attore as Court Clerk for Justice Brands at \$24.95 per hour effective January 22 to March 31, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

### **1. Approval of Warrants**

MM Councilwoman Mustello, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the:

**February General Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 29 through 83 totaling \$ 1,367,425.76**

**and the**

**February Highway Fund Warrant, vouchers numbered 12 through 48 totaling \$ 212,878.49**

All aye. Motion carried.

### **2. Motion to Move Funds – Whitton/Werner none**

### **3. Supervisor's Report - Whitton**

The January 2026 Supervisor's Report will be approved when the Annual Financial Report is complete.

### **OTHER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**none**

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to open the floor to public discussion. All aye. Motion carried.

Bob Tryszinski – noted a problem with video system. The Town Board is aware of it.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Mustello to close public discussion and return to the regular order of business. All aye. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Dykas that the Town Board adjourns the meeting.  
All aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol-Jean Mackin".

Carol-Jean Mackin,  
Town Clerk