November 10, 2026 Schultzville, NY

The Clinton Town Board held the Regular Town Board meeting on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Whitton, Deputy Supervisor Eliot Werner, Councilwoman Katherine Mustello, and Councilwoman Marion Auspitz as well as Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin. Councilman Charlie Dykas was absent. There were approximately 16 people in the audience.

Supervisor Whitton called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

APPROVE MINUTES

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the October 13, 2026 TB minutes. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the October 22, 2026 Special TB minutes to adopt the Preliminary budget. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the November 2, 2026 special executive session TB minutes. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the November 5, 2026 Public hearing on the 2027 Budget. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

LIBRARY PRESENTATION: Director Carol Bancroft:

Thanked Town Board for supporting the Library; they are a $ 2000 recipient of a grant for disaster recovery from Understory. The grant will strengthen library resources and expand equipment to assist with disaster repair and recovery or deal with household needs. You can borrow useful items and equipment. The items are intended to address practical needs and include: communication and power supplies, thermal imaging monitor, air quality monitor, carpet cleaner, pressure washer tire inflator, hand truck dollies and safety supplies. Great example of how libraries are evolving. Thanks voters for supporting the budget proposition.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: (Agenda Items only)

None.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

The Clinton Town Offices, Highway Department, Justice Court Office, and Court will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 (tomorrow), in observance of Veteran's Day. The Clinton Community Library will be open. The Clinton Town Offices, Highway Department, Justice Court Office, and Court will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. The Clinton Community Library will also be closed those days.

Cathy Gallinger is again spearheading the Toys for Tots program. New unwrapped toys can be dropped off now through December 9 at the Supervisor's Office and Town Hall. Donations are accepted M-Thursday, 8:30-4.

Carol Mackin has organized the Coat Drive once again from the Town Clerk's office. They will be collecting Men's, Women's, and kids' coats for distribution in time for the winter weather. Please drop off gently used coats at the Town Clerk's office, M-Th, 8:30 am to 4 pm.

Judy Malstrom, of the Climate Smart Task Force, has organized a presentation titled Beyond Burning: Mobilizing Dutchess County to End Harmful Trash Incineration. The presentation will include a guest speaker and take place in the Town Hall this Saturday, November 14, at 10am.

Finally, The Annual Tree and Menorah Lighting will take place on December 4, 2026 at 4:30 pm. There will also be an appearance by Santa Clause, refreshments, and the Boy Scouts will be selling wreaths.

DEPUTY SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

- None

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, OTHER (QUARTERLY: WIC, SAFETY)

Councilwoman Mustello – thanked Veterans, pointed to a Veterans card Wall of Honor sponsored by Friends of Clinton with heartfelt remembrances.

CAC – meets Nov. 12 to observe Veterans Day, sponsored walks with Clinton Library on Norene Coller Nature Trail, with specific themes throughout the year.

Planning Board – read from report, posted online.

ZBA – did not meet.

Comprehensive Plan – meeting 2 times per month. Beginning in December holding public forums the first Wednesday of every month, a topic will be chosen and those issues addressed. They will meet at various locations around town.

Mike Whitton thanked CJ Wyant who found veterans in our cemeteries from the civil war at pleasant plains cemetery; we plan to put their names on plaques.

Councilman Dykas-
Recreation report – no report.

Hometown Heroes – all done for the year.

Councilwoman Auspitz –
Library - read from the report, posted online.

Highway – read from the report, posted online.

Maintenance – requested to replace shades in the hwy dept.

Deputy Supervisor Werner –

Recreation – Read from the report, posted on the website.

Zoning Administrator – no report.

Building Inspector - read from report, posted online.

CSC – met and minutes are posted on website.

SHRAC – read from the report.

OLD BUSINESS none

1. **Adopt Tax Cap Override Local Law**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board approves the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No 44 of 2026 adopting Local Law No. of 2026, entitled "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2027" a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution.** All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

2. **Adopt 2027 Budget – Whitton**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 45 of 2026, titled: A Resolution Adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing January 1, and ending December 31, 2027.** In discussion, this year's budget exceeds the Tax Cap. We certainly do not expect this to become an annual occurrence. However, with inflation remaining above the Tax Cap for six consecutive years, the Town Board finds it necessary to exceed the cap in 2027 to keep the Town on firm financial footing. The Town of Clinton is certainly not alone in facing this issue. Many towns throughout Dutchess County are also exceeding the Tax Cap, as are fire districts. In fact, both fire districts serving the Town of Clinton are increasing their budgets next year.

The tax rate in the 2027 budget increases by 8.5%, to $1.77 per $1,000 of assessed value. Despite this increase, the Town tax rate remains more than 16% lower than the rate in the budget Supervisor Whitton inherited in 2022.

At the public hearing, a resident asked about the Town's debt ratio. In the interest of accuracy, he chose not to provide an answer that evening without first verifying the figures. The Town's current debt ratio is 0.004%. That ratio will fall to zero following the final bond payment in March.

This budget includes increases to necessary expenses. There is no excessive spending. It includes a 25.5% increase in attorney fees, as well as an additional approximate $5,000 to temporarily bring in an employee to assist in the Town Clerk's office. Much of this additional staffing expense is attributable to an unusually high volume of large FOIL requests the Town has been receiving. All FOIL requests are reviewed by the Town Attorney to ensure that responses are accurate, appropriate redactions are made, and the Town complies with applicable law.

A substantial majority of these requests are coming from one resident. The volume and complexity of these requests have resulted in increased legal expenses and significant additional staff time across several departments, particularly the Town Clerk's office. These costs are ultimately borne by all Town taxpayers. In my opinion, it is unfair to ask all taxpayers to absorb these additional expenses resulting from the extraordinary volume of requests made by a single individual. I believe the Town Board has an obligation to protect the Town's ability to conduct its normal business without allowing one individual's requests to consume a disproportionate amount of municipal resources. Unfortunately, we taxpayers find ourselves in that exact situation.

In an unrelated property tax dispute, this same resident offered to withdraw FOIL requests in exchange for the Town paying their legal expenses. The Town Board rejected this proposal unanimously and promptly. We do not believe it is appropriate to use taxpayer funds to pay an individual's private legal expenses in exchange for withdrawing public records requests.

I would like to emphasize that we are all taxpayers in this community. Members of the Town Board do not want to see their property taxes increase any more than residents do. However, we also have a responsibility to maintain the Town's financial stability and ensure that we can continue providing necessary services. This budget attempts to strike a balance between those. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent.. Motion carried.

3. **Approve Occupancy Tax Local Law - Whitton**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 46 of 2026 adopting Local law No. of 2026 A Local Law imposing an Occupancy Tax.** All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

4. **Approve Introducing 3rd Moratorium Extension – Werner**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilman Mustello to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 47 of 2026 titled** , "**Third Extension of Conference Center, Hotel, and Motel Moratorium and sets a public hearing at the Clinton Town Hall on December 7, 2026, at 6:25 o'clock.** This will be for a year to curtail large venues while we establish the comprehensive plan. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approve Boy Scouts Selling Wreaths – Werner**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello to approve the Boy Scouts selling wreaths at the Town of Clinton Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4, 2026, upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

2. **Approve Changing Meeting Date to Dec 7th for December meeting – Werner**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilman Mustello to approve that the regular December meeting date be changed to Monday December 7, 2026, due to a schedule conflict. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

3. **Approve Tax Cert Settlement – Werner**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilman Mustello to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves **Resolution No. 48 of 2026 entering into a tentative settlement agreement with petitioner's attorney for Kat-Dog property in accordance with the attached Consent Judgment.** All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS

1. **Resignations and appointments – Werner**

None.

Approval of Warrants - Mustello

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

November General Fund Warrant, Vouchers Numbered 535 through 586 , Totaling $220,034.32 and the

November Highway Fund Warrant, Vouchers numbered 303 through 328 , Totaling $113,481.93

November Capital Warrant, numbered 7 , totaling $350.00

All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

2. **Motion to Move Funds – Whitton**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED TO approve **Resolution No. 49 of 2026 a motion to move funds at the November 10, 2026 Town Board Meeting.** All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

3. **Supervisor's Report – Whitton**

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to approve the November Supervisor's Report. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

OTHER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to open the floor to public discussion. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

Lisa Metcalfe – announced Friends of Clinton sponsoring Friendsgiving November 13, all invited.

Ann Marie Tucker – thanked all who contributed to the Veterans Wall and thanked the town for hosting it.

Lynne Miceli – Regarding foil requests, she is always told she needs to fill out a foil request when she has questions of the assessor. Regarding exemptions, reviewed comments by the former assessor last month, including comments on social security and exemptions. Reviewed statistics of exemptions by parcels, the senior exemption being a small percentage of the total number of exemptions. Reviewing many properties in Town, she discussed certain properties with lower values due to forestry and ag exemptions and claimed they should be reviewed for fraud. Regarding Mr. Ferrini's presentation on spot enforcement where he emphasized land use regulation being a core function of the town, she feels this includes land use exemption enforcement. Encourages the Town Board to support senior exemptions as the population is declining and you will be seeing less applications as people die or move to senior housing.

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner to return to the regular order of business. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

MM Supervisor Whitton, 2nd Councilman Werner that the Town Board adjourns the meeting. All aye except Councilman Dykas who was absent. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk