

2026 Reorganization Meeting  
January 7, 2026

Schultzville, NY

The Town of Clinton Reorganization Meeting was held on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Michael Whitton and Councilpersons Eliot Werner, Katherine Mustello, Marion Auspitz and Charles Dykas. Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin was also present. There were 11 people in the audience.

At 6:30 PM Supervisor Whitton called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Good evening, and Happy New Year.

I would like to begin by thanking Judge Brands for swearing us in for our new terms. I would also like to thank and congratulate Judge Barbara Seelbach, Councilperson Katherine Mustello, and Deputy Supervisor Eliot Werner on their continued service to our community. The Town is truly in good hands.

I am pleased to report that the Town property tax rate went down again this year. The tax rate remains the lowest it has been since 2010 and 2011. Aside from those two years, the Town of Clinton's tax rate is the lowest since 1973, which is as far back as Dutchess County records extend.

Our Recreation Department secured a grant and constructed a brand-new pickleball court at Friends Park. In addition, new playground equipment will be installed at Friends Park, further enhancing recreational opportunities for our residents.

The Hometown Heroes Banner Program continues to be a great success. Honoring the Town's veterans is very important to us, and we are proud to do so through visible banners installed along Centre Road in Schultzville and Salt Point Turnpike in Clinton Corners.

The Town also secured a bond to purchase two new trucks for the Highway Department. This bond is paid for by Dutchess County for the plowing of County roads, allowing us to improve our equipment without impacting local taxpayers. After many years of work, revisions to the Town Zoning Code are now under review by Dutchess County Planning and will hopefully be ready for adoption soon. In anticipation of that milestone, we are forming a Comprehensive Plan Committee this evening. The updated Comprehensive Plan for Clinton is expected to be completed within the next couple of years.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Town is exploring ways to increase revenue without placing additional burdens on taxpayers. We have taken the initial steps to institute an occupancy tax, which would be paid by visitors staying overnight in our community. Additionally, I will be introducing a transfer tax on the purchase of homes. Together, these measures should generate meaningful revenue for the Town without increasing taxes on our residents.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the retirement of Colleen McGarry. Colleen was appointed on July 9, 1996, and after 29 years, 5 months, and 25 days of dedicated service, she is retiring from her role with the Town. Throughout that time, it was always a pleasure to see Colleen. I have known her family for more than 40 years, and she has

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consistently been a caring, thoughtful, and dedicated individual. Her service to this community will truly be missed.

We wish Colleen all the best in her well-earned retirement, and we extend our congratulations as she looks forward to the impending birth of her grandchild.

A Comment from Judge Brands:

Colleen and I have known each other for many years and at the time I assumed my position as Town Justice it was a great comfort to have her working with me. The position of Justice Court Clerk has become more difficult and complicated in recent years with the ever so many upgrades and changes to our judicial system. Throughout this period Colleen has made it a priority to keep abreast of these changes and attend many classes and seminars in order that our court can run smoothly. Add to this her outgoing and friendly personality and frankly it just doesn't get any better. Obviously she will be missed.

It has been a very successful 2025. On behalf of the Town Board, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026.

## **BUSINESS**

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilwoman Mustello that the record reflects that legal public notice was advertised to inform all about this Organization Meeting and written notice was made to all Councilpersons. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilperson Mustello that pursuant to Town Law Section 63, all prior adopted rules for meetings of the Town Board be adopted. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilperson Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves that all undertakings for elected officials, appointed officials, and Town employees, where required, as indicated in the Town of Clinton Insurance Outline, be made part of the record of these minutes, and that the bonds and insurance provided therein be approved as to amount, form, and sufficiency and filed with the County Clerk by the Town Clerk. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilperson Auspitz to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to appoint a Deputy Supervisor and in the absence of the Supervisor, the Deputy Supervisor be authorized to sign checks and perform other business as required. All aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Whitton reappoints Councilman Eliot Werner as Deputy Supervisor with term of office from January 1 to December 31, 2026.

Town Clerk Carol Mackin reappoints Mary Molloy First Deputy Town Clerk / Deputy Vital Statistics Registrar and Felicity Shaffer as Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Vital Statistics Registrar with a term of office from January 1 to December 31, 2026.

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Supervisor Whitton appoints the following **liaisons** for a term of office of January 1 to December 31, 2026:

**Councilman Werner:**

Climate Smart Task Force  
Cemetery Committee  
SHRAC  
DC Human Rights  
MCEI  
Building Inspector  
Review General Fund/ Capital Project Fund Warrants

**Councilman Dykas:**

Highway Liaison  
Tax Certiorari cases  
Recycling  
Altice  
Recreation  
Hometown Heroes  
Review Highway Fund Warrants

**Councilwoman Auspitz:**

Highway Liaison  
Library  
Maintenance  
WIC  
Review Highway Fund Warrant

**Councilwoman Mustello:**

Planning Board  
ZBA  
CAC  
CSEA  
Review General Fund / Capital Fund Warrant

**Supervisor Whitton:**

HR  
Personnel  
All Insurance Matters  
CSEA Contract Negotiations  
DC Transportation Council  
Northern Dutchess Alliance  
Zoning Revision

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilperson Mustello to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board establish an ad hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee effective January 7, 2026 comprised of 10 members to include five members of the public, two Town Board

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representatives and one representative of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the CAC. The comprehensive Plan committee will also be advised by a representative from Nelson, Pope & Voorhis LLC as a Planner. The committee is charged with:

- Developing and prioritizing short-term, mid-term and long-term initiatives from the Comprehensive Plan.
- Establishing subcommittees as necessary to focus on specific plan elements.
- Coordinating with Town departments, board, committees/commissions and community stakeholders to ensure alignment with zoning updates.
- Fostering public engagement and transparency including public workshops, forums and updates on progress.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will present a draft Comprehensive Plan to the Town Board by February 1, 2028 at which time the Committee will dissolve. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Auspitz to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 1 of 2026, a resolution to make annual appointments to establish town positions and their rates of pay.** Councilwoman Mustello questioned a salary in the resolution that is different than the budget. Supervisor Whitton said two salaries were typos in the budget, they are correct. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Auspitz to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 2 of 2026, a resolution to appoint consulting professionals.** Mustello questioned the town attorney rates, Supervisor Whitton said they are correct. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilman Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 3 of 2026, a resolution to designate regular meeting nights for all Boards and Committees.** All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilman Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 4 of 2026, a resolution to designate official media.** All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 5 of 2026, a resolution to designate official Banks of Deposit for Town Funds.** All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approve **Resolution No. 6 of 2026, a resolution to make appointments to Town Boards and Committees.** All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilperson Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the payment of contracts, electric, telephone, postage, insurances, cable modem service, bond and bond interest payments, wages, Town's credit cards, and copier rental fees upon receiving their billings. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilperson Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes in advance the payments for seminars, conferences, and

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other meetings are paid at the time of registration after prior approval of the Town Board. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilperson Auspitz to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves Town Supervisor, Town Board members, Town Justices, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Town Highway Superintendent, Tax Collector, Assessor, Assessor Clerk, Building Inspector, Fire Inspector, Zoning Administrator, and Justice Court Clerks be reimbursed for meals at their Dutchess County Association meetings up to \$35.00, or actual cost, whichever is less. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner, 2nd Councilperson Mustello to approve the following resolution BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves establishing a biweekly payroll for all Town employees, including Highway employees and elected officials with the first payday on Friday January 2, 2026. All aye. Motion carried.

MM Deputy Supervisor Werner 2nd Councilperson Dykas that Town personnel shall be paid \$0.72.5 per mile when on official Town business with their personal vehicle. All aye. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Carol-Jean Mackin,  
Town Clerk