

**TOWN OF CLARKSON
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

October 25, 2022

The Town Board of the Town of Clarkson held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at the Clarkson Town Hall, 3710 Lake Road, Clarkson, NY at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Christa Filipowicz	Supervisor
Nick D'Amuro	Councilperson
John Culhane	Councilperson
Tom Guarino	Councilperson
Leslie Zink	Councilperson
Susan Henshaw	Town Clerk
Robert Viscardi	Highway Superintendent
Richard Olson	Attorney
Tammy Baker	Assessor
**Kevin Moore	Building Inspector

** excused

Supervisor Filipowicz opened the meeting. She led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for our service men and women, first responders and veterans, particularly those who have paid the ultimate price.

OPEN FORUM

Joscelyn Ruscio, 2660 Redman Road, inquired about the removal of the water district information from the agenda. Supervisor Filipowicz advised that the board and all others involved are continuing to work on the project with changes that have been presented since the public hearing. Any further information will be advised in the near future. Once a decision from the board is made and if a petition is forthcoming, that will be prepared by the town board.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sweden Clarkson Community Center – Jill Wisnowski, Recreation Director gave the board members a hand out of all the programs offered at the SCCC. It includes different types of child activities, summer camps along with adult activities. She provided numbers of the attendees from 2021 in comparison to 2022. She advised figures of residents' vs non-residents. Not all programs were able to be tallied the same way so the numbers are not exact but close. People are able to rent the gym, conference rooms, meeting rooms and the cafeteria. She mentioned the new adult senior room and how big and inviting it is. The SCCC sponsors many different events during the year such as the Halloween event, Pumpkin Walk, a veterans' luncheon, euchre, bridge, Souper Bowl and Mr. and Mrs. Clause visit. Staffing has been difficult since COVID. She has noticed a drop in the population, emphasizing in youth and children attending the programs. The SCCC accepts kids from out of district to join local teams as well. They do all they can to assist children that wish to stay active. The assessor, Tammy Baker has offered to run a report on Clarkson residents and Sweden residents so Jill has for record keeping.

Bond Benefits – advising that open enrollment for the employee healthcare is scheduled for November 2.

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NEW BUSINESS

2023 Reassessment – Tammy Baker our assessor advised that the state needs to have a memorandum for approval that the town wishes to move forward with the 2023 re-assessment. Our equalization rate is currently at 85%. She believes the next assessment will add on another approximate 15% to get the town closer to the 100% equalization rate. She feels the market has slowed down and will plateau and the timing is advantageous. We have one of the lowest assessments in the country and our area is prime for many to buy land and property here. The rate effects our exemptions when not at 100% equalization rate. Your STAR, Veterans and agriculture exemptions are not at full value which effects other revenues that residents can obtain, such as mortgage tax, fire districts and homeowners' insurances. This also effects the sales tax revenue the town receives. Supervisor Filipowicz mentioned that the town is in need of a re-assessment and the town board is committed to this for 2023 to keep things fair for the residents. Tammy advised that she will send change of assessment impact notices to the residents in mid-March to advise of the upcoming revaluation informal hearings, then a second set of notices in mid-May to advise the change of Grievance Day.

RESOLUTION #263

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR TAMMY BAKER TO COMPLETE THE REASSESSMENT ROLL FOR 2023

Introduced by Councilperson Zink

Seconded by Councilperson Culhane

Motion to approve the memorandum of understanding for Tammy Baker to complete the reassessment roll for 2023.

VOTE OF THE BOARD

AYES: Supervisor Filipowicz, Councilpersons Culhane, D'Amuro, Guarino and Zink

NAYES: None

Tammy advised many residents are asking about merging parcels ahead of the water district development. She mentioned she will be mailing out the lower income and senior disability information in the next few weeks. The county is trying to pass a resolution to increase the low income for senior citizen exemption from \$37,400 to \$58,000 in December. If this passes, we need to send out a mailing to all residents advising of the change. The last time a change was made, was in 2007. Tammy advised about a possible solar resolution, which is currently based on the amount of cash flow from that project. This was challenged at the state level as it appears to be dependent on selective assessment amounts. The resolution states solar has to be evaluated every year, yet reassessments happen every 3 years. This solar resolution is still in litigation. Councilperson Zink inquired if a residents accepts water to their homes, will that effect their assessment value. Tammy explained site value at \$28,000. Adding water may increase that sale of the home, however she needs to see proof the sale increased due to water. Tammy has had residents comment that their water is too had, the need to purchase appliances often and are willing to pay for the water.

RESOLUTION #264

MOTION TO APPROVE EMPLOYEE VACATION ROLLOVER OF 48.5 HOURS FOR T. SWANGER

Introduced by Councilperson Guarino

Seconded by Councilperson D'Amuro

Motion to approve employee vacation rollover of 48.5 hours for T. Swanger

VOTE OF THE BOARD

AYES: Supervisor Filipowicz, Councilpersons Culhane, D'Amuro, Guarino and Zink

NAYES: None

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Supervisors Report –

Staff Meeting - was hosted by Councilman D’Amuro. Recognized Jesse Cross for his five years of service to the town. Good communication throughout the meeting and we’re able to share info and questions can be answered. Supervisor Filipowicz finds it very positive.

Monroe County Supervisors Association - met and Chief Deputy Mike Fowler gave the presentation. Discussed crime rates and trends locally—car jackings, catalytic converters being removed from vehicles, etc. We’ve known that fentanyl and heroin have been issues for quite some time however he shared that the current violence in Rochester are turf wars over marijuana sales. Although the state legalized it, there are few dispensaries available. It is anticipated that the sale of marijuana on the streets will be less expensive than dispensaries. He noted that when there is an overdose from fentanyl, addicts will seek that dealer out looking for the better high. Councilperson Zink added that Monroe County Executive Adam Bello is releasing boxes of NARCAN to be dispersed when needed across the county. She would like to see town hall have that available. County Legislature Jackie Smith will continue to work on that and advise her findings.

Vacation – Supervisor Filipowicz mentioned that she has spoken to other employees who wish not to accrue vacation and would prefer to have a large deposit at time of their anniversary date. This seems easier for the employee to manage. If an employee resigns, then accounting will do a True-up for that employee.

RESOLUTION #265

MOTION TO CONTINUE WITH DEPOSIT OF VACATION TIME AS A LUMP SUM ON THE EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY DATE

Introduced by Council person Zink

Seconded by Councilperson Culhane

Motion to continue with deposit of vacation time as lump sum on the employee anniversary date.

VOTE OF THE BOARD

AYES: Supervisor Filipowicz, Councilpersons Culhane, D’Amuro, Guarino and Zink

NAYES: None

Town Board Reports –

Healthcare - Councilperson Culhane advised of the great feedback he received regarding employee healthcare. He would like to address workers compensation next. He will reach out to our contact at the insurance company for further information.

Seymour Library – Councilperson Zink advised about the book sale last weekend was a success. They had lots of traffic and sold tons of books.

Parks and Trails – Councilperson Zink discussed the group Bicycles Bring Business which is geared to bring some more bicyclists to the area.

Solar Law Updates – Councilperson Zink advised the group has had a few meetings recently with more to come next week. They are advising they will need to modify the current solar law. They’ve had discussions on the current Battery Law and how best to protect our residents.

Zoning Updates – Councilperson Zink advised the group is working with Bergmann on zoning updates.

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Veterans' Health – Councilperson D'Amuro is working with a current student who is being trained through the VOC – Veterans' Outreach Program. She will mirror the town board meeting schedule and offer walk-in hours for veterans at the Town Hall from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month.

Cultural Resource – Councilperson D'Amuro is working with Certified Local Government to expand the historic district in Clarkson. Being a member of Certified Local Government seems to have benefits from this program, to our area. We need to adopt a local landmark to law to be included. Our ARB will research this information and will report back. We need to increase the ARB to 5 members. It can be a separate committee if need be. We have to advise information yearly in return. Councilperson Zink will be assisting in this process. Town attorney Richard Olson reminded Councilperson D'Amuro there are many rules and restrictions to this program and proceed with care.

Town Clerk – Susan Henshaw mentioned that the Fall decorations are up inside and out at the Town Hall. She advised she has collected \$7.4 million of the \$8 million in school taxes due by October 31. 2023 Transfer Station permit stickers are ordered and will be in this week. They will go on sale in early November. Watch our website for more details. A reminder that weekend dates are still available for rent at both our lodges through the end of the year, as well as for winter dates. Our website is up to date with available options.

Superintendent Viscardi – reminded everyone of this past weekends' 2-day Junk Days event at the highway department. He had 180 residents visit, up from 160 last year. Brush pick-up started Monday and will run for the next 2 Mondays. A reminder to put your leaves in brown bags. There have been several drainage and easement concerns, much due to the dead ash trees and that is being tended to. The highway winter schedule starts November 15 – April 15. He wishes to thank the entire town board for the assistance with the new policy changes on behalf of the employees.

RESOLUTION #266
APPROVE MINUTES 10-11-2022

Introduced by Councilperson Zink

Seconded by Councilperson D'Amuro

To approve minutes from 10-11-2022.

VOTE OF THE BOARD

AYES: Supervisor Filipowicz, Councilpersons Culhane, D'Amuro, Guarino and Zink

NAYES: None

RESOLUTION #267
APPROVE MINUTES FROM SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING 10-15-2022

Introduced by Councilperson D'Amuro

Seconded by Councilperson Guarino

Approve minutes from special budget meeting 10-15-2022

VOTE OF THE BOARD

AYES: Supervisor Filipowicz, Councilpersons Culhane, D'Amuro, Guarino and Zink

NAYES: None

Reminder for the Public Hearing for the 2023 Budget to be held on Friday, October 28 at 5:30pm at the Town Hall.

10-25-2022

RESOLUTION #268
AUDIT 10-25-2022

Introduced by Councilperson Guarino

Seconded by Councilperson D'Amuro

To authorize payment of audit 10-25-2022 totaling \$236,849.35 AA General \$10,748.09, BB General- Outside Village \$10,313.54, DA Highway - Town Wide \$14,478.38, DB Highway-Outside Village \$201,126.64, TA- Agency \$182.70 and Distribution of checks: Joint Checking #0002736-0002784 and Trust and Agency 0006271-006272

VOTE OF THE BOARD

AYES: Supervisor Filipowicz, Councilpersons Culhane, D'Amuro, Guarino and Zink

NAYES: None

RESOLUTION #269
MOTION TO ADJOURN

Introduced by Councilperson Culhane

Seconded by Councilperson Guarino

Motion to adjourn at 6:46 PM.

VOTE OF THE BOARD

AYES: Supervisor Filipowicz, Councilpersons Culhane, D'Amuro, Guarino and Zink

NAYES: None

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Henshaw

Town Clerk

Approved 11-08-2022