

Mayor Holt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Kovach, Pendergast, Schaumburg, Holt

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Holt read the following statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided, indicating the time and place of the meeting and the proposed agenda, which notice was posted, made available to newspapers, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Clinton in accordance with Section 3(d) of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to approve the minutes of November 22, 2005 Council meeting as submitted.

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (DeCleene, Garber)
Motion carried

Mrs. Schaumburg amended the minutes of Special Meeting held December 5, 2005, her name was omitted in the attendance. A motion to approve the amended minutes of December 5, 2005 was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. De Cleene.

Vote all ayes
2 Abstentions (Kovach, Pendergast)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to accept the monthly reports for the month of November as submitted:

Administrator’s Report, Clerk’s Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Construction Control Account, Fire Official Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Zoning Officer/Construction Official Report.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Fischer and Lynn Arnold, representing the Clinton Sunrise Rotary, approached Council to present the highest award in the “Rotary World” to Mayor Holt. The audience was near capacity with members of the Rotary, along with family and friends of Mayor Holt, to bestow upon him the Paul Harris Fellowship Award. Mayor Holt was commended for his service to the Rotary, helping with the Rubber Ducky Race, Sprintin’ Clinton, and many donations he received from performing weddings. The Rotary is currently in the process of celebrating their 100 years anniversary by partaking in the design plan of the new entrance to the Clinton Municipal Building along with Mayor Holt and Council. Mayor Holt approached Mr. Fischer and Ms. Arnold to accept his award, of which he was very honored and totally speechless! Mayor Holt received a standing ovation from all.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Holt received a letter from the Mayor of Lewes, England. The Pearly King, Tony Shephard, hand delivered the letter to Mayor Holt. Mayor Holt has written a letter in return. The Pearly King has participated in the Christmas Parade for six consecutive years.
2. Council is in receipt of a letter from Nancy Smith, CFO/CTC, stating that on January 15, 2006 she will be with the Town 31 years and it is with mixed emotions announced she will be retiring March 31, 2006. Mayor Holt thanked Nancy for all her years of dedication to the Town and for a job very well done. Nancy received a round of applause.

HUNTERDON COUNTY MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

Dan Torrone attended this evenings meeting to make a plea to the Town of Clinton asking for the Town to take over as lead municipality responsible for receiving the Grant funds from the County and paying the bills as they occur. Currently, Bethlehem Township is the lead municipality and has asked that another municipality take over. Linda Stampoulos, also with the Alliance, accompanied Mr. Torrone this evening and asked for the Town's support. Mrs. Kovach said this is a great program and made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harrison, that the Town of Clinton become the "Lead Municipality" for the Hunterdon County Municipal Alliance Program.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Mayor Holt commended Dan Torrone and all his efforts over the years, especially the great deal of work he contributes with the Christmas Parade. This year's parade was the best ever!

RESOLUTION #107-05 – FIRE PREVENTION FEES

Discussion continued from the meeting of November 22, 2005 regarding amending the Ordinance to waive fees for all non profits or to create a reduced rate. Mr. Harrison suggested creating a reduced rate rather than no rate at all. Mr. Harrison stated that there is a service being provided and some compensation should be made. A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mrs. Kovach to refund the fee to the Clinton Presbyterian Church and to address the ordinance fees at the first meeting in January.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #108-05 – OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Resolution #108-05 authorizing the Hunterdon County Board of Freeholders to reserve the Town's share in the amount of \$10,041.76 collected in 2004.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #109-05 – OVERPAYMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast, to adopt Resolution #109-05 authorizing Chief Financial Officer to refund the amount of \$2,529.20 for an overpayment of taxes.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

FIRE TRUCK BID AWARD

Upon the receipt of bids for a 100' Mid-Mount Platform Quint Ladder Fire Apparatus, received on November 29, 2005 a recommendation from the Clinton Fire Department has been made to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Cambell Supply Co., Inc. (American LaFrance) in the amount of \$849,879.00. A motion to accept the bid was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mr. De Cleene.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Garber, Harrison, Kovach, Pendergast, Schaumburg, Holt

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

FOOD LICENSE EXEMPTIONS

The Board of Health has made their annual request to Mayor and Council to approve the waiver of food handling license fees for the following establishments:

Clinton Fire Department
Clinton Presbyterian Church
Clinton Public School Board of Education
Clinton United Methodist Church
Hunterdon Historical Museum (Kitchen)

A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast, to approve the request as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #110-05 – ARCHITECT CONTRACT

Mr. Cushing explained that the architect's contract is near completion and suggested adopting a resolution authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign subject to final attorney review. A motion was made by Mrs. Schaumburg, seconded by Mrs. Kovach to adopt Resolution #110-05 as prepared by Attorney Cushing.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Sergeant Cory Kubinak

1. Sgt. Kubinak reported that their department received many used rifles from the Governor's Office. They are all in good shape, in need of a good cleaning. Detective Jay Hunter, currently out of work on medical leave, has gladly offered to clean them up.
2. Police Chief Brett Matheis has completed his training at the FBI National Academy and will be

graduating Friday, December 16th. We look forward to his return to the Department on Monday, December 19, 2005.

3. Police Department, County Terrorism and Homeland Security with the Hunterdon County Prosecutor have participated in a school threat assessment program at Clinton Public School.

Robert A. Cutter, PW/Business Administrator

1. Mr. Cutter updated Council on the night work hours requested by the State Department of Transportation. Night work would be sporadic and one week's notification for residents in the area has been requested by the Town. The Town will provide the names to the DOT. Mr. Cutter suggested the Clinton Guild submit a list of activities to the State to coordinate a schedule for work. The Rescue Squad and the Fire Department and HART (Hunterdon Area Rural Transit) will also be made aware of work schedules. The project should take approximately ten (10) months, and a total of two (2) weeks should consist of night work. Mayor Holt suggested that upon filing for permits, the applicant receive a copy of the Town Ordinance regarding work hours and a public hearing be scheduled so the contractor can answer questions that residents may have.

Nancy E. Smith, C.F.O.

1. The Town has received a check in the amount of \$942.47 from the State of New Jersey and will be placed in the 2006 Budget for Replacement of Police Body Armor.
2. Estimates are being accepted to do the Community Center floor. Whether refinish or re-do will be decided when estimates are received.

Councilman De Cleene

1. Attended the Interchange 15 – County Route 513 / Interstate 78 meeting at the Freeholders Meeting room on Monday, December 5, with Ms. Garber, Ms. Kovach, Mrs. Schaumburg, and Bob Cutter. The alternate improvements were discussed and open to the public.
2. The website received a request to look into additional parking at the Fire Department lot. The Road Committee recommended a letter be sent to the Fire Department asking if they will open it to area residents or businesses. Mayor Holt will write a letter and ask the Department to attend a meeting to discuss the request.

Councilwoman Pendergast

1. Board of Health – Rabies Clinic to be held Saturday, January 14, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Recommendation by the Board to enter into a contract with the Hunterdon Humane Shelter for 2006.

Richard P. Cushing, Esq.

Attorney Cushing reviewed the new Pay to Play Law and explained this new approach of engaging professionals. The Law requires that all contracts with a value of \$17,500 (aggregation rules apply) be awarded pursuant to a "fair and open" or "non-fair and open" process both of which are defined in the law. Mayor Holt asked the Council to decide which process they preferred, the traditional method is the non-fair and open process. Discussion took place and Council decided to go with the "fair and open process". All positions would have to be advertised in the Courier Daily newspaper and all interested parties must submit proposals by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28th. Mayor Holt asked for volunteers to review all submittals. Mrs. Kovach and Mrs. Schaumburg

offered to review. A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg authorizing Mr. Cushing to prepare a “fair and open process” for solicitation notice for the newspaper.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Councilman Harrison

No report

Councilwoman Kovach

1. Highlands one year anniversary is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2005. A draft of the Master Plan should be ready in March, and the final plan is expected June 16, 2006.

Councilwoman Schaumburg

No report

Councilwoman Garber

1. Newsletter Committee would like to thank Ann Holt for her years of dedication to the Committee. Ann is retiring this year.
2. Web Site urges everyone to check their mail.

Mayor Holt

1. Water Committee – reported on Well #15. The centinel well on Riverside Drive is about to be drilled, 8 feet into the pavement. Tom Tharp, Water Superintendent, has recommended the firm of Samuel Stothoff and Company to drill the well for \$11,650. A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast to grant Mr. Tharp’s request as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #111-05 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

A motion was made by Mrs. Pendergast, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adopt Resolution #111-05 authorizing a Transfer of Funds as submitted.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF OVERTIME & STANDBY PAY:

A motion was made by Mrs. Garber, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to pay the attached list of overtime and standby pay for the period of November 17 – November 30, 2005.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mayor Holt, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to enter into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss Contract Negotiations and Personnel.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Council returned to the regular Council Meeting at 9:35 p.m.

RESOLUTION #112-05 – STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

The employees would now have the opportunity to opt out of Health benefits and as such would receive 50% in savings of the Town realized in that year, pursuant to Chapter 189.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #113-05 - PERSONNEL POLICY

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg to support changes to the Personnel Policy.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER POSITION

Upon receipt of the resignation of Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Schaumburg requested that an advertisement be placed in the newspaper for the position of Chief Financial Officer. The position will be a difficult one to fill and the process should begin as soon as possible.

POSITION OF ROAD FOREMAN

A motion was made by Mrs. Kovach, seconded by Mrs. Schaumburg, to name Wayne Smith, Road Foreman, with an increase in pay effective immediately.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mrs. Kovach, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

J. Matthew Holt, Mayor