

**Clifton Park Town Board Meeting Minutes  
November 9, 2006**

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:20 p.m. in order to hear comments on the 2007 Preliminary Budget, Supervisor Barrett presiding.

Present: Councilman Speckhard  
Councilwoman Walowit  
Supervisor Barrett  
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Absent: Councilman Paolucci  
Councilman Roth

Also Present: Michael Shahan, Town Administrator  
Myla Kramer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Affairs

**PUBLIC HEARING, 7:20 PM TO CONSIDER THE 2007 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing as it appeared in the Daily Gazette on October 30, 2006.

Supervisor Barrett announced there will be no town tax for 2007 and debt is being reduced continually. He reported support of the arts and community theater is increased in this budget. He reported the position of a full time Town Attorney to be on the premises at all times is being reviewed, keeping the same attorneys but in a different structure as they bring a wealth of experience and talent to the positions. This position will be in the \$75,000 to \$80,000 range and will need to be included at the time of the budget adoption. The Supervisor noted that some of the attorney salaries in place now will be reduced. Town Attorney positions include full time, part time deputy, Zoning Board and Planning Board attorneys and special project attorney. The overall cost of the department should be the same or less. The appointments will be part of the Organizational Meeting.

Councilman Speckhard reviewed the new budget section entitled "Department of Community History, Arts and Culture". He said this is not a new operation but a bringing together of many of the programs and activities that have been going on in the town for many years. Two new items included in the budget are the creation of a Community Arts and Culture Commission which, in a sense, would be the policy leaders and directors of the arts and culture business and a future endeavor, the Theater Arts and Culture Center. He displayed an organizational diagram, attached. Councilman Speckhard stated since there is no department of community history, arts and culture this will have to relate very closely to other departments within the town in terms of its material operation, buildings

and grounds. The administrative operation would be through the Parks and Recreation Department and the program itself would work directly with the Planning Department in terms of grants and long-term planning. The program itself includes two major items – Historic Preservation and Arts and Culture. The Arts and Culture Commission would oversee, encourage and work with the town sponsored theater group, Not So Common Players, Clifton Park Community Chorus, general arts and the Theater Arts and Culture Center which Councilman Speckhard stated he hopes will be built relatively soon. The Grooms Tavern would be the Historical Center of the town. Councilman Speckhard stated the primary goal now should be getting the Certificate of Occupancy for the Grooms Tavern as soon as possible and to hold an official dedication as the town's History Center in April 2007. He distributed Grooms Tavern price quotes which would complete the necessary work, attached. The Friends of Grooms Tavern Committee has a \$50,000 grant promised which could be used to do the interior work that is not essential for the Certificate of Occupancy. The Friends of Grooms Tavern would be working with the Planning Department and not as an independent organization.

Town Administrator Shahan reported the proposed budget is slightly less than the tentative budget. He advised the Board of a change from \$6000 to \$7000 for the Community Chorus at the request of Councilman Speckhard. Proposed changes are attached.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:35 p.m.

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Lane, stated his main concern is the undesignated funds and feels it is important that monies come back to residents. He questioned reducing the highway tax and then having to appropriate money to cover paving. He recommended a replacement plan for highway trucks.

Supervisor Barrett responded the Superintendent of Highways has a truck replacement plan, as well as a paving list. He said there was some emergency paving done and the cost of paving has gone up. The Supervisor said if a serious need is shown, money can be appropriated.

Mr. Baisley asked that surplus funds be used to complete the Grooms Tavern restoration this year, noting the Tavern is just as important as open space. He feels the Tavern will be an excellent field trip for students to learn the history of the town. Mr. Baisley stated the Friends of Grooms Tavern have done an excellent job but now is the time for the Town Board to step forward and finish the project.

Mr. Baisley said he would like to hear the results of town funding, e.g. reports on how many children participated in summer recreation camps and programs, number of building permits issued, Planning Department revenues, etc.

Mr. Shahan responded departments issue monthly reports.

Mr. Baisley said access to the river should be started and asked where it stands.

Speaking with regard to the Ice Arena, Mr. Baisley said it is no different than any other public structure and needs to be maintained.

Mr. Baisley asked that an update of the Skate Park be given, specifically the number of users and programs the town is supporting. He said he is very supportive of any programs that help the children.

Mr. Baisley stated the 2007 budget is a good one and provides a lot for the residents of Clifton Park.

Councilman Speckhard said there will be a focus on the waterfront in 2007.

Mr. Baisley emphasized using undesignated funds to help residents and not being dependent on grants.

Councilman Speckhard responded the commitment is to do it and the financing can come in a variety of different ways. He feels by this time next year the waterfront will be much more accessible than it is now.

Myla Kramer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Affairs, reported \$9000 and the line was removed from the preliminary budget under Festival – Performing Arts, Community Arts and Culture (A-7550-056) and money added to new line Community Arts and Culture Commission. Ms. Kramer asked that the \$9000 be restored to Festival-Performing Arts under the new name of “Other Town Programs” in order not to be confused with the Community Arts and Culture Commission and their activities. The \$9000 has been used for the summer Wednesday evening Family Performing Art Shows as well as other programming around town including the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, Grooms Tavern and Clifton Common.

Councilman Speckhard said this omission was in error and the \$9000 will be replaced.

MOTION by Councilman Speckhard, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 8:10 p.m.

Patricia O’Donnell  
Town Clerk