

CLINTON TOWN COUNCIL

April 9, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Amended April 7, 2025

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 26, 2025
2. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS - MARCH
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS
4. MAYOR'S COMMENTS
Appointment to the Green Team- James LeStrange
5. SCOUTS PERMIT FEE WAIVER – FLAG DAY
6. SPECIAL EVENTS –Banner Request from Red Mill for Uncork Summer May 26-June 9 (two weeks for banner); Event is June 7 & June 8, 2025
Banner Request from Hunterdon County Bulldogs #927 MCL
August 26-September 1, 2025; Event is September 12, 2025
7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #25-07 ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND
8. RESOLUTION #79-25 APPROVING 2025 RECREATION FACILITY RENTAL FEE SCHEDULE
9. RESOLUTION #80-25 APPROVING HIRING ROBERT VANDENBERG AS ELECTRIC SUB-CODE AND ELECTRIC INSPECTOR
10. RESOLUTION #81-25 GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FOR GRANT CYCLE JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026
11. RESOLUTION #82-25 ESTABLISHING THE FLAT-RATE FOR SOLID WASTE
12. RESOLUTION #83-25 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOC AND IDT ENERGY
13. RESOLUTION #84-25 RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK APRIL 21-27, 2025
14. CORRESPONDENCE
15. REPORTS OF COUNCIL
16. STANDBY AND OVERTIME
17. PAYMENT OF BILLS
18. EXECUTIVE SESSION – IF NECESSARY
19. ADJOURNMENT

**TOWN OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE # 25-07**

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7, *et seq.*, the Town Council of the Town of Clinton submitted to the voters of the Town a referendum authorizing the establishment of an “Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund” (hereinafter referred to as the “Trust Fund”); and

WHEREAS, the voters of the Town of Clinton adopted the referendum at the General Election held on November 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council now desires to establish the Trust Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 104 of the Code of the Town of Clinton (the “Code”), entitled “Open Space Trust Fund” is hereby established as follows:

§ 104-1 Trust fund established.

A. There is hereby established a reserve in the General Capital Fund which shall be known and designated as the “Open Space Trust Fund.” A special bank account shall be opened and maintained for this purpose. Funds from the Open Space Trust Fund may, as directed by the Mayor and Township Committee, be utilized for the following purposes, or any combination thereof:

- 1) acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes;
- 2) development of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
- 3) maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
- 4) acquisition of farmland for farmland preservation purposes;
- 5) historic preservation of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects, and the acquisition of such properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects for historic preservation purposes;
- 6) payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by a municipality for any of the purposes set forth in subparagraph (A)(1), (A)(2), (A)(3), (A)(4) or (A)(5) of this subsection; or
- 7) Blue Acres projects.

B. Acquisition shall include by gift, purchase, or by eminent domain proceedings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 20:3-1, *et seq.*, and shall include development easements, or other easements, vacant land, as well as land which has improvements upon it at the time of acquisition, where the principal purpose of the acquisition is for any or all of the purposes, or any combination of them, set forth above.

§ 104-2 Apportionment and allocation of fund.

The Mayor and Town Council, annually, after the holding of one public hearing thereon, shall apportion and allocate the use of such tax receipts among the purposes set forth above.

§ 104-3 Funding.

The Open Space Trust Fund shall be funded through the dedication to the fund of an amount not to exceed \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation of each annual tax levy. The fund shall also be permitted to accept donations and testamentary bequests. The accumulated receipts and deposits with the fund may be utilized for the purposes set forth herein. All monies set aside for open space as of the effective date of this chapter shall be deposited in the fund.

§ 104-4 Sale of property.

- A. No property acquired with these funds shall be leased or sold, unless such action has been authorized by the Mayor and Town Council in a manner as prescribed by law.
- B. The Mayor and Town Council, after at least one public hearing thereon, and upon a finding that the purposes of this chapter might otherwise be better served or that any land acquired by the Town pursuant to this chapter is required for another public use, may, by ordinance, convey, through sale, exchange, transfer or other disposition, title to, or a lesser interest in, that land, provided that the Town shall replace any land conveyed under this section by land of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness, size quality and location to the land conveyed. Any money derived from the conveyance shall be deposited into the fund created hereunder.
- C. Any conveyance made pursuant to this section shall be made in strict accordance with the Local Lands and Buildings Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, et seq.). In the event of conveyance by exchange, the land or improvements thereon to be transferred to the trust shall be at least equal in fair market value and of reasonable equivalent usefulness, size, quality and location to the land or improvements transferred from the trust.

SECTION 2. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed as to such inconsistencies.

SECTION 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

**TOWN OF CLINTON
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION # 79-25

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 RECREATION FACILITY RENTAL FEE
SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, §4-20. I.2 of the Code of the Town of Clinton (the Code) provides that the user charge for participation in the rental of the Recreation Facility/Property shall be established by yearly resolution of the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, setting the fees is the responsibility of the Recreation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Town's current practice is to accept and review the fees as recommended by the Recreation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Committee is recommending that the fees remain unchanged for 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have received a schedule for the Recreation Facility/Property rentals for 2025 as follows:

Field Rental. To be defined herein as user Rental agreement being accepted for the reason pertaining to reserving a field for an organized event, game, league, or season.

- One-time rental:
 - Forty dollars and 00/100 (\$40.00 USD) per field up to four (4) hours per rental.
- Season rental:
 - Thirty-five dollars and 00/100 (\$35.00 USD) per field per occurrence for season rental greater than seven (7) games.

Community Center Service Rentals. To be defined herein as User Rental agreement being accepted for the reason of performing a service or selling goods with an associated price, charge, or fee.

- Hourly rental:
 - Forty dollars and 00/100 (\$40.00 USD) per hour.
- Recurring rental:
 - Thirty-five dollars and 00/100 (\$35.00 USD) per hour for recurring rental greater than seven (7) occurrences per year.

Community Center One Off Event Rentals. To be defined herein as any approved rental request not identified as a Service-Related Rental

- Fifty dollars and 00/100 (\$50.00 USD) up to four (4) hours per rental.
(No food Permitted)
- One Hundred Fifty dollars and 00/100 (\$150.00 USD) up to four (4) hours per rental. This includes the fee for food provision

Community Center Additional Fees. The following fees apply upon request

- **Unreturned or Lost Key Fee.** Twenty dollars and 00/100 (\$20.00 USD) per key if the facility key is not returned.

- **Equipment Storage.** Fifty dollars and 00/100 (\$50.00 USD) for one key copy to Town's padlock.
- **General Recreation Event Admission, Concession or Participation Fee.** Zero dollars and 00/100 (\$0.00 USD) up to one hundred fifty dollars and 00/100 (\$150.00 USD) for any additional admission, concession, participation or registration fee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council that the proposed fees are hereby accepted.

Janice Kovach, Mayor

Adopted: April 9, 2025

ATTEST:

Suzannah Givone, RMC, CMR
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #80-25

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF ROBERT VANDENBERG AS ELECTRIC
SUB-CODE AND ELECTRIC INSPECTOR**

WHEREAS, the current Electric Sub-Code and Electric Inspector has retired as of March 31, 2025, and the Town of Clinton needs to hire a replacement, and;

WHEREAS, the Construction Official has recommended the following individual be hired at the current salary as set by the 2025 salary resolution:

ROBERT VANDENBERG –Electric Sub-Code and Electric Inspector

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton hire Robert Vandenberg to fill the open position, Electric Sub-Code and Electric Inspector effective April 1, 2025.

Mayor Janice Kovach

Adopted: April 9, 2025

ATTEST:

Suzannah Givone, RMC, CMC
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #81-25

**RESOLUTION FOR GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FISCAL
GRANT CYCLE JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026**

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth, and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that substance use disorder is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance use disorder in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Hunterdon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Town Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the North Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of:

GCSUD GRANT FUND	\$ 10,070.00
Cash Match	\$ 2,517.50
In-Kind	\$ 7,552.50
2. The Town Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____
Janice Kovach, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Suzannah Givone, Municipal Clerk of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Town Council on this 9 day of April, 2025.

Suzannah Givone, Municipal Clerk

**TOWN OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #82-25

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FLAT-RATE FOR SOLID WASTE PER UNIT
COST**

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton provides that an annual flat-rate solid waste cost for each solid waste unit shall be set by resolution adopted by the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, solid waste units shall be set so as to cover the costs of operation of the solid waste utility, and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that there be an adjustment in the solid waste unit cost of \$225.00 annually; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have reviewed the recommendation and find the recommended rate to be appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, that the annual solid waste unit cost effective January 1, 2025 will be set at \$225.00 for each solid waste unit.

Janice Kovach, Mayor

Attest:

Suzannah Givone, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

Dated: April 9, 2025

**TOWN OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #83-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ADDENDUM TO THE
AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF ENERGY SUPPLY SERVICES BETWEEN THE
TOWN OF CLINTON AND IDT ENERGY**

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey (“the Township”), previously agreed to an initial contract with IDT Energy for the provision of energy supply services to its residents for a fifteen (15)-month period beginning September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a change in law for the PJM 2025-2026 Capacity Auction which resulted in an increase in capacity pricing to take effect on June 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the agreement for the provision of energy supply services between the Town of Clinton and IDT Energy allows for price adjustments resulting from changes in law provided that the adjusted price does not exceed the Electric Distribution Company’s price-to-compare on the effective date of the price adjustment; and

WHEREAS, IDT Energy submitted a price adjustment which is below the Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) price to compare effective June 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree to the adjusted program rates of \$0.1394/kWh for the Standard Program Option (RPS minimum renewable energy) and \$0.1494/kWh for the Green Program Option (100% renewable energy) effective June 1, 2025, through the end of the contract term with residents’ meter reads on or after November 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the parties have prepared an Addendum to the Agreement for the Provision of Energy Supply Services which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton Town Council finds that it is necessary and appropriate to authorize the Mayor to execute the Addendum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and the Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Town of Clinton hereby authorizes the execution of the Addendum to the Agreement for the Provision of Energy Supply Services which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.
2. A certified copy of this Resolution along with the signed Addendum shall be forwarded by the Town Clerk to the energy consultants for the Town of Clinton’s Government Energy Aggregation Program.

Janice Kovach, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzannah Givone, RMC, CMR
Town Clerk

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, held on April 9, 2025.

**TOWN OF CLINTON
HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #84-25
INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CLINTON, RECOGNIZING
INTERNATIONAL DARK WEEK, APRIL 21– 27, 2023, AND ENCOURAGING ALL
CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES**

WHEREAS, the beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind, inspiring awe, curiosity, and a deeper appreciation for science and nature; and

WHEREAS, every child should have the opportunity to experience the magic of a star-filled sky, fostering a sense of wonder, scientific curiosity, and a connection to the natural world—yet excessive artificial lighting prevents many from seeing the Milky Way and countless celestial wonders; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has well-documented environmental and economic consequences, impacting ecosystems, human health, and energy consumption, including here in the Town of Clinton and throughout Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 80 percent of the world’s population, including many residents of New Jersey, live under excessive artificial lighting that limits their ability to experience the beauty of a dark sky and its associated ecological and health benefits; and

WHEREAS, urban and suburban areas, including parts of the Town of Clinton, often experience high levels of artificial light at night, reducing visibility of the night sky while contributing to environmental concerns such as energy waste, wildlife disruption, and potential impacts on human well-being; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Astronomical Association (NJAA), located in nearby Voorhees State Park, serves as a vital resource for astronomy education, research, and public engagement, and relies on dark skies for its mission; and

WHEREAS, excessive artificial lighting threatens the ability of astronomers, students, and residents to observe celestial events, study the night sky, and appreciate the natural wonder of the cosmos; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a significant waste of energy and public resources, costing billions of dollars annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hunterdon County contains many natural areas and preserved lands where nighttime lighting can disrupt the natural behaviors of migratory birds, nocturnal wildlife, and delicate ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, **DarkSky International** (formerly the International Dark-Sky Association) has designated **April 21–27, 2025**, as **International Dark Sky Week**, an annual event held during the week of the new moon in April to raise awareness, promote responsible lighting practices, and celebrate the value of dark skies; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clinton supports efforts to protect dark sky resources and recognizes the importance of preserving our night skies for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Mayor and Council of the Town of Clinton** do hereby proclaim **April 21–27, 2025**, as **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK** in the Town of Clinton and encourage all residents to take part in activities that raise awareness, appreciation, and protection of our night skies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by taking simple steps such as minimizing unnecessary outdoor lighting and using responsible lighting design, we can help ensure that future generations—including children in both urban and rural communities—have the opportunity to experience the breathtaking beauty of a truly dark sky.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Clinton urges the **Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners** and all municipalities within the County to also adopt this resolution and join in recognizing **International Dark Sky Week**, to bring greater public attention to the growing issue of light pollution and to promote regional cooperation in preserving our shared nighttime environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the **Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners** and to the governing bodies of all municipalities in Hunterdon County.

Janice Kovach, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzannah Givone, RMC, CMR
Town Clerk

Adopted: April 9, 2025