

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN

Town Hall

11/30/78

8:20 P.M.

Present: Co. Holbrook, Longo, Maloney, Piacentile  
Supervisor Gerber  
Stanley Burns, Director of Finance as Acting Secretary  
Murray Jacobson, Town Attorney

Members of the Town Board signed Consent to Hold Special Town Board Meeting, waiving notice of said meeting. Stanley Burns, Director of Finance, was designated as Acting Clerk by Town Board Members.

Supervisor Gerber read the following statement:

"For the past several years, the Town of Clarkstown has been a prime supporter of the Community Development Funds Program, made available by federal law and funnelled through and administered by Rockland County.

I have been an advocate of the concept of a 'Consortium' approach in which the Towns and Villages and the County band together in a cooperative effort for the benefit of all. This meant that we were willing to support the entire program, even though any municipality did not receive all that it wanted or was entitled to.

In concept, this was ideal. In practice, it has disintegrated so that almost daily we witness the public jockeying of one municipality over another to secure more funds, and more guarantees and less cooperation as to the general good. The desire for more funding has been reinforced by the threat that a Town or Village may 'pull out' of the Consortium, thereby destroying the population requirements that mandate a minimum of 200,000 people in order to maintain eligibility.

Last year, one Village decided to go it alone, since they were eligible for additional funding under another section of law. This was their right and privilege. However, that action destroyed the Consortium for fiscal 1977.

This year, that same Village was prevailed upon to rejoin the Consortium with the guarantee that they would not get any less funding than they could have normally received by going it alone. Additionally, it appears they were enticed back by guarantees for 1980. Perhaps this arrangement was for the common good, but it set in motion all sorts of demands by other municipalities screaming 'me too.' Each time someone made a threat to withdraw, they have been rewarded by their share of the pie being sweetened. Now, it so happens that, in the Consortium arrangement for 1978, the Town of Clarkstown is not eligible for one penny of direct funding. The only reason the rest of the Consortium needs us is that, without Clarkstown, there is no Consortium.

If we decline to go along, we will be accused of being a spoil sport and all the carefully orchestrated arrangements will fall apart. However, if we go along, no matter how altruistic, we will, in effect, lend credence to all of the arrangements and do nothing to return to the concept of a cooperative effort.

Throughout the past several weeks, I have remained silent on this subject, hoping that reason would finally prevail, but it has not.

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Unfortunately, today is the deadline for the agreements to be certified. I, therefore, somewhat reluctantly, am recommending to the Town Board that we approve the agreement to join the Consortium and that, instead of the two year period, we agree only to a one year agreement in the hope that the Chairman of the County Legislature will initiate positive steps to alter the present unacceptable system. If there is no change in the system, then we are serving notice that we will not be part of a program that needs us only for our citizen count. We in Clarkstown are not numbers. We simply seek equity."

\* \* \* \* \*

RESOLUTION NO. (1978-764)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
SUPERVISOR OF TOWN OF  
CLARKSTOWN TO ENTER INTO  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
WITH COUNTY OF ROCKLAND  
(1979 PROGRAM YEAR ONLY)

Co. Maloney offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is recognized that participation by the County of Rockland in the Community Development Program requires the cooperation of various municipalities in order to meet the requisite population level, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clarkstown has been requested to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the County of Rockland in order to ensure the county's and town's eligibility for Community Development Block Grant funds as an urban county;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Clarkstown is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the County of Rockland in a form satisfactory to the Town Attorney for a period not exceeding one year, DURING THE 1979 PROGRAM YEAR ONLY.

Seconded by Co. Holbrook

On roll call the vote was as follows:

Councilman Holbrook.....	Yes
Councilman Longo.....	No
Councilman Maloney.....	Yes
Councilman Piacentile.....	Yes
Supervisor Gerber.....	Yes

\* \* \* \* \*

There being no further business before the Town Board the Special Town Board Meeting was adjourned, time 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stanley Burns*  
STANLEY BURNS,  
Acting Secretary