

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
January 7, 2015**

Selectman Dziokonski, Selectman Connolly, Selectman Iacobucci and Chairman Sargent were in attendance, Selectman LeBlanc was absent. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Town Solicitor Gibbons. Chairman Sargent opened the meeting at 7:00PM. Chairman Sargent opened the meeting with a moment of silence for former Town Nurse Mary Beth Boyce who recently passed away.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from December 3, 2014 Selectmen's Meeting for review and approval. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

There was none.

Utility Pole Installations/Relocations Public Hearing

Chairman Sargent opened the hearing inviting the applicant forward, to state their name and address. Mr. Ken Dube of National Grid explained to the board there is work being done on Fitch Road substation, and there is a need to advocate for an upgrade to the system so it is more reliable, this will require new poles and underground conduit. Mr. Dube reviewed there will be an upgrade to existing poles and the installation of new pole to Rigby Street, Brook Street and Greely Street. Chairman Sargent opened the hearing for Public Comment, in favor, there was none. In opposition, there was none. Selectman Connolly asked if the abutters have received notice. Mr. Dube explained yes the company sends out notice. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve the relocation and installation of the utilities poles as presented. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Utility Conduit Installation Public Hearing

Chairman Sargent opened the hearing inviting the applicant forward, to state their name and address. Mr. Ken Dube of National Grid explained to the board this is all related to the work and upgrade at the Fitch Road substation. An underground conduit will be installed along Rigby Street and Greely Street. Chairman Sargent opened the hearing for Public Comment, in favor, there was none. In opposition. There was none. Selectman Connolly asked if the D.P.W. is aware of this project. Administrator Ward explained yes the company has been working with Superintendent McGown. Mr. Dube agreed stating notice was sent out. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the

installation of a conduit on as presented. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Parks & Recreation Director Emily Easterling - Ice Rink Discussion

Chairman Sargent invited Park & Recreation Director Emily Easterling forward for discussion regarding the Ice Rink location. Yoanna Osborne, of 180 Main Street Park & Recreation Commission member introduced Ms. Easterling to the board, explaining she was recently upgraded to the Director, and Ed Verrier Chairman of the Commission was in attendance. Chairman Sargent asked about the location of the outdoor Ice Rink, he explained at town meeting it had been approved with the discussion it would be in Central Park. Ms. Easterling explained the warrant article was written to support the location as the Park & Recreation's choice. It was not listed as Central Park. She reviewed information she has distributed to the board including an analysis of each of the town parks. Central Park would require expensive modification to install the rink. Chairman Sargent explained the intention was for Central Park. Ms. Easterling reviewed the slope is too great, it has to be 8 inches or lower for the ice to form. Selectman Connolly explained he supported the concept of the rink because when presented to the board at budget discussion it was to be installed in Central Park. Vale Street isn't a family orientated park, and it isn't centrally located. He asked why the Walnut Street side of the park wasn't evaluated. He explained if the rink wasn't going in Central Park why wasn't the Commission part of the discussion and decision making process as to where it went. He reviewed he had a chance to review the Commission meeting minutes for the last year and couldn't find a discussion regarding the location. If he had known it wasn't going to be located in Central Park he would not have supported it. He had spoken with residents who also supported the request because it was proposed to be in Central Park. Ms. Easterling explained all quadrants of the park were evaluated and Walnut Street wasn't viable. She reviewed she received a quote from Dale DiMeco to prepare the park for the rink it would cost \$20,000.00 in work. Trees would have to be relocated along with sprinkler heads. Vale Street is the ideal location, the Girl Scouts will be selling cookies and hot chocolate on Friday nights, a staff member of the Park & Recreation will rotate coverage each Friday for oversight. Chairman Sargent asked if the rink is ready to be used. Ms. Easterling explained it will be ready on January 12. Selectman Connolly reviewed the research should have been completed prior to purchase regarding the location. If the rink wasn't going to be able to go into Central Park without costing \$20,000.00 the information should have been available prior to town meeting. Ms. Osborne explained all of the board's concerns are logical, she was surprised herself to learn the rink could go into Central Park. She explained the department has transitioned through a lot at one point Ms. Easterling was the only employee. The Commission trusted in the professionals evaluating the locations, this is not a permanent location, it is the best location for this year.

Selectman Connolly stated clearly he understands the information should have been available prior to Town Meeting; a lot of residents could have reevaluated their support. Secondly the information of an additional \$20,000.00 would be needed to accommodate the rink in Central Park should have been available. Discussion continued Mr. Verrier explained the Commission was under the assumption the rink would fit, after the company reviewed they explained there was no viable spot for this season in Central Park. Before next season an area in the Central Park can be prepared for skate rink. Chairman Sargent reviewed the ice skating will be ready in mid January. Administrator Ward noted the Clinton Emergency Management has portable lighting that can be used. Chairman Sargent reviewed that the Christmas tree in Central Park wasn't lit on Christmas evening. Ms. Easterling explained she was out of town on vacation, and the Park Manager wasn't aware there is a breaker switch that needs to be reset if the plug gets wet. Chairman Sargent expressed he wished she notified the office to make someone aware of the switch needing to be reset in the event it happened while she was out of town. Selectman Dziokonski explained last year the tree had issues also; it seemed to never be lit on the weekends. Ms. Easterling explained she had some work completed and the pole replaced as part of the electrical upgrade this fall, but there is a reset button. The board also reviewed there have been storms and the sidewalks in the park haven't been cleared, they are aware recently the department had purchased a new tractor to have the ability to keep sidewalks cleared. Ms. Easterling explained there was a transition in staff and no one had the ability to operate the tractor but now have a new employee who has been trained and able to clear the sidewalks. Chairman Sargent reviewed another concern that has been brought to his attention by many residents is the clearing of the shore line at Duffy Park. He asked for this area to be maintained and kept safe for the area residents. This area had always been maintained by the town until the last few seasons, now it has become very overgrown. Ms. Easterling explained the past Director was working on this with the Conservation Commission and the area cleared was what was approved to be done, the other area is privately owned. Chairman Sargent explained he will attend a Conservation Commission meeting with the Parks & Recreation Department to find a way to maintain the area as it has been in the past. Ms. Easterling indicated she will work on this, contacting the private property owner and the Conservation Commission and will keep the board informed. The board thanked her for attending the meeting and the review of the issues.

FY15 Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing

Community & Economic Development Director Philip Duffy was before the board to review the FY 15 proposed Community Development Block Grant application. He submitted a packet of information to the board for review. He reviewed the proposals he is working on are to apply for housing rehab with a designated target area and the

reconstruction of Nelson Street, this street has been approved by the DPW. He also would be applying for sign and façade improvements for High Street businesses. Selectman Connolly explained he wished he had the materials prior to the meeting to have had a chance to review for discussion. Mr. Duffy indicated he had been busy compiling the information and working through the holiday season and accommodating family commitments over the holiday school vacation. Chairman Sargent opened the hearing for public comment, there was none. Mr. Duffy indicated he will return to the board at the first meeting in February for endorsement of the grant application. He continued discussion regarding the completion of the Senior Center and the blight target area and report of the street survey are completed. Public Hearing closed.

Downtown Clinton Blight Target Area Designation

Mr. Duffy explained the downtown area, is a qualifying for the national objective of blight area. An analysis of the all the business area concluded the playground and parking lot area to the railroad bridges by Turini Park. He explained if the board endorses this area it is certified for 10 years. Selectman Connolly made a motion to endorse the blight area as designated by Community & Economic Development Director. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Duffy thanked the board.

Administrative Busniess

Public Works Monthly Report

Superintendent of Public Works submitted a monthly report relative to the operations of his department for the month of November 2014 for the Selectmen's review and approval. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to accept the report as presented. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Fire Chief Monthly Report

Acting Fire Chief McLaughlin submitted a monthly report relative to the operations of his department for the month of December 2014 for the Selectmen's review and approval. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to accept the report as presented. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dziokonski reviewed he read the report and pointed out the first sentence of the report states he is still waiting on a Civil Service list which creates a stumbling block on filling the positons. This is not cost effective for the town. Administrator Ward reviewed the board has talked about reviewing the pros and cons of Civil Service. Selectman Connolly explained he encourages the board to review. Selectman Dziokonski asked if the Government Reorganization Committee will review. The board agreed it should be reviewed. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to assign a Civil Service review to the Government Reorganization Committee. Selectman Connolly seconded

the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Sargent asked for the committee to keep the board updated. Selectman Connolly reviewed the committee will compile the data they research and submit to the board. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

Class II Dealer License Name Change: 1015 Main Street

Chairman Sargent explained the Class II Dealer at 1015 Main Street has submitted new application with name change from individual to LLC. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve the name change as presented. Selectman Iacobucci seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Traffic Committee Report

Chairman Sargent reviewed the Traffic Committee has submitted a report from the January 5 meeting regarding a request from Clintons Bar & Grille for valet parking. He explained the restaurant applicant was at the meeting for discussion and the Traffic Committee is recommending the approval of Valet Parking for the bump out area, which will be maintained of snow and ice removal by restaurant. It will be allowed Thursday through Sunday from 5PM to 11PM. He supports this request explaining it will be good for the town. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve the Traffic Committee report as submitted. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Beaver Killing on Berlin Street

Selectman Dziokonski reviewed his property abutts conservation land which has an area with a beaver dam, which is no bother or harm to anyone. The Sunday before New Year's someone shot and killed the beavers. These are not game animal and it is useless to slaughter this type of wild life. There are procedures to remove these animals. He called the Environmental Police to report, they are taking steps to safe guard the beavers and the dam. Children in the area liked the beavers and looked forward to skating in the area. This was a horrendous act and the Chairman of the Conservation Commission has been informed as well.

Update on Street Light Outages

Selectman Iacobucci asked for an update on the street light outages he reported to Administrator Ward. Administrator Ward reviewed these outages had been reported to National Grid, but he hadn't received any follow up. Superintendent of the DPW reported some additional equipment is needed for the repairs to be completed. He explained Superintendent McGown has been riding around recently to identify the outages. Selectman Dziokonski expressed perhaps the board should refuse to approve

the pole relocation requests until the lights have been repaired. The board agreed this should be taken into consideration and hoped the repairs are completed soon.

Town Website

Selectman Iacobucci explained he would like more information regarding the expense of all of the town departments having their own websites and the costs to maintain each. He reviewed he would like to compile all of these webpages to one site to be maintained by the town. Administrator Ward explained he has always advocated for one site and agreed it would be great to enhance the town site and coordinate all the departments participate.

Informational

Selectman Connolly explained the Veterans Memorial has been completed, he would like to walk around and review all of the minor requests were completed as well. Administrator Ward agreed, he would like to walk around and review, along with the board.

Goals & Objective Discussion

Government Reorganization Committee

Selectman Connolly explained the consultant and committee have completed a draft of the Facility Department. The draft will be available to the board for review at the next Selectmen's Meeting on January 21, 2015.

Business Development Committee

Selectman Iacobucci explained the committee plans to survey current businesses on what is important to them. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2015.

Veterans Search Committee

Selectman Sargent reviewed the committee has received an additional 18 applicants making a total of 30, and are scheduled to meet on Tuesday to review.

Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to adjourn at 8:30PM. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero
Administrative Assistant
Clinton Board of Selectmen