

**Selectmen Meeting  
Minutes  
December 2, 2015**

Selectman Connolly, Selectman Iacobucci, Selectman Dziokonski, Selectman Sargent and Chairman LeBlanc were in attendance. Chairman LeBlanc opened the meeting at 7:00PM. Attendee was Town Administrator Ward.

**Review of Minutes**

The board received minutes from November 18, 2015 Selectmen's Meeting for review and approval. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Public Comment**

There was none.

**FY 16 Tax Classification Hearing Board of Assessors Chair**

Chairman LeBlanc invited the Chairman of the Board of Assessors David Baird to discuss the tax classification shift for FY15. Mr. Baird distributed information to the board and began with an explanation of the information and a review of the FY16 rate. He explained there are two major things for consideration regarding the tax rate. The first is this was a re-evaluation year so all of the properties have a new value; the average single family home value increased about 4.5%. The spending has added a \$1.868 million to the levy, this is a substantial increase due to the override. The shift for FY 15 was 165%. If the shift were to remain at 165% the increase to the average home would be about \$289.00. Chairman LeBlanc opened the discussion for Public Comment; he asked for Public Comment in favor, there was none in opposition there was none. Selectman Connolly made a motion to set the FY 16 tax rate at 162%.to lower the split. Selectman Iacobucci seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Connolly reviewed the information submitted by Mr. Baird; he explained the increase to the levy is a result of the 1 million dollar override that passed for the schools and the \$600,000 budget increase to the schools. The taxes are going up because the voters of Clinton supported these increases, at town meeting and a ballot vote. Selectman Sargent explained a lot of seniors are on fixed incomes and cannot afford an increase. He is in favor of leaving the rate as is. Chairman LeBlanc asked the amount of an increase for the single tax rate if the shift were 162%. Mr. Baird explained it will be about \$312.00 about \$22.00 more than the rate at 165% Chairman LeBlanc explained the rate has to cover the 1million dollar override the additional \$800,000 in spending plus several items approved at the previous town meeting. There will be a tax

increase regardless of the rate change. Discussion continued with Selectman Connolly stating the impact of a 3% change will benefit the commercial business about \$140.00. Mr. Baird agreed. Selectman Dziokonski explained the rate should be left as is, given the facts most taxes are going up, he would be open to a change next year. Selectman Iacobucci explained there are tax abatements available for seniors and veterans if eligible. The vote was 3/2 in opposition Selectmen Dziokonski, Selectman Sargent.

Chairman LeBlanc announced the board will continue out of Agenda order with Consolidated Dispatch discussion.

### **Consolidated Dispatch Public Safety**

Administrator Ward reviewed the Fire Chief is unable to attend. Police Chief Mark Laverdure was before the board for discussion. Chief Laverdure reviewed the Police Department has taken the lead on this; the dispatch will be housed at the Police Station. The process has been started to consolidate. The first step is to get the equipment; the new radios at the Fire Department require the installation of equipment at the Police Department. The computer system will remain the same; there will be an integration of the two systems. At this time there are two different companies used, the switch shall take place as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a transition plan in place for the E911 board; all dispatchers will have to be trained in Fire and EMD medical calls. There will be a need to hire more dispatchers and have them trained for July 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time he is pursuing a grant for training. The current system allows for the Police officers to fill in but the new system with medical calls will require two trained dispatchers at all shifts. The consoles in the Police station are 18 years old and will require updating. At this time he is seeking the grant and will try to keep the current system until July 1. Selectman Connolly asked once the system is consolidated will there be the ability to add other communities. Chief Laverdure explained he has spoken to the town of Boylston, the Fire Department has interest but the Police Department does not. Selectman Connolly asked if the Chief was open to adding other communities. Chief Laverdure stated yes that is a possibility. Selectman Sargent stated he doesn't see a benefit to taken on other communities. Selectman Connolly reviewed it will increase funding to Clinton. Selectman Dziokonski asked for an overview of the radio situation, if the Fire Department has new radios and the Police have different radios will the console at the Police station be able to handle both. Chief Laverdure explained yes, the system will handle Police, Fire and EMS calls. He stated he will need an additional 4 new dispatchers. He would like to advertise but has no funding for the positions at this time, he intends to continue this process and get the funding at town meeting. He explained he will need 2 new part time dispatchers as well. Administrator Ward asked if that would cover all the vacation and sick time. Chief Laverdure explained each will have to have certification and he cannot answer that yet. The board thanked Chief Laverdure.

### **Oxford Court Renovations- Phil Duffy**

Community & Economic Director Phil Duffy was before the board with a follow up on the Oxford Court renovations, and the condition of the parking lot. Mr. Duffy reviewed the board had sent a letter dated November 10 and have received a response. There is not a lot to report regarding the work in progress. On November 16, he reviewed the area and sees adequate work being conducted on the landscaping, the trenches for lighting and selective patching and a base coat of hot top in the parking area. There is also a 150 foot railing installed for fencing. He asked the board if they had any questions regarding the work. Selectman Sargent asked about the dumpster relocation or removal. Mr. Duffy explained the trash compactor is to be repaired and the plans submitted had relocated the dumpster, but the revised plans didn't have that area in them. Selectman Sargent explained there is a contract deadline approaching. Selectman Connolly asked for the Town Administrator and Mr. Duffy to communicate and follow up with Claremont to include a summary in an e-mail to document what has been discussed, so there will not be any confusion and the project will continue moving in a positive direction. The essential part is the dumpster issue, this needs to be addressed, Claremont haven't been clear on that. Chairman LeBlanc agreed to have Administrator Ward work together with Mr. Duffy and get the project improvement plans in writing to meet the board's expectation. The board thanked Mr. Duffy.

Chairman LeBlanc announced the board will continue out of Agenda order with Seaboard Solar discussion.

### **Seaboard Solar Project**

Chairman LeBlanc reviewed the building permits for the solar panel project on 110 & 111 Adams Road have expired, the Building Inspector has indicated the company should pay for new permits. Mr. Dave Thomas of Seaboard Solar was before the board for discussion, explaining if a project has no work within 180 day period it is considered abandoned. At this time the steel inside of the building has been reinforced to ensure it will withstand the solar panels. The solar project cannot be worked on until the building structure is safe. This project has not been abandoned; he would like to renew permits. Administrator Ward explained he has spoken to Building Inspector who indicated he does not have the authority to set a fee the board does. His recommendation to the board is to set an administrative fee of \$1000.00. Selectman Connolly made a motion to waive permit fees required and set the fee at a \$1000.00 administrative fee as recommended by the Building Inspector, the permits are outstanding and the fee of \$36,000 has already been paid, the intent of a fee is not to be punitive, it is a good project and should be encouraged not discouraged. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **Special Town Meeting Warrant**

Administrator Ward explained he had received some articles from departments for consideration to be placed on the upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant. There are a total of 10 articles:

Article 1 is approval of funding to be expended on the Department of Public Works as retroactive wages as part of the negotiated agreement between the town and the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees-Council #93 for the period of July 2014 to June 30, 2016.

Article 2 is the approval to amend Article 22 from the 2015 Annual Town Meeting to borrow \$150,000.00 to be expended by the Rubbish Enterprise Fund to purchase containers and recycle container tippers.

Article 3: is approval to amend the FY16 Rubbish Enterprise Budget according to submitted schedule.

Article 4: is approval of \$21,000 from the insurance restitution account to be used for the lease or purchase of trash/recycle collection vehicle through the Rubbish Enterprise Fund.

Article 5 is approval to accept the provisions of Chapter 44§53F 3/4 of the MGL to establish a separate revenue account known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund.

Article 6 is approval of a revolving fund in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44§53E1/2 of the MGL for use by the Board of Health into which shall be deposited certain fees paid to the Board of Health from Permanent Dumpster Fee.

Article 7 is the approval an amendment to the Administrative By Laws to establish a Clean & Lean Program that allows the Board of Health to maintain and secure properties that have been abandoned or neglected and charge the costs to property owners, through a property lean or act in any manner relating thereto.

Article 8 is approval of a Truss Construction Identification of Residential Commercial and Industrial Building; this was submitted by the Fire Chief.

Article 9 is the approval of \$1,500.00 to be used by the Parks & Recreation Department for the purchase and installation of a 30AMP circuit generator connection for the Park & Recreation Building. This was submitted by the C.E.M.A. Director to provide a place for a temporary shelter. Selectman Connolly explained he recalls some discussion of this during budget discussion, he asked for Administrator Ward to review if this funding had been approved as part of the Park & Recreation's departmental budget.

Article 10 is the approval of \$15,688.00 to be expended by the Parks & Recreation Department for the purchase and installation of a comprehensive security system for Central Park, including the equipment, electrical and site work. Administrator Ward reviewed the department has submitted a Finance Committee transfer request to approve this project as well. This article will remain if the Finance Committee doesn't approve the transfer request. Selectman Sargent explained he would like to hear more

from the Parks & Recreation Department, he doesn't think this is a good idea. Selectman Dziokonski explained cameras catch criminals and there has been a lot of recent vandalism in the park, a lot of private businesses have cameras today. The security cameras are needed. Selectman Connolly expressed he is sympathetic to the criminals and not sure this is an appropriate use of public funds. He would not want to be on tape while in a public park, he is uncomfortable with a record of use of the park. He supports Selectman Sargent's request to have more of a proper explanation from the department. Discussion continued and Administrator Ward intended to review the advertising deadline and meeting schedule to see what date will work best to meet with the department for more discussion. Selectman Connolly noted the Cameras also have a maintenance fee of \$170.00 per month as an ongoing cost; the \$15,000.00 is just the initial investment. The board agreed to review this request with the Park & Recreation Department.

## **Administrative Business**

### Late Night Closings

Town Administrator Ward reviewed the following establishments are requesting late night closings for Saturdays in the month of December 2015: Clinton Turn Verein, Crystal Café, Old Timer, Liberty Tavern, Ringside Café, Polish American Veterans & The Simple Man Saloon. Selectman Sargent made a motion to approve the requests as presented with any additional requests approved sent for Police Chiefs review and approval. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **Old & New Business**

### *Traffic Committee Report of Recommendations*

Administrator Ward reviewed the Traffic Committee met on November 20, 2015 and provided the following report:

#### Route 110 School Zone

Clinton High School Principle James Hasting requested a meeting with the Traffic Committee to review the speeding on Route 110 from Middle School and the High School. *The Traffic Committee recommends installing additional "school zone" signs. The Police Chief will also continue radar speed enforcement in that area.*

#### Stop Sign at Woodlawn & Pine Street

A citizen has requested a stop sign at the intersection. *The Traffic Committee recommends that the Police Chief monitor this intersection, but not install any additional stop signs at this time.*

#### No Parking on Church Street East of Chestnut Street

Council on Aging Chairman William Grady made a request that the Traffic Committee eliminate parking on Church Street along the Clinton Home due to the fact that it will be opening soon as senior center. *The Traffic Committee recommends painting no parking*

*stripes 20 feet on either side of the driveway exiting from the Clinton Home on Church Street, but do not totally eliminate parking along this street.*

Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve the Traffic Committee recommendations as presented. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Sargent thanked Mr. Paul Lowe for all of his service to the committee he has sent notice he will retire as of the end of the year. He has 46 years on the committee. The board agreed. Selectman Connolly explained it has been a dedicated 46 years he has made a difference in the community. Administrator Ward also thanked Mr. Lowe explaining he will be missed he has a lot of knowledge of the community and would always be prepared for every meeting investing the areas prior to the meetings. He would bring a lot of valuable information of the community to the meetings. The vote was unanimous.

### *Consolidated Facilities MoA*

Chairman LeBlanc reviewed the school department recently reviewed and approved the MoA negotiated with the Government Affairs Committee for a consolidated facilities department. Selectman Connolly stated as a member of the subcommittee he worked on the negotiating of the agreement with the school department subcommittee. He is aware of the school committee discussion regarding the agreement and has some response to the discussion. A statement made by a school committee member was he is super dissatisfied with the plan, it took three years for the Government subcommittee to develop the plan, it cannot be completed until the department is established. The school subcommittee brought forth a lot of concerns, but no positive contribution to make the plan better. The Superintendent did not provide anything subtenant to make the plan better. The Chairman of the School Committee made the statement that the town is terrible at keeping up with the facilities in their control. Selectman Connolly explained he takes exception to this the board of Selectman, the Library Trustees and the Park & Recreation Commission all care for their buildings. The town hall has never looked better; over the last 3 years the custodian working with the restoration committee has addressed a lot of issues and completed many projects in the building. He would like to suggest the School Committee Chairman take a look at the little league fields under the school department's oversight, recent damage to the field house. The new elementary school had to take a snow day in October because of a maintenance issue. He explained he does not recall the town allowing a building to run into the ground. The school department allowed the high school roof to leak for 30 years and the issues with the bleachers at the track. The evaluation of the track was it was never maintained properly therefore it needed replacement. These type of things are under the School Committees oversight, the town doesn't do a terrible job. Selectman Iacobucci stated he agree with Selectman Connolly explaining over the past three years the buildings have been maintained and needed project completed. The Fire Station got new roof,

Town hall had many updates, along with updates at the Police Department. He also takes exception to the statements made and is baffled. The town buildings are in good shape, the new department will make them even better. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve the MoA for the creation of a Facilities department as presented. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dziokonski stated he would like to respond to a statement made by the Superintendent, stating there is no plan. As a member of the subcommittee it was hard to develop a plan, it is broad which is appropriate at the beginning, to establish a department is a big project. The plan is to build from here after collecting more specific data. He thanked Mr. Bates, Mr. Devault and Ms. Zapantis for the forward thinking. Mr. Bates and Mr. Devault worked on the subcommittee; Mr. Devault handled himself well showing a lot of leadership for a newly elected member. He commended Mr. Mendoza who was upfront and honest with his opposition from the start. He stated he looks forward to working together. Selectman Sargent agreed stating the department can move forward. Chairman LeBlanc stated it has been a long term goal to better address building maintenance. This department will help in the long run with an education of the facilities and better maintenance. The vote was unanimous.

#### *Senior Citizen Reduced Rubbish Fee Policy Change*

Administrator Ward reviewed the office has been approached by a senior citizen regarding the trash fee program and the eligibility for seniors to get the reduced rate. This individual is a senior but no longer owns her home; she transferred the ownership to her children but still pays the mortgage and home expenses. She explained she has a limited income and would qualify for the deduction, under the board of Assessors criteria other than her name is not on the property. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to refer this request to the solid waste subcommittee for review to make a recommendation to the board. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dziokonski explained he has mixed feeling about this request, the board of Assessors set the criteria to grant abatement, he is not opposed to seniors meeting the criteria receiving a reduction, there should also be a mechanism to determine a senior rate, the Veterans who meet set criteria receive a discount. Selectman Connolly explained he is also sympathetic and would prefer the subcommittee review and make a recommendation, the citizen made the decision not to be a home owner and that has financial benefits. Selectman Iacobucci agreed explaining he would like the subcommittee to review. The vote was unanimous.

#### *Recycle Center Bulk Material Pricing*

Selectman Iacobucci reviewed the Solid Waste subcommittee has established rates for the recycling of bulk items. He reviewed the cost for the items and explained these rates will be published on the website and paid with the use of stickers. Selectman Connolly

made a motion to approve the rates as presented. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. Under Discussion: The board reviewed the acceptance of hazardous waste materials. Selectman Iacobucci explained the committee is reviewing that at this time. Administrator Ward explained if the paint is latex and hardened these cans can go into household trash. Selectman Dziokonski explained the town can also join the program in Devens, the signup fee is \$14,000.00, with an annual fee as well. Selectman Iacobucci explained the center will be opened in phases and the first is to begin with the bulk items. The vote was unanimous.

#### *Selectmen's Children's Holiday Party*

Chairman LeBlanc explained the board celebrated another successful community event on Saturday November 28, 2015, many area businesses and volunteers continue to ensure this event is a success. Thank you to all who participate. Selectman Connolly stated he appreciates all the hard work from the volunteers he also wanted to acknowledge the Christmas Lighting Committee the tree lighting in Central Park was a nice program, it was great to see all the families participating in the event. These events showcase the sense of community in Clinton.

#### *Clinton Motor Inn*

Selectman Iacobucci announced recently the Town Solicitor, Administrator Ward and himself met with the owner of Clinton Motor Inn to address the concerns that were discussed prior. He is appreciative the owner came in, will continue to keep an open line of communication.

#### **Goals & Objectives**

No discussion at this time.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### Christmas Lighting Committee

Selectman Dziokonski reviewed there will be 8 new nutcrackers which were ordered from Assabet High School to be displayed throughout the community within the next week. Selectman Sargent asked for the street light in Central Park to be shut off while the Christmas Tree is lit, it takes away from the tree. Administrator Ward indicated he will contact the Park & recreation Director.

##### Senior Building Committee

Chairman LeBlanc explained the committee received a request from the Executive Director to use the building on December 11, 2015 from 5PM to 9PM for an open house. The building committee has approved the use of the building for the party. The

board hasn't accepted the building yet but the Executive Director is anxious to show it off.

Selectman Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero  
Administrative Assistant  
Clinton Board of Selectmen