

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
December 3, 2014**

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

Public Comment

There was none.

Reviews of Minutes

There were no minutes for review.

FY 15 Tax Classification Hearing Board of Assessors Chair

Chairman Sargent invited the Chairman of the Board of Assessors David Baird to discuss the tax classification shift for FY15. He wished him a Happy 50th Birthday.

Mr. Baird distributed information to the board and began with an explanation of the information and a review of the FY14 rate. He explained the shift for FY 14 was 165% and the rate was \$16.15 for residential and \$30.19 for commercial. If the shift were to remain at 165% the rates would be \$16.66 for residential and \$31.24 commercial, this would be about a \$131.00 average increase to the average home valued at \$217,976.00. There may be some changes with the 2015 re-evaluations. He reviewed the shift would have a similar increase if it were changed to 163%. Chairman Sargent opened the discussion for Public Comment; he asked for Public Comment in favor, there was none in opposition there was none. Selectman Iacobucci asked for the rate amounts for residential and commercial. Mr. Baird explained the rates would be the same for an increase of about \$145.00. Selectman Connolly thanked Mr. Baird for a thorough presentation; he asked if basically the values are the same for the evaluations. Selectman Connolly made a motion to set the tax classification shift at 160%. Selectman Iacobucci seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Sargent explained he will vote no, he would like to leave the rate alone. He explained the seniors will get 1.7% increase in their Social Security, and he doesn't want to take that away, the electric rate has increased 30% and there are more than 40 homes foreclosed on which young families have lost. There are many single income young families that cannot be burdened by an increase, he supports leaving the rate alone. Selectman Connolly reviewed most cities and towns are single rate, Fitchburg and Worcester have recently adopted a single rate. It is a counter active initiative, he would like to equalize and treat family equally with businesses who do not have a vote. If there is a high split, large employers may leave Clinton. Chairman Sargent explained

there has been a split tax rate since 1982; it has not taken away the business. Selectman Iacobucci explained he echo's Selectman Connolly's comments. He agreed it has been the rate since the early 80's and businesses have left, it will attract more business and be more positive. He supports the proposed rate and feels it will be fair to change rate. Selectman Dziokonski explained he will vote against the proposed rate change, he feels citizens should benefit from the same rate. Former Selectman Dickhaut inquired with local business when the rate changed if they received a discount on the rent, their response was no, the businesses will not benefit from a change. Selectman Connolly commented in stating a random survey of store owners regarding their rent going down due to a lower tax rate isn't logical. The landlords cost still increase even if the tax rate is lowered. Selectman Iacobucci noted if the businesses leave the tax burden is left to the residents to subsidize. This rate will bring business to town. The vote was 2/3 in opposition Selectmen Dziokonski, LeBlanc and Chairman Sargent.

Earth Removal Permit Public Hearing-190 Fitch Road Continued

Mr. Dan McIntyre of National Grid was before the board, he began by addressing the board comments in the prior discussion regarding the rate increase. He understands people may struggle with their bills and he explained the company offers programs to help out, he asked for residents to call National Grid for additional information. He began review of the earth removal permit request. He reviewed the plan is to remove a mound of gravel, to add equipment and covert voltage. He explained 12 years ago part of this hill was removed and the request is to remove the rest of it. He reviewed the area on the map he presented to the board. Chairman Sargent opened the hearing for Public Comment. There was none. Selectman Connolly asked the amount to be removed. Mr. McIntyre estimated about 7000 yards will be removed. Selectman Connolly asked if that is the amount needed for the project, has the engineer evaluated the impact on the natural damn for Mossy Pond. Mr. McIntyre explained this has been evaluated it is above Mossy Pond. He explained he wasn't aware this was a natural dam. Selectman Dziokonski asked how many truck loads will be removed. Mr. McIntyre explained about 25 to 30 cubic feet per truck. Selectman LeBlanc calculated approximately 234 truckloads. Chairman Sargent asked the hours of operation. Mr. McIntyre stated the operations would be Monday through Friday 8AM to 5PM possibly Saturdays. Selectman Connolly made a motion to have Town Counsel review if this request. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Sargent stated it should be fine. Selectman Connolly explained in the town by laws gravel permits are not allowed within an R zone. Chairman Sargent stated the Solicitor will review. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to continue the hearing to the next meeting. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Sargent explained the next meeting will be held on December 17th.

Livery License Public Hearing – 1175 Main Street

Chairman Sargent opened the hearing and invited the applicant before the board. Mr. Jean Bazile of 1175 Main Street was the applicant before the board. Chairman Sargent asked Mr. Bazile to explain his business plan. Mr. Bazile explained he will run a livery service, not a taxi service around Clinton. He would like approval tonight. Chairman Sargent opened the hearing for public comment in favor, there was none, in opposition, there was none. Chairman Sargent stated the address listed is 1175 Main Street, is this Woodruff Plaza. Mr. Bazile explained yes he will rent a store front, stated it is the first time he will get a license. Mr. Bazile reviewed he works with a company in Woburn, in order to get contract with them he needs to get a license. He hopes to get a license from town and then go through the process of contracting with company. Chairman Sargent asked if he will have one car. Mr. Bazile stated yes one car for now and in the future he may add cars. Town Administrator Ward explained additional cars will need approval. Chairman Sargent asked if the car will be parked at Woodruff Plaza. Mr. Bazile explained not yet, he is in the process of renting. Selectman Dziokonski stated the principle garage for the vehicle will be in Leominster and you are working as part of another company that exists in Woburn. Mr. Bazile explained yes he will contract from the company after he gets license then he will be eligible to change to livery plate and office the service. He intends to contract with the company to provide livery service to New York. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to grant license to Jean Bazile d/b/a Bin Fin to operate livery service of 1175 Main Street. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Solar Pilot Agreement -100 & 111 Adams Road

Danielle Primini of Seaboard Solar was before the board to introduce herself and present the board with a tax agreement for the 100 & 111 Adams Road projects. She reviewed it gives the company stability to get a set tax rate. Selectman Iacobucci asked how the company heard of the sight in town. Ms. Primini explained the company had the sight prior to her working at it. Selectman Dziokonski asked would the solar panels on the Adams Road location be generating energy to sell to National Grid. Ms. Primini explained the solar panels produce renewable energy credits or net metering credits which are sold municipalities or other organizations. Chairman Sargent stated the board has two draft agreements, one for 100 Adams Road and 111 Adams Road. He explained the Solicitor and Chairman of the Assessors should review the agreements. Selectman Connolly made a motion to wait on the recommendation of the Solicitor and Chairman of the Assessor. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dziokonski explained he is in favor of agreements. The vote was unanimous.

Administrative Business

Public Works Monthly Report

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

Town Hall Use Events

The Clinton Gaels Athletic Booster Association is requesting use of the auditorium to host their Annual Winter Gaela Fundraiser on January 24, 2015. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve the Clinton Athletic Booster Association winter Gaela on January 24, 2015. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

One Day Liquor License Request

Clinton Athletic Booster Association has submitted a One Day Liquor License application in conjunction with the Gaela Fundraiser event to be held at the Clinton Town Hall on January 24, 2015. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve the request as presented. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the request. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

Run4Cole Charity Road Race

Ms. Emily Howland is requesting permission to hold a 5K road race in Clinton on Saturday, April 12, 2015 similar to what has been done the past two years to raise funds for the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve the request as presented. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Determination of Useful Life for Ladder Truck

Administrator Ward reviewed the borrowing paperwork for the bond purchase to fund a new fire ladder truck requires that the board determine the useful life of apparatus. The Acting Fire Chief indicates that this will be used by the department for the next 25-30 years. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to determine the life of use for a new Fire Engine will be 25 to 30 years. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

HGAC Cooperative Purchase Agreement

Administrator Ward explained Acting Fire Chief McLaughlin has requested to support the town to join the HGAC Cooperative Purchasing Consortium. This organization has a pre-bid for fire engines and has been used by other communities in Massachusetts. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to encourage Acting Fire Chief to join the HGAC Consortium. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Selectmen's Children's Holiday Party

Chairman Sargent explained the board celebrated another successful community event on Saturday November 29, 2014, many area businesses and volunteers continue to ensure this event is a success.

Thank you to all who participate.

Senior Fee Waiver Review

Selectman Connolly asked for the board to review a fee waiver program for seniors. He recently read where a community offers seniors a waiver on the dog license fees. The board expressed support and asked Town Administrator to review.

Goals & Objectives

Business Development Committee

Selectman Iacobucci explained the committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday January 7, 2015. They will review signage for the Dam, business improvements, and vacant lots addressed and clean up of commercial lots.

Committee Reports

Veterans Agent Search Committee

Chairman Sargent explained the committee has chosen to re advertise the position to expand the candidate pool. The committee has conducted 4 interviews and will continue working.

Government Reorganization Committee

Chairman Connolly explained the committee will meet on January 8, 2015 regarding the Facility Management Study and are preparing a proposal for the board.

Selectman LeBlanc made a motion at 9:25PM to adjourn. Selectman Iacobucci seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Corbosiero
Administrative Assistant to the
Clinton Board of Selectmen