

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
March 4, 2015**

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

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from February 18, 2015 Selectmen's Meeting for review

and approval. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

Mr. John Martin of 28 Orange Street was before the board to continue discussion regarding the recent negotiations and agreements made with Oxford Court. He stated he was shocked at the last meeting to learn, the town does not have to pay Federal Income Tax, at this time there is \$2.6 million dollars owed to the town by Oxford Court. He explained real estate taxes and federal income taxes equal funding for the town. The elected officials are stewards to the towns money. The towns operating budget is state aid dependent. In the next round of negotiations he would like to see the town receive some payments made on the loan rather than the re-subordination. He also informed the board he hasn't received the Executive Session minutes he requested. Chairman Sargent informed Mr. Martin the request was received and the minutes are in the mail. Mr. Martin informed the board the sidewalk in front of the new Senior Center and the Presentation apartments on Church Street haven't been cleared, he explained he informed the board of this at the last meeting as well.

Common Victualer License Hearing: 165 High Street

Chairman Sargent invited the applicant forward and to please state their name. Michael Leka of Leka Food Service, LLC d/b/a Brothers Pizza was before the board. He explained there will be no changes to the store, the hours, menu and staff will remain the same. Chairman Sargent opened the hearing for Public Comment. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to grant he Common Victulallers License to Leka Food Service, LLC d/b/a Brother's Pizza. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Iacobucci asked the hours of operation. Mr. Leka explained they will remain the same 11AM to 11PM, the name will stay the same as well. Selectman Connolly asked if he will have all the same workers. Mr. Leka stated yes. The vote was unanimous.

Fiscal Year 16 Budget Hearings

Police Department: Chief Mark Laverdure

Chairman Sargent invited Chief Laverdure before the board to discuss the FY 16 proposed budget for the Police Department. Chief Laverdure explained to the board he prepared a level funded and level service budget. He didn't make any changes in the wages because the contract is still under negotiations. He explained over the last 9 years he has been able to fund the dispatcher salaries with an E911 grant from the state in the amount of approximately \$29,600, the last Governor took this grant funding away. He expressed he hoped Governor Baker will restore the funding back in the E911 grant program, at least \$20,000. He explained he will also pursue a grant to help offset the overtime cost generated from training. Chairman Sargent asked when he will hear about the E911 grant funding. Chief Laverdure explained he is unsure as soon as he hears he will inform the board. He explained in the wages expenses there are some changes, Officer Earle Cadoret retired, there will be about a \$5,000 expense for uniform and equipment for a new officer. Selectman Connolly asked about the pension line item. Chief Laverdure explained there is a \$17,000 change due to the passing of Mrs. Barbara O'Toole. Selectman Dziokonski asked why there is a difference of \$83,600. Chief Laverdure explained he made a cut in the overtime level funded. He explained he isn't sure \$83,600 may not be a reality. He explained Lt. Coyne is reviewing information on creating an article regarding registration of solicitors. Administrator Ward reviewed the budget includes one new cruiser in the new equipment line item. Chief Laverdure agreed explained the rotation was 2 new cruisers last year and one this year. He also explained the line item covers expenses for 4 new tazers. The board thanked Chief Laverdure.

Department of Public Works: Superintendent McGown

Superintendent of Public Works McGown was before the board to review the FY16 Public Works Department budget request, explaining it is made up of several enterprise funds.

Road Department

Mr. McGown explained the budget presented is level service and level funded. There are no differences in the street maintenance. He explained he does paving as he gets Chapter 90 funding. He reviewed this department is adequately staffed and funding.

Cemetery Department

Mr. McGown reviewed the wages are down because a new employee was added, creating a reduction; he added to the miscellaneous and overtime line items. There are no warrant articles yet but he plans to review with Foreman regarding the need for new equipment. He reviewed there is a lot to maintain.

Water & Sewer Department

Mr. McGown explained the meter replacement project has been completed. There is a new water main on Birch Street and he hopes to replace more water lines. He explained this department is similar to the road department.

Rubbish Enterprise Fund

Mr. McGown reviewed he has been working with the committee regarding some recommendations for changes to implement state mandated recycling. The committee is reviewing a new program that will include curb side recycling.

Landfill Department

Mr. McGown reviewed this project is going well. He reviewed there will be a reduction in expenses of approximately \$150,000 because all the permitting is done. The project has been operational for about a year the revenue is for approximately \$1.8 million, he expects the revenue stream to stay stable.

Selectman Dziokonski asked why the Foreman line item for each department is blank. Superintendent McGown explained the line item should be removed he includes those salaries in the wage line item. He explained he will get an employee breakdown to the board. The board thanked Mr. McGown.

Veterans Agent

Veterans Agent Mr. Brendan Bailey was before the board to review the FY16 budget request. Chairman Sargent asked Mr. Bailey to review the highlights of the budget. Mr. Bailey reviewed the Chapter 115 benefits, are approximately \$32,000 per month so he requests the board approve \$400,000.00 plus a 1% increase. He explained all information he is reading through from the Department of Defense is a 1% increase for a COLA. At this time there are 34 veterans on the Chapter 115 benefit, but there is no way to predict the need for next year. He will be reporting quarterly to the board and Town Administrator. He reviewed the miscellaneous will be used for the state training required and his Worcester County Veterans Agent Association dues of \$35.00 along with office expenses. He requested to leave the Memorial Day fund as is. The board agreed and thanked Mr. Bailey.

Office of Community & Economic Development

FY13 CDBG Extension

Community & Economic Development Director Phil Duffy was before he board to review the mission statement for the office and to request approval for a grant extension on the FY13 CDBG program. He reviewed the FY13 CDBG is to close June 31, 2015, he would like an extension approved to use funding for an Administrative expense of \$1000.00 in July. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve an extension for the FY2013 CDBG program. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Iacobucci asked what this grant had been expended on. Community &

Economic Development Director Duffy explained it is being used for the senior center. The vote was unanimous.

Mission of the Community & Economic Development Office

Community & Economic Development Director Duffy explained his office is to assist business and property owners working as a reference point of resources for business for training, lending and services. The baseline information is to evaluate the needs of the business. He hosted the workshop to evaluate the Economic Development self assessment to create a baseline to work from. He also participates in community focus groups for business development with local merchants. Selectman Iacobucci informed the board he works with Mr. Duffy on the Business Development committee, which met prior to the Selectmen's meeting. This group will reach out to the business owners in town to find out what they like and do not like. Mr. Duffy agreed this group will be helpful to identify the needs for business development. Selectman Connolly asked Mr. Duffy to share information regarding the original Oxford Court agreement and the terms of the agreements made since that one. Mr. Duffy explained the first agreement was made in 1985 and then refinanced in 2007, at that time the town had never received any payment towards the grant. Solicitor Gibbons reviewed at this time the most recent agreement allows for the town to receive some financial benefit with the terms agreed upon.

Administrative Business

Police Department Monthly Report

Police Chief Laverdure submitted a monthly report relative to the operations of his department for the month of January 2015 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.

Public Works Monthly Report

Superintendent of Public Works submitted a monthly report relative to the operations of his department for the month of January 2015 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

Chairman Sargent reviewed the board has received applications for rental of the Fallon Memorial Auditorium:

04/11/15	Wedding Reception	Mary Johannah Mollica
04/16/15	Food Festival Event	Discover Clinton

Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve use of the Fallon Auditorium of the town hall on April 16, 2015, Festival of Foods event. Selectman Connolly seconded the

motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve use of the Fallon Auditorium of the town hall on April 11, 2015 Mollica Wedding reception. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

Regional Veterans District

The board asked Veterans Agent Bailey to review establishing a regional veteran's district with area communities, Clinton serving as the hub. Selectman Connolly asked Mr. Bailey to research with Town Administrator Ward the development of a Veterans District. Mr. Bailey reviewed he will research what the expectations would be for the office if he were to form a district and report back to the board. Selectman Iacobucci explained he had concerns that Clinton Veterans wouldn't get the services needed if a district was formed. Mr. Bailey explained he is aware a district had newly been formed in Charlton and Sturbridge; he understands the work load for 4 communities explaining one person couldn't do all the work, an assistant would be needed. Selectman Dziokonski agreed a support staff person would have to be added, one person couldn't take on the work for three communities. Mr. Bailey agreed to research and report back to the board.

Tax Title Advisory Committee

Chairman Sargent explained the Town Treasurer has contacted the board with the request to establish a Tax Title Advisory Committee to work with him for the disposition of outstanding tax title cases. The board agreed. Chairman Sargent explained the subcommittee would be made up of the Town Treasurer, Chairman of the Assessors, Building Commissioner, Town Solicitor, Chairman of the Selectmen and Town Administrator Ward. Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to approve the establishment of a Tax Title Advisory Committee, it is long overdue. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Non Union Salary Adjustments

Chairman Sargent reviewed the Personnel Board has made recommendations for the boards review and approval for the Police Dispatcher to be moved to Step 3, the implementation of a 2% salary adjustment retroactive to July 1, 2014 for all stipend positions and approval of the new starting salary rate for the Veterans Agent as determined by the salary study. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to approval all three recommendations as presented by the Personnel Board. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Connolly asked about the elected positions, there are four or five positions and they are the only employees to not receive an adjustment. Administrator Ward reviewed the Personnel Board has been working on that and they are scheduled to meet in April to review.

Clinton Public School Scholarship Fund Donation Request

Selectman Iacobucci made a motion to donate the same amount that had been given last year. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Goals & Objectives

There was no discussion.

Committee Reports

Trash/ Recycle Planning Committee

Selectman Iacobucci explained the committee has planned at the next Selectmen's Meeting to have the DEP representative out to give a presentation on the upcoming proposed changes to the trash/recycle program in town.

Cable Committee

Selectman Iacobucci reviewed the committee will meet again on Thursday, March 5, at 5:00PM.

Downtown Lighting Committee

Selectman Dziokonski asked for an update on this future project, he asked if Administrator Ward had any information to report from National Grid. Administrator Ward reviewed he has received information from National Grid but was waiting on the results of Mr. Duffy's grant application which he submitted to help with the cost for the redesign. He explained he will check with Mr. Duffy as to when the grant awards will be announced; he thought it would be over the next few weeks.

Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to adjourn at 8:15PM. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero
Administrative Assistant
Clinton Board of Selectmen