

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
March 6, 2013**

Selectman Connolly, Selectman Sargent, Selectman LeBlanc, Selectman Dickhaut and Chairman Dziokonski were in attendance. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Town Solicitor Gibbons. Chairman Dziokonski opened the meeting at 6:00PM.

FY13 Budget Review and Discussion

Fire Department - Fire Chief Richard Hart

Chairman Dziokonski opened discussion inviting Chief Hart to come forward to review the budget received. Chief Hart explained to the board he prepared a budget for the board. Chairman Dziokonski explained the board received the budget. Selectman Dickhaut asked how many staff are in the department. The Chief explained there should be 21 total two captain, one deputy and himself, at the current time there are 19, 1 on unpaid leave and he explained he is in the hiring process now. Selectman Dickhaut reviewed the budget indicates there will be two retirees. Chief Hart agreed explained Paul Welch has indicated he will retire in August and the Chief Hart is thinking about November. The board asked how solid of a decision it is. The Chief explained he is still thinking about it. Chairman Dziokonski asked about the Clerk line item, Chief Hart reviewed he allows the senior tax rebate worker to stay on and work after she completes her time for the program. Selectman Connolly asked about the Chief about the radio situation. Chief Hart indicated he will be working on an article for funding to complete the new communications tower on Park Street. He explained the DPW has some funding set aside but more is needed. Selectman Dickhaut asked the Chief if he felt this would make a difference in communications with the radios. Chief Hart indicated there is some funding available in the DPW to cover some of the cost for the tower. Discussion continued regarding the delivery of the new ladder truck, Chief Hart indicated it was ordered in December and should be delivered shortly. The discussion continued with the staffing, the Chief reviewed he is planning to hire 2. The board agreed he should hire 3 to fill the anticipated vacancy due to retirement. Selectman Connolly made a motion to direct Fire Chief Hart to fill the third full time position if possible. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dickhaut asked for the Chief to get the hiring process going as soon as possible, and to notify the Town Administrator with a status on the process. She explained she would like to see the new employees hired before the summer vacation leave started. The vote was unanimous. Discussion continued regarding funding for radios and the status of the vehicles at the station. Chief Hart explained next year the department will need a

new pumper truck; the last one was purchased in 2005. He has been working on a ten year replacement pattern. Selectman Dickhaut asked what trucks are part of the fleet. Chief Hart explained there is a small engine in the department used for brush fires, there are 2 trucks one is 1976 and one is a 1999. A pickup truck is needed for service calls. Chairman Dziokonski asked the Chief about the funding in the capital outlay line item. Chief Hart reviewed there is \$32, 154 in the line item carried over from lease on the Ambulance. This funding is in the FY13 budget, which will be carried over. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to authorize the use of the \$32,000 from the FY13 funding to purchase a new pumper truck. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dickhaut explained she would like to see a used pumper purchased for a reasonable amount. Chief Hart explained he would research and try to find one between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Discussion continued and the board agreed it would be great if the Chief could purchase a used pumper truck and a pick up to be used by the department. Selectman Dickhaut amended the motion to approve the purchase of a used pumper truck and used pickup truck to be purchased using the remaining funding from the FY 13 capital outlay expenses. Selectman Connolly seconded the amendment. Under discussion: the board clarified the funding will be used from the existing account in the FY 13 budget, which is available to be spent on this type of expense. The vote was unanimous. Fire Chief Hart reviewed he is on an eight year rotation of replacement with the ambulances. The board thanked Chief Hart for the information.

Superintendent of Public Works Christopher McGown

Mr. McGown was before the board to review the FY14 budget he prepared, he began his review with the Cemetery Department. He reviewed there is an increase in the fuel line item due to the increase in gasoline costs. He explained he added a 4% column showing an increase of 4% to the wages as requested by the finance committee. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to have Administrator Ward send a letter to the Finance Committee regarding the financial commitment made. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Dziokonski explained the board is unsure of financial commitments; before the budget has been discussed and formulated. Selectman Connolly stated the Finance Committee should not make commitment, prior to the board of Selectmen making a recommendation, it is inappropriate. A percentage increase discussion is to be generated by the board of Selectman not the Finance Committee. The vote was unanimous Mr. McGown reminded the board there is no Personnel Board therefore he followed the recommendation and prepared the 4% column. He continued with the Road Maintenance budget. He reviewed it is a level service budget including a \$70,000 line item for street maintenance. Selectman Sargent asked if the Water Street project will begin this summer. Mr. McGown informed the board the project is still in the design

phase which should be completed by fall 2014 and the project should begin one year from then. Chairman Dziokonski asked why the salary line items for the Clerk and Superintendent are separated to all of the departments, he explained this should be one line tied to all departments it is a matter of appropriation. Discussion continued regarding the Enterprise Funds. The board reviewed the salaries in the Rubbish Enterprise fund shows a decrease. Mr. McGown explained the rubbish trend over the last 5/6 years has shown a 5% decrease, less trash therefore the fulltime employee is stopping earlier. He continued with Water Department discussion reviewing the revenue is down and there is a need to purchase a component to run the filtration system, he budgeted to purchase a large amount because the company that makes it is going out of business. He reviewed the landfill capping budget has some big ticket items, he is unsure about the costs to dredge the pond, and there is the debt and interest payments due which he will cover with the Enterprise Fund. He explained he budgeted for clerical position, he is unsure if duties will be added to the current staff or if he will hire a part time employee. He reviewed he plans to begin accepting soil as of the end of May. Selectman Connolly asked if the revenue coming in will offset costs. Mr. McGown explained there are some issues with this year's budget the DoR will only allow 1% of the prior year levy. He explained he planned on reviewing the fund and the options with Administrator Ward, the tipping fees over the next fiscal year will cover expenses. Chairman Dziokonski reviewed this is a huge projector for the town to take on, he is planning on the upcoming agenda to discuss the formation of a subcommittee, to include a member of the Finance Committee, a Selectman and a member of the general public with an appropriate background to get a better understanding of the major undertaking. He would like to discuss and hopes the board agrees so there can be some oversight. The board thanked Mr. McGown.

The board took a 5 minute recess before continuing with posted agenda.
Chairman Dziokonski reopen the meeting at 7:15PM.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from February 20, 2013 Selectmen's Meeting, including Executive Session DPW Union Negotiations, February 6, 2013 Executive Sessions Landfill Purchase and teacher Union Negotiations for review and approval. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Common Victuallers License Hearing - 301 High Street Amusement & Entertainment Licenses

Chairman Dziokonski opened the hearing for 301 High Street explaining the board had received an application form Scott Slade d/b/a Liberty Tavern. Administrator Ward

explained Mr. Slade is continuing business as prior owners he officially took ownership. This is an administrative request to have the licenses changes to his name. Selectman Sargetn made a motion to merge the licenses requests for the Entertainment, Amusement and Common Victuallers as one hearing. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Dziokonski opened the hearing for Public Comment, in favor, there was none, opposed, there was none. He opened the hearing for questions or comments from board members, there was none. Selectman Sargetn made a motion to approve the license applications as presented by Scott Slade d/b/a Liberty Tavern at 301 High Street. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Water Bill Abatement Hearing- 9 -11 Union Street

Chairman Dzikonski opened the hearing for 9-11 Union Street regarding a water bill abatement request. Ms. Kristin Fox of 12 Magnolia Avenue, Lancaster owner of 9-11 Union Street and Superintendent McGown were before the board to discuss the abatement. Mr. McGown reviewed the board as the water regulators the board is able to approve an abatement on a high usage water bill. Ms. Fox explained there was an issue at the property back in 2011 where there was a leak with an outdoor facet, at this time she received abatement for the usage, and repaired the issue. Recently she received a bill in October for 35,000 cubic feet. She contacted the water department and has been working with them to determine the high usage problem. She explained her husband has gone through the house and made some upgrades to the toilets. She has been monitoring the usage and it seems to have corrected the issue. She is asking for the board to grant her an abatement regarding the high usage bill. Mr. McGown agreed that is a high amount of usage. Selectman Sargetn made a motion to approve the water bill abatement for 9-11 union Street as requested. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Mr. McGown explained the abatement will be calculated by using the average if the last 3 accurate reads. Selectman Connolly asked that it cover the next bill if needed. Selectman Sargent amended the motion to include abatements for both bills. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Water Bill Abatement Hearing – 75 Green Street

Chairman Dziokonski explained the board has received an abatement request for 75 Green Street, from David Dunn owner of Dunn & Co. he opened the hearing. Mr. David Dunn and Superintendent McGown were before the board to discuss the abatement request. Mr. Dunn explained to the board he had a historic agreement for free water from the Wachusett Reservoir from a pipe that runs through the Nashua River owned by the town. The MWRA discovered that this waterline was leaking millions of gallons per day and in 2009 stopped the flow of water which left Dunn & Co with no water to run the

machines for the company. He explained he has deeded rights to 12 million gallons of water per week. Superintendent McGown explained now the town is capped at 800 million units per year. Selectman Connolly asked Mr. Dunn if the town could acquire those rights, and add to the cap for the town. Solicitor Gibbons explained he will review the transferring the water rights to the town. Mr. Dunn explained he has since installed new equipment and the water use has dropped significantly, but there is a balance of \$414,000.00 on the water account for this property. Superintendent McGown explained the auditor for the town has asked for this issue to be resolved prior to the fiscal year end. Selectman Sargent made a motion to grant the water abatement for \$414,000 to 75 Green Street as requested. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Connolly stated it is good for the town to cooperate with the local businesses and Lancaster residents. The vote was unanimous.

Clinton Holiday Pops Concert Committee

Chairman Dziokonski invited the representatives from the Clinton Holiday Pops Concert to discussion regarding a request they have for the board. Mr. Stanley Starr Holiday Pops Committee Treasurer and Chairman of the Committee Tena Zapantis were before the board. Mr. Starr explained the event was established in 1995 to celebrate the completion of the town hall renovations, it at the town was suppose to be a onetime event, it has continued for 18 years. It is a popular event and dozens of local residents support it year to year. At this time the committee would like to become a town entity again. Ms. Zapantis explained she has recently joined the committee and become the chair, she would like to see it fall under the town committees like the Olde Home Day event does. Mr. Starr explained he had spoken to the Town treasurer and Town Accountant and they have no immediate concerns regarding this request. At this time the committee is not requesting any monetary support, it will continue to solicit sponsorship support. At this time the committee has chosen a new more affordable orchestra and have reserved the date of December 14, 2013 for use of the auditorium, they mentioned also hosting a summer concert in the park keeping with the theme of "America the Beautiful" which has been chosen this year. The board agreed this is a great cultural event and would like to see it continue. It was discussed to have the committee contact the Park & Recreation Director and request to work with them considering it would be a recreational program and the committee would like to explore summer concert, the Director has been working with the open space and recreational committee for the town and has planned a series of summer concerts. Selectman Connolly made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator and Solicitor Gibbons to work together to review the structure needed to allow this committee to work as part of the town. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Dzikonski stated he is in support of the event it is a wonderful event and which benefits the community, projects like this reinforce the call for a cultural district. Selectman

Connolly recommended the committee explore the programming with the Park & recreation Department suggesting they could possibly fall under that department. 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 January 2013 for the Selectmen's review and approval. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to accept the report as presented. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Town Hall Use Events

Chairman Dziokonski reviewed board has received an application for rental of the Fallon Memorial Auditorium:

04/20/13 Retirement Party Clinton Public Schools Athletic Department
Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to approve use of the Fallon Auditorium of the town hall on April 20, 2013 for Clinton Athletic Department. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Raffle Permit

Chairman Dziokonski reviewed the board received an application from The Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust requesting approval to raise funds for their organization. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to approve the request as presented. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

Snow & Ice Appropriation

Chairman Dziokonski reviewed Superintendent of Public Works McGown submitted a letter requesting approval for an additional \$225,000.00 in funding for the FY 2013 Snow & Ice Account. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to approve the request as submitted by the Superintendent of Public Works for additional funding in the Snow & Ice Account. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Connolly complimented the Superintendent & his staff on a great job done on the roads the season. The vote was unanimous.

Landfill Conservation Management Permit

Superintendent McGown explained the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife has issued an Endangered Species Act Conservation and Management Permit for the Clinton Landfill Capping Project. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to accept the permit as submitted by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Tax Collector Vacancy

Selectman Sargent explained he would like to review what is going to be done regarding the vacancy in the Collectors position. He reviewed the town election papers will be available next month. Chairman Dziokonski reminded Selectman Sargent the board asked the Government Reorganization committee to review this and make recommendations to the board how to proceed. Selectman Connolly explained at this time the Town Solicitor is reviewing. Solicitor Gibbons explained he is reviewing the interpretation of the statute, he is aware the Town Clerk had contacted the Secretary of State's Election Division, he has contacted them also to review. He explained the board has the authority to appoint, the question is how long will the appointment be. The end of the current term is June 2014 or just until the next election on June 2013. Selectman Sargent asked to plan this as an agenda item for the next meeting. Chairman Dziokonski and the board members agreed they will discuss further.

Committee Reports

There were none

Public Comment

There was none.

Selectman LeBlanc made a motion at 8:10PM to adjourn. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Corbosiero
Administrative Assistant to the
Clinton Board of Selectmen