

**Selectmen Meeting  
Minutes  
May 8, 2012**

Selectman Connolly, Selectman Sargent, Selectman LeBlanc, Selectman Dziokonski and Chairman Dickhaut were in attendance. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Solicitor Gibbons. Chairman Dickhaut opened the meeting at 7:40PM.

**FY 2013 Budget Review**

Administrator Ward distributed an updated budget with the boards recent changes reflected. Chairman Dickhaut thanked Administrator Ward and explained the board will review each line item and department. She began the review of with the Moderators Salary; Board of Selectmen Department; Finance Committee and Town Accountant there were no changes. Review of the Assessors Department the board discussed the salary line items. Chairman Dickhaut reviewed she would like to change the amount; she is not in favor of an adjustment of the salaries. Selectman Sargent stated he is in favor of all three full time elected positions. At town meeting he will be voting no. Chairman Dickhaut stated she would like to see the \$3000.00 amount adjusted to \$1500.00. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to adjust the Assessors member salary line item from \$3000.00 to \$1500.00. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was 4/1 opposition Selectman Sargent. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to approve a \$5000.00 increase to the Assessors Clerk and \$5000.00 increase to the Assessors Chair salary. Selectman Connolly seconded that motion. The vote was 4/1 opposition Selectman Sargent. Review continued with the Treasurer, Tax Collector, Solicitor and Clerk, the board agreed to the level service amounts. Chairman Dickhaut explained she had spoken to Town Clerk Phil Boyce and he explained the increases in the department reflect the addition of the two election wardens all the expenses for the upcoming elections have been factored in as well. Review continued with Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Montachusett Planning Commission and Economic Development the board agreed there are no changes. Discussion continued with the Town Hall Custodian Department the board discussed the list submitted from the custodian of the recent review of the building and needed maintenance. Selectman Connolly made a motion to increase the town hall repair to \$50,000.00. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. Under Discussion: The board agreed the increase should be budgeted and not a warrant article. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Dickhaut asked if the custodian submitted an amount needed for miscellaneous expenses. Administrator Ward explained he hasn't he is new to the position and need some more time, he is working to make changes with the supplies needed for the building at this time. Discussion continued with review of the Insurance/Miscellaneous, and the Police Department, Selectman Connolly asked if there is enough funding in the

overtime line item. Administrator Ward explained this is the number the Chief submitted, he will be at full staffing next year but he will double check with the Chief. Selectman LeBlanc asked about the Fire Department overtime line item. Chairman Dickhaut explained yes the number should work out; Administrator Ward worked with the Fire Chief. Review continued with the Building Department, Gas & Plumbing Inspectors, Sealer of Weights & Measures, Electrical Inspector, Emergency Management and the Animal Control Officer. Selectman Connolly stated he would like to add money to the expenses line item. The board discussed and agreed. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve \$2500.00 in the miscellaneous expenses for the Animal Control Officer. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to approve \$1000.00 in the Kennel fees for the Animal Control Officer. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The review continued with the DPW Chairman Dickhaut asked if Administrator Ward had spoken to Superintendent McGown regarding the temporary employee. Administrator Ward reviewed it is his understanding there are two positions available under the level service budget. The plan is to advertise the openings; there would be an additional position with a rate increase to the water & sewer rates. The review continued with the Board of Health, Council on Aging, Department of Veteran Services, Bigelow Public Library, and Park & Recreation. Chairman Dickhaut asked if the Park & Recreation had submitted a revised budget as advised. Administrator Ward explained the Accountant had received an updated one with a few changes. Selectman Connolly asked if the Park & Recreation transfer request to the Finance Committee was approved for the Foster Fountain repairs. If not something needs to be done. Administrator Ward explained the request is still pending. Chairman Dickhaut asked for the board to approve the Roof Repairs expense as a warrant article. Selectman LeBlanc made a motion to approve the needed roof repairs to the town hall be added as a warrant article. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Administrator Ward reviewed the only change to the Park & Recreation budget is the addition of the sick time owed to the retiring Director, this appears to be the only differential. There was a new line added and she changed her retirement date. The board discussed making the recommendation to the Park & Recreation Department to make a change to the HLP for the department and not include the maintenance to facility if the cut to HLP is needed to support it. Administrator Ward reviewed he will follow up again with the department. Review continued with Fuller Field and Pension expense. Administrator Ward updated the board he heard from the Treasurer and he explained he submitted the Health Insurance number prior to the open enrollment. The number did not include the mitigation funding, this needs to be added, the new number is \$3,466,000.00 which he will double check with the Treasurer. Chairman Dickhaut explained the review will continue with the school budget which the board has had no prior discussion on; they heard it for the first time tonight. Administrator Ward asked if

the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund should be changed to level funded. The board confirmed yes it should. Review of the school budget, Selectman Connolly made a motion to amend the school budget by adding \$400,000.00. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Connolly explained he is familiar how the budget is formulated he understands an increase is needed, and the board has to work with what is available. The Finance Committee and Selectman cannot raise the tax rate and there has to be a balanced budget presented, he wished the board could do better. Chairman Dickhaut explained it is a very frugal town budget and she realizes the restraints presented. The Police Department has the minimal funding along with the DPW and Fire Departments it is very difficult. Selectman Connolly reviewed a couple of positions are underfunded and there are no raises in the budget. A Clinton Public School teacher in attendance spoke from the audience informing the board, the concept of a teacher is the same as being a manager; they manage up to 22 children per day. No other department in the town is asked to bring supplies in but the teachers are asked to bring supplies to students. Selectman Connolly reviewed in order to cover the 1.6 million dollar need; the spending would be of funding the town doesn't have, if the board approved funding they would have to shut down other town departments. There is not an unlimited amount of funding available, he asked for suggestions on where to find funding. The teachers explained the class size will grow to have 30 students per class; there is a need to find funding. Chairman Dickhaut explained if the board were to approve all the funding available for the schools, there would be the same excuses next year for a greater need, it would be worse than it is now. The board has certain restraints to work under. The teachers asked where to go for help. Chairman Dickhaut suggested contacting the state legislators and making them aware of the mandates that are unfunded for the school department making a real impact on the budget. Discussion continued reviewing taxes in surrounding communities are much greater than Clinton, the board explained last year there was a failed override attempt explaining there aren't any other options. Clinton depends on local aid it couldn't exist without it; other communities are not so dependent. Mr. Paul Columbo explained he is from Clinton and understands the community has other departments and expenses but he would like to see the community support the schools and all work together. Chairman Dickhaut explained if the board could find a solution they would do it, there is only so much they can do, and if every dime were to be used they couldn't find enough and would struggle the following year. She explained the board is trying to do all they can with the little they have. She reviewed there are elderly residents trying to keep their homes, if the town were to raise taxes it would be devastating. The teachers explained if the town doesn't raise taxes they are not sure where that stands for the school department. Chairman Dickhaut explained she understands the frustration and is aware the teachers are dedicated employees, but the town is unable to fund all of the mandates they are out of control. She recommended the teachers

speaking with their state legislators and bringing their concerns to them regarding funding and unfunded mandates. Selectman LeBlanc explained the teachers have the full support of the board. Chairman Dickhaut reviewed the budget process and how it proceeds from this point. Selectman Connolly explained the ultimate decision is up to the voters, if a request for an override is out forward it is the voters' decision. Ms. Suzanne Jewet explained she has been a teaching for 34 years, and never seen the cupboards so bare. She thanked the board for listening if it is a relief to be heard. She explained the teachers are the biggest group of employees and are responsible for the next generation, she hopes the schools will have continued support. The best advocate will be to work together as a team. She thanked the board again. Chairman Dickhaut suggested the teachers contact the Massachusetts Municipal Association for assistance in advocating funding for mandates. The vote was unanimous.

### **Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review**

Administrator Ward distributed an updated Draft Town Meeting Warrant to the board for review and discussion. He explained he updated the warrant since the boards last review with the eliminations and additions discussed. He reviewed articles 1 to 6 are standard articles, article 7 is a place holder for the amount the board wishes to put into the stabilization fund. Article 8 is the borrowing needed for the monitoring and maintenance of the former landfill, Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve \$200,000.00 to be used as the funding amount. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Article 9 is to approve the establishment of a revolving account in connection with the landfill project. Article 10 is the approval of funding for the replacement of the gas tank at the Public Works Garage. Article 11 is the approval of borrowing \$140,000.00 to purchase a new sand truck for the DPW. Administrator Ward stated the Superintendent suggested removing this article and using one of the vehicles to be purchased for the landfill project. Article 12 is the approval of \$110,000.00 of funding for a new roof on the Fire Department. Article 13 is the approval of funding for the purchase of a new ladder tuck for the Fire Department. Administrator Ward notified the board the Chief informed him it would be an additional \$50,000.00 to purchase a combination ladder/pump truck. Selectman Connolly made a motion to add in \$50,000.00 making the truck total \$875,000.00 for the purchase of the new truck. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was 4/1 opposed Selectman Dziokonski. Article 14 is to approve \$50,000.00 for town hall maintenance and repairs. The board discussed to change the amount to \$10,000.00 for roof repairs and included the \$50,000.00 in the budget for town hall repairs. Article 15 is the approval of \$15,000.00 to be expended by the Personnel Board to conduct a compensation study for all non union employees. Article 16 is the approval of \$17,000.00 to the Bigelow Public Library to become full circulating members of the CW/MARS Regional System. The board discussed and agreed to include this funding in the library budget. Article 17

is the approval of \$15,000.00 to be used to purchase a vehicle for the Inspectional Service Department. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve \$15,000.00 in the Building Department budget. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was 4/1 opposed Selectman Dziokonski. Article 18 is the approval of a revolving account for the Clerk's office, article 19 is to relocate Broadway Street, article 20 is approval of the easements for the Water Street project, article 21 is the approval of a wireless overlay district, articles 22 & 23 is the approval of a mixed use overlay district. Article 24 is the approval of the creation of a new Facilities Management Department, the board discussed this will consolidate all of the town resources. Solicitor Gibbons explained this is the first step in the process of creating a new department. Articles 25 through 29 are regarding the Town departments becoming appointed versus elected. Article 30 is the approval of licensing of commercial garage keepers and repairman. Article 31 is the approval of creating restrictions for Central Park; Chairman Dickhaut asked if the department had submitted a revised budget. Park & Recreation member Paul Zapantis explained the board had met and made changes, he will drop off a copy to the office tomorrow. The board reviewed the restrictions; permission to ride a skateboard in the park, Solicitor Gibbons explained the permission would be granted if there were an event that included the activity. The board reviewed the restriction of wading in the fountain water, Solicitor Gibbons explained this is a Board of Health issue, the water is not treated. Selectman Dziokonski asked about the cameras to be added to the park for monitoring. Mr. Zapantis explained they spoke at the last meeting about the cameras and concluded they are not needed. Solicitor Gibbons explained the intent if the article passes is to put up signs with restrictions, there will be no by-law to enforce. Article 32 is an amendment of the by-laws adding to the leash law a fine for not picking up dog's excrement from public property. Article 33 is the approval of the Clinton Police Department to conduct criminal history checks on license applicants. Article 34 is approval to increase the cost of living adjustment to allow the Retirement Board to vote on an annual increase. The remaining articles are 4 citizen petitions.

### **Common Victuallers License New Location Request: J Mac's Dog Attack**

Administrator Ward reviewed the board has received an application from a hot dog vendor to change location. The request is to move from current location to the parking lot of the BP Station on Main Street. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the new location as requested. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was 3/2 opposed Chairman Dickhaut & Selectman LeBlanc.

### **Warrant Article Request from School Department**

Chairman Dickhaut asked the board for a review of the school request to add a warrant article to fund new windows for the Middle School. Selectman LeBlanc asked if the school received bids for the project. Administrator Ward explained they have received

some quotes. Chairman asked for the quotes for review. Selectman Connolly asked if there is time to add after tonight. Administrator Ward explained the school committee dropped the track repairs and decided to do windows after the deadline.

Selectman LeBlanc made a motion at 9:10PM 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