

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
May 8, 2013**

Selectman Connolly, Selectman Sargent, Selectman LeBlanc, Selectman Dziokonski and Chairman Dickhaut were in attendance. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Town Solicitor Gibbons.

Chairman Dziokonski opened the meeting at 7:03PM.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Discussion

Chairman Dziokonski opened the discussion stating the budget had been updated from changes discussed last week. Selectman Dickhaut stated she would like to review the Building Department budget and add a line item of \$15,000.00 to be used towards a new vehicle for the department. She knows this was an article at last year's town meeting that was defeated. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to add a line item in the Building Department budget of \$15,000.00 to be used for the purchase of a vehicle for the department. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. Under Discussion: The board reviewed a policy will be established for the use of town vehicles and housing of them after work hours. Chairman Dziokonski reviewed he serves on the committee and will work on the policy. He doesn't understand the need for a vehicle the town is only 6 square miles. Selectman Sargent asked if the vehicle the department has now isn't running well; is there a need for a new one. Selectman Dickhaut explained the vehicle requires a lot of maintenance and repair costs, most communities have vehicles for the inspectional department. Selectman Connolly agreed reminding the board it was determined last year to go in this direction and purchase a vehicle for the department. Selectman Sargent stated the board hasn't heard from the Building Inspector that he needs a vehicle. The vote was 3/2 in opposition Selectman Sargent & Chairman Dziokonski. Selectman Connolly made a motion to reopen the budget discussion regarding the school department for reconsideration of the \$300,000.00 increase of funding. Selectman Dickhaut seconded the motion. Under Discussion: The board discussed having the support of the school department presenting a unified budget to town meeting. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Sargent explained he would like to review the Town Hall Employees that are entitled to a step increase but haven't received the step. This process should be followed. Selectman Dickhaut stated she is unaware of any employees affected by this, all of the employees have reached the top steps. Selectman Sargent explained he has been contacted by employees who hadn't reach top step and were frozen a few years ago. Discussion continued regarding the steps and COLA increases for nonunion employees. Administrator Ward explained the

non union employees never received a step and a COLA. They received one or the other, a few years ago the decision was made by the Finance Committee to treat all employees the same and grant a 1.5% COLA to all employees. Since then the steps have not been used. The board agreed all employees should be treated equally and understands the grid system is in need of updating and plan to work together with Solicitors office to redesign and repair system.

2014 Draft Warrant Review

Chairman Dzikonski reviewed the board needs to complete a final review of the draft warrant. Administrator Ward explained the board should determine if articles with capitol items will be funded by borrowing. Discussion and review of the articles continued the board determined to fund the Park & Recreation articles totaling approximately \$63,185.00 through free cash and the four school articles totaling approximately \$859,000.00 through borrowing. The board agreed to split the remaining balance in the free cash between Article 7 & 8, the Stabilization Fund and the Health Insurance Trust Fund. Selectman Connolly made a motion to fund Articles 14 through 17 the Park & Recreation Departments requests, through free cash, and to fund the School Department Articles 23 to 26 from borrowing. Selectman Dickhaut seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Connolly explained the rationale behind the motion is the amount for the Park & Recreation Department isn't near the amount needed to fund the other substantial articles. The vote was unanimous. The board reviewed with Town Administrator the balance of the free cash was to be split between Articles 7 & 8. Selectman Connolly made a motion to split the free cash balance approximately \$300,000.00 between Articles 7 & 8. Selectman Dickhaut seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Dziokonski reviewed Town Treasurer McIntyre was before the board regarding a proposed article. Town Treasurer Patrick McIntyre was before the board to request a place holder for an article to address an issue of overpayment in his department. He explained this has been an ongoing issue the town auditor has indicated the town needs to raise the funds to rectify the issue. He explained he expects to get the funding back from the company it has been paid to in error. Selectman Connolly explained he isn't comfortable supporting an article until every possible effort has been made including litigation to recover the funding, if the funding is provided through an article the likely hood of recovering the funding owed diminishes. Selectman Connolly made a motion to decline the request made by the Town Treasurer, he explained he is opposed to appropriate funding to fund a vendor for overpayment of Health Insurance. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Sargent asked if the Town Solicitor will help in trying to recover the funding. Solicitor Gibbons explained until Guardian formally rejects the request made the town doesn't have a cause of action. Selectman Connolly stated until the town request is rejected it is irresponsible to go forward with an article. Solicitor Gibbons reviewed the auditor has requested the town go forward. Selectman Connolly

explained before the town goes forward with this he would like an explanation from the auditor. Administrator Ward explained the auditor has to provide a report to the state, if there is a deficit on the books he has to present the findings, it is the auditors understanding if there is no effort made to recover funding, there is no hope to getting the issue resolved and it will be a finding in the audit. Selectman Connolly explained if the vendor will not return the funding to the town the town shouldn't do business with them. Chairman Dziokonski explained the board will meet again at the end of May; the board can review a placeholder again if needed. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to accept the warrant as presented with the noted amendments, subject to the Solicitor's review. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Administrator Ward presented the board with a draft special town meeting warrant to raise \$100,000.00 in funding to be used in the landfill project. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article as presented. Selectman Connolly seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

2013 Junk License Renewal

Chairman Dziokonski reviewed the board received paperwork requesting renewal for a Junk Dealers Licenses for 2011.

William Reisner Corporation 33 Elm Street

Selectman Sargent made a motion to renew the 2011 Junk Dealers License as presented. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Welcome to Clinton Sign Refurbishment

Administrator Ward reviewed he had been contacted by the Vice Principal at the Clinton Middle School Rob Rouleau and asked for permission to have the Middle School students work together to refurbish the Welcome to Clinton sign located on Route 110.

Mr. Rouleau indicated he would volunteer to supervise the project. He was just requesting approval from the board to complete the project. Selectman Dickhaut made a motion to approve the request made by Mr. Rouleau to for the Clinton Middle School students to complete the proposed project. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion.

Under Discussion: The board thanked Mr. Rouleau and the students for volunteering to better the community. The vote was unanimous.

Weke Peke Property Issue

Selectman Connolly reviewed he was made aware the town of Sterling has a pending article regarding the Weke Peke property. The proposed article is for the town to petition legislation for restrictions to the Weke Peke water. Selectman Connolly made a

motion to have the board take actions to keep this from happening; he would like the board to contact Legislatures to petition not to enact any further restrictions to the town of Clintons use of water. The Legislatures should be made aware of the towns concerns and rights to the water. Selectman Dickhaut seconded the motion. Solicitor Gibbons reviewed no warrant article is needed to petition Legislatures, the town owns the property and there is a conservation restriction on the property currently. He isn't sure the town of Sterling has the standing to do this. Selectman Connolly amended the motion to have the Town Administrator compose a letter to the State Representative and Senators in opposition of further conservation restrictions on the property. Selectman Dickhaut seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Connolly made a motion to have the town of Clinton cease & desist the PILOT payments made to the town of Sterling for the Weke Peke property, after review and approval by the Solicitor. Selectman LeBlanc seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Solicitor Gibbons explained the town is exempt from paying taxes and it is a voluntary payment program. Town Administrator explained the town made an agreement with Sterling to make a payment in lieu of taxes. The vote was unanimous.

Stop Sign at Cameron Hill

Chairman Dziokonski explained he would like the Stop sign to be lowered at the intersection of Cameron Hill and Chestnut Street. The sign is very high and should be lowered.

J Mac's Dog Attack

Town Administrator Ward reviewed the board had tabled this hearing from a prior meeting. He explained he was able to contact the Building Commissioner Zahariadis who reviewed the request and explained there are no provisions or restrictions. Mr. Zahariadis' opinion is if there are no provisions then the request would not be allowed. Police Chief Laverdure reviewed the request and explained he would have concerns with the night time use. He explained he would approve the day time use he had no concerns, in the past the night time use has been an issue. Selectman Sargent asked about the location. Mr. MacAlister reviewed he intends to set up in front of the Realty Vision corner. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the Common Victualers License for J Mac's Dog Attack for all of the times requested with the Police Chiefs review and approval. Selectman Sargent seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Dziokonski expressed he had concerns regarding the late night service he agrees with the Police Chief and isn't supportive of granting this license. The board discussed and agreed the hours are to be reviewed and approved by the discretion of the Police Chief. The vote was 3/2 opposition of Chairman Dziokonski & Selectman Dickhaut.

911 Information Alert Systems

Administrator Ward reviewed with the board he has been researching a 911 Information Alert System that would require a warrant article for funding. The system would have to have citizen participation by each citizen registering. It would work if a call went to the 911 line the operator would be able to view where the call is from. Currently the cost would be about \$5000.00 per year. The board decided to have Administrator Ward complete some more research on this before they make a decision.

Selectman LeBlanc made a motion at 8:35PM to adjourn. Selectman Dickhaut seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Corbosiero

Administrative Assistant to the
Clinton Board of Selectmen