

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
January 20, 2021**

Chairman Kerrigan, Selectman Boisoneau, Selectman Connolly, and Selectman Kobus were in attendance, Selectman Devault via Zoom. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Town Solicitor Gibbons. Chairman Kerrigan opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Public Comment

There was none.

Board of Health COVID 19 update

Chairman Kerrigan invited the Board of Health representatives before the board. Chairman of the Board of Health Steve Lipka and Health Agent Tom Bonci were before the board. Mr. Lipka explained they wanted to provide an update to the board regarding the COVID pandemic. Mr. Bonci reviewed the number of cases being reported in the community, to date 107 active cases, with 1037 out of quarantine. Over the last month cases were 127 for the first week of January, 92 cases the second week and 28 so far this week, hopefully the cases are coming down. Mr. Lipka announced they held a vaccination clinic, 250 vaccines were administered to the first responders, funeral directors and court house workers. The clinics are held with the Montachusett Public Health Network so first responders from the region were included. None of the vaccine went unused, there were a few hiccups that need to be ironed out, next the second dose for these phase one recipients will be administered. All recipients are required to register online, the clinic is by appointment only. Mr. Bonci explained once phase one has been completed the next groups included in phase two are congregate care settings, housing developments, as part of the region including Gardner, Leominster, and Fitchburg. Approximately 800 doses are received for the region. Also residents over the age of 75 possibly it may be changed to over the age of 65. Mr. Lipka explained there are a lot of questions, the town doesn't set the schedule the state does based on supplies received. He checked with the Town Clerk and in Clinton there are 3700 residents over the age of 65. He is unsure how the message will get out to residents when the time has come for them to qualify for vaccine. He knows this is all new and the processes are still being worked out. He asked if the board would support use of messaging being done through the reverse 911 notice. Mr. Bonci explained all participants need to register online for clinic appointment. Selectman Kobus asked if the Outreach Coordinator at the Senior Center can help with registration. Mr. Bonci explained they may hold the clinic for that phase at the Senior Center, the Town Nurse is working with the Director. Mr. Lipka

explained the Director has a list of 1000 seniors with interest. The Board of Health will share the plan with the board at the meeting next month.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from January 6, 2021 Selectmen's meeting and Executive Session Amendment to the Landfill Agreement for review and approval. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 4/0 Selectmen Devault abstained.

Class II Dealer License Hearing – 556 Main Street Dicon Auto Sales LLC d/b/a Dicon Auto Sales

Chairman Kerrigan opened the hearing inviting the applicant forward and asked for their name and address. Mr. Diego Batista Florian of 64 Hildreth St, Marlboro was before the board. Chairman Kerrigan asked Mr. Batista Florian to review his business plan. Mr. Batista Florian explained he hopes to be approved to do business in town, he will comply with all the codes and laws going forward. Selectman Boisoneau asked about the number of cars the applicant is looking for, this should be reviewed with the Building Inspector. Mr. Batista Florian explained he has been approved for 41 by the Planning Board. Selectman Boisoneau asked if he has worked with the Building Inspector. Mr. Florian explained he has worked with the Board of Health and is aware there is no sewage at the 556 location so he is unable to do car washing, just oil changes and small repairs. He hasn't spoken to the Building Inspector but he can stop by the site and check it out. He submitted plans to Dinorah. Chairman Kerrigan explained the board has received the plans. Selectman Connolly asked if the total amount is 41. Mr. Florian reviewed some of the spaces are for the clients. Chairman Kerrigan asked for Public Comment in favor of this business application, there was none, in opposition there was none. He closed the hearing. Selectman Connolly made a motion to grant the license subject to the number of cars to be reviewed by the Building Inspector and confirmed it is an appropriate for the lot. Selectman Kobud seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, Selectman Devault "aye." Mr. Florian asked if the he has to return to the board after working with the Building Inspector. Selectman Connolly explained the license has been approved the number of cars is to be reviewed by the Building Inspector. Mr. Florian thanked the board.

Introduction of State Senator John Cronin

Chairman Kerrigan welcomed State Senator John Cronin. Senator Cronin thanked the board for accepting his invitation to speak with the board. He explained he wanted to introduce himself and share it is a privilege to serve the district. He grew up in the district and would come to Clinton as a student to play on the baseball fields, he has some great memories of playing and also stopping by the Old Timers. Clinton is a special town and it is an honor to serve, the expectation if the office for himself and the staff is to be present.

He shared Representative Kilcoyne and himself were able to visit the Senior Center and the WHEAT office last week. He is aware they serve the vulnerable populations of the area. Reviewing he learned the WHEAT office is serving 5X what they have done for meals prior to the pandemic. This showed him the needs of the community. He explained he shares the community with Senator Chandler and will collaborate with her and Representative Kilcoyne to ensure the watershed funding is earmarked in the budget along with working on the home rule petitions. He reviewed there is funding included in the state economic plan to include \$200,000 for downtown parking and \$200,000 from the housing authority. He is aware the COVID vaccine roll out has some uncertainty based on the amount of vaccine received, there are some supply issues. But forecasted there should be 30,000 vaccinations available per day by June. At this time there have been 40,000 per week at this time based upon the supply received from the Federal supply. He asked for all to be patient and understands it is important to continue to social distance and wear masks, there are effective federal partners that are collaborating on dispensing supplies. He is excited to work on the budget and partner with the local communities. He is aware there is COVID aid to help shore up local budgets, he will continue to work on infrastructure packages for communities. He thanked the board for having him explaining it was a privilege to be representing the town, he asked if the board had any questions. He explained he would be remiss not to mention Susan Templeton has taken on the role of District Director for his office. She was the Vice President at the North Central Chamber before joining Representative Naughtons office. She is an incredible asset to the community. Selectman Connolly thanked Senator Cronin for coming to Clinton, He explained he had two things he is concerned about. Clinton is 50% funded by local aid, not knowing the budget has made it difficult to make some decisions for board members. They are in contract negotiations with the unions which essential public service employees, there is a need to get the schools open with this year's budget. More important is we need to begin preparing for next year's budget which is crucial to have information. Senator Cronin explained he will not overpromise, but can share he read in statehouse news the revenue collection for the past 6 months is up, \$350 million dollars. He shares in the budget uncertainty but will remain cautiously optimistic and bring the numbers not promises which is important. Selectman Connolly agreed it is important for the board to have the news to allocate the resources, he asked Senator Cronin to do everything he can to expedite the budget process. Selectman Connolly shared there were 4 Home Rule Petitions approved from our town meeting requests, one was to allow additional Liquor Licenses for the future development of Clinton. These were petitions that were not addressed last session, please review where they are and expedite them. Chairman Kerrigan thanked Senator Cronin and explained he looks forward to working with him. Senator Cronin thanked the board and explained he appreciates their time, he wished them a Happy New Year.

Administrative Business

There was none.

Old & New Business

Change of d/b/a for Brothers Beer and Wine

Administrator Ward explained the Brothers Beer and Wine has received approval for full alcohol sales, therefore the request is to change the name to Brothers Liquors. There are no other changes the d/b/a remains the same. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the name change for Brothers Beer and Wine to Brothers Liquors. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Devault “aye”

Google Platform for Town Employees

Selectman Kobus explained he would like to explore changing the employee e-mail system from the current system to Google. He shared he has spoken with Administrator Ward regarding advancement of the current system by exploring the Google platform. Would it be a benefit to have all departments collaborate on new platform, and it is user friendly. He described the current e-mail as unresponsive at times and currently isn't very user friendly, these are aspects that could use improvement. Administrator Ward reviewed there are many platforms to explore Microsoft 365, Google or stay with the current system. The decision to explore the change would be under the board's direction, he explained he is seeking the boards blessing on exploring google. Chairman Kerrigan explained he works on the current platform now and it would be worth exploring other platforms. It is important to review how difficult would it be to change, what are the pros and cons, how to go forward. Selectman Kobus explained he will look into it. Administrator Ward explained now the current system is the basic network solutions platform, there are a lot of modular available. He stated eh is open to new ways to do things, he shared some points with Selectmen Kobus. He is aware the school works on the Google platform and he is willing to learn more about it. Selectman Connolly made a motion to have Administrator Ward review the new product, by researching the Google platform to see if the town will benefit to move. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Kerrigan asked Selectman Kobus to share the information he has collected. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Devault “aye”

Department/Commission Periodic Presentations

Selectman Kobus reviewed he is serving on the search committee for the Facility Director and some discussion on departments operating in silos. A monthly check in would elevate that, it would allow departments to present to the board and the public the current operations, allowing them to showcase the department. Sharing the progress on what they are developing, the frequency of the presentation can be developed through a structure schedule. Chairman Kerrigan agreed explaining he will work with the

Administrator on a schedule. Selectman Kobus explained it should be discussed what departments and how often they appear. The board agreed.

West Ledge Street Lights

Administrator Ward update the board on the West Ledge Street Light project. He reviewed the lights have been installed and National Grid is going to inspect the wires which is standard procedure when a private contractor installs the lights. Once the inspection is complete the lights will be energized. He has spoken to National Grid and this should be completed within the next few weeks.

Consolidated Financial Software

Administrator Ward reviewed a kick off meeting was held, next step is to implement. The Accountant will work with a consultant to develop a chart of accounts she is too busy to take this on in addition to her daily work. The chart of accounts will be converted to the MUNIS system. At this time we are reviewing consultants that have worked with the Tyler Company and are familiar with their set up. This should take about 6 to 9 months to process. He explained this is a robust and complex system. Selectman Devault asked for some dates associated with these initiatives. It sounds like it is heading in the right direction, next month have the dates set.

Savage Field Lights

Selectman Kobus asked for an update on the Savage Field Lights project. Administrator Ward rereviewed the lights have been purchased and should be ready to go. The bid opening is scheduled for early February. The project should be ready to go from there. Once the contractor is finalized, the hope is to have a contractor in place to begin demo of the current lights and complete the install by April.

Committee Reports

FY 22 Budget Preparation

Selectman Connolly explained the FY22 budget preparation should begin. He explained the joint request letter to department heads from the Finance Committee and Selectmen should be sent out. The next step is to set a schedule for budget hearing for Departments before the board to explain the requests. The board agreed.

Chairman Kerrigan explained the board will enter into Executive Sessions and not return to an open meeting. Executive Session under Article 3 Fire Union Negotiations at 7:45PM. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Boioneau "aye", Selectman Devault "aye", Selectman Connolly "aye", Selectman Kobus" aye", Chairman Kerrigan "aye".

Executive Session Article3 Fire Union Negotiations 7:45PM – 7:54PM

Selectman Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant to the Clinton Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator