

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
February 18, 2021**

Chairman Kerrigan, Selectman Boisoneau, Selectman Devault, Selectman Connolly and Selectman Kobus were present. Town Administrator Ward and Solicitor Gibbons were attendees. Chairman Kerrigan opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Public Comment

There was none.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from February 3, 2021 Selectmen's meeting for review and approval. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 5/0

Deb Goodsell Sr. Center Executive Director – Covid 19 Vaccine Update

Chairman Kerrigan invited Senior Center Executive Director before the board for discussion on Covid 19 Vaccinations. Ms. Goodsell thanked the board, she explained after the last meeting she received a call from Ms. Danielle Fahey the new Executive Director at the Housing Authority, whom she met by attending the last Selectmen meeting. The next morning Ms. Fahey contacted her with a contact from UMASS to discuss hosting a vaccine clinic in town. She was able to meet with the representative along with Town Administrator Michael Ward and Board of Health Agent John McNally. The outcome was the town hall was a perfect location and two clinics have been held since, allowing about 140 of Clinton's residents to be vaccinated. She reviewed the eligibility was by age and a lot of the population had already received vaccine. She explained Chief Lutes has been instrumental in assisting with training for the EMT/Fire Fighters to conduct a mobile clinic with doctor and nurses from UMASS to vaccinate the homebound residents. She thanked all who participated to make the clinics an overwhelming success. She explained the second dose clinics are scheduled and at this time there are no more clinic scheduled but, please be patient more may be available. She explained all the residents who received vaccine were thrilled and really had a sense of hope. Chairman Kerrigan thanked Ms. Goodsell for the information. Selectman Connolly reviewed he brought his father to clinic it was very well run and organized, he thanked the Executive Director at the Housing Authority and the Housing Authority for working together with the town departments creating a sense of community to all, he is happy to expound on this relationship and continue to collaborate in the future. Chairman Kerrigan asked for seniors to reach out to the center for more information or to ensure you are a registered senior and will be eligible to be added to the data base. Ms. Goodsell agreed please reach out and contact the center. Chairman Kerrigan asked for an update from Administrator Ward regarding the public

health vaccination clinic held sponsored by the MPH in Clinton for the first responders. Administrator Ward reviewed the second clinic was held to complete vaccination of the first responders in town, the Board of Health reported the clinic went well. He agreed with Ms. Goodsell explaining the clinics held at the town hall were great for the community, he stopped in and saw the joy it brought to the residents who were able to be vaccinated in a familiar location. He would like to reach out the two Governor's office on behalf of the board to make him aware of the successful outcome. The clinics were very effective, there was a meaningful outcome to a lot of residents. The town would welcome back additional clinics anytime. Chairman Kerrigan agreed, he knows of all the sacrifices made by residents and the numbers are starting to show it. They have returned to where they were in early November, the schools are planning to reopen soon. He thanked everyone involved in coordinating the successful clinics in the community.

Phil Duffy – Community & Economic Development Director

Massachusetts One Stop for Growth Program

Community & Economic Development Director Mr. Duffy was before the board to explain the state has a new program to prepare and apply for funds in the future. There is a new grant application tool with 10 different programs. He has received information on one the new portal to be used for applying. The portal requests the Community & Economic Development Goals, including housing goals. He explained he is preparing to submit an expression of interest to the Commonwealth on behalf of the town and wanted some input from the board. He prepared a memo which includes the goals and would like to the board to review and let him know of any modifications needed. The goals include revitalization of the downtown, Rockbestos are with use of brownstone funds, the Bigelow spinning mills, old Bates sandpits which is 26 acres which abutts rail road property but is considered an industrial zone, Supernauts lot and the former Gene's Auto & Towing. The state has a new program regarding underused and blight property. The application is due on April 2, which gives us about 6 weeks to finalize the list, he would like to revisit with the board at a future meeting. Selectman Kobus asked if for the former Mr. Z's Pizza lot on High Street can be added to the property list for the new vacant property program. Mr. Duffy explained he has tried to reach out to the property owner and discuss some clean up to the lot. Chairman Kerrigan explained the board will take this under advisement and schedule for the next meeting to discuss additional properties.

Administrative Business

Water, Sewer & Trash Abatements

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed Superintendent of Public Works Christopher McGown has submitted a list of water/sewer/trash abatements in the amount of \$49,428.29 from the last billing cycle for action by the board. Administrator Ward reviewed there is one abatement for TYCA Corporation that is half the amount of requested abatements. The company has their own water source but was a wrong read when compiled, the bill

should reflect sewer charge only. Superintendent McGown is aware and explained the abatement is needed. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the abatements in the amount of \$49,428.29 as presented. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

Facility Director Appointment

Chairman Kerrigan explained Town Administrator Ward would like to provide an update to the board on the appointment of the Facility Director. Town Administrator Ward reviewed upon recommendation from the Facilities Director Search Committee and with support from the Superintendent of Schools, the Town Administrator announced the appointment of Brian Farragher to the Director of Facilities position. He reviewed he has met with the candidate and he has the qualities for the position, he has managed personnel, developed policy and procedures. Pursuant to Chapter 91 from the Acts of 2011, appointments of department heads made by the Town Administrator shall become effective on the fifteenth day following the day notice is filed with the Board of Selectmen, unless the Board of Selectmen by a majority vote of the full board, vote to reject the appointment within that period. Selectman Connolly made a motion to waive the fifteen day notice and appoint effective immediately the Town Administrators recommendation Mr. Brian Farragher to the Facility Director position. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Administrator Ward thanked the search committee for all of their work on this appointment. Selectman Devault expressed he commended Administrator Ward and his work with the search committee in making the appointment. He knows a lot of work went in to keeping the process moving making the appointment. He reviewed he is happy to get the department back on its feet, again thanks for the hard work.

Cable Director Appointment

Chairman Kerrigan explained the process is in final negotiations with a candidate. Administrator Ward agreed explaining the appointment of the candidate should be completed for the next meeting. He has a commitment from a candidate and plans to meet next week to set goals for the position. At the March 3 meeting the announcement of the Cable Director will be made.

Facility Director

Selectman Connolly explained one thing he had requested in the past and hopes the new Director of Facilities can complete is to restore the pictures of those who have served the town in the past as State Representatives. He is aware when the building underwent some remodeling about 20 years ago the photos were put in storage that used to hang in the front hall of the first floor, he would like to see them restored. He also would like to add the current State representative to the collection, it is a historic change for the community, and this would be awesome. Selectman Connolly made a

motion to make this a expectation of the new Director once he has taken over the position. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Parking Situation in Town

Selectman Connolly reviewed he knows some headway has been made at the Oxford Court parking lot, he was able to drive by after the last storm and the parking lot was clear and open for the day business parking. He is aware there continues to be a serious parking problem at the Walnut Street Parking lot, 5 days after a storm and cars remain untouched, there is a 12 hour limit that needs to be enforced so the lot can be cleared. He would also like to mention there is a downtown business with employees who park all day in front of the town hall and on Church Street, keeping the spaces unavailable all day. There is also a limit on parking in this area which should be enforced. Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the subcommittee met with the Superintendent of Public Works and the Police Chief this afternoon. He is aware there are cars on Walnut Street that haven't been moved or cleared for several storms. He has brought this to the Chiefs attention and he has agreed to step up parking enforcement. He thanked Selectman Connolly for bringing this up for discussion. Selectman Devault asked if at a future meeting there should be a discussion on contracting a dedicated resource for parking. The only goal would be to concentrate on parking. This resource would be dedicated to walk these areas and enforce the parking guidelines. Issuing tickets creating some consistency of enforcement. Chairman Kerrigan explained he is open to considering anything, but it hasn't been reported it is a manpower problem. Selectman Devault is in favor of the best plan moving forward, Community and Economic Development Director Mr. Duffy should attend a future meeting to discuss additional steps to take. Selectman Kobus explained two things have been in progress ticketing and present a letter to the business who has employees parking on Church Street all day. The letter should outline the enforcement of ticketing and towing to those who do not follow the parking guidelines. Selectman Connolly explained he doesn't want to wait for the new Police Chief, this is not a resource problem, and the enforcement needs to be enhanced. Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the only way to fix the issue is enforcement, if the downtown will succeed the laws need to be enforced. There needs to be a unified front working together the DPW and Police not Police versus the DPW. This is a priority for the town. The DPW is constantly changing the ways it is working on snow removal with every storm they learn. The challenge is enforcement versus frustration.

Application Process for Applicant with Unpaid Taxes

Selectman Boisoneau reviewed he is aware of outstanding taxes due on a property that is part of the packet with an application before the planning and zoning boards. He understands the board just received approval to adopt the statue at the Special Town Meeting, but is there something that can be done while that is being reviewed. The amount outstanding is \$48,113.14. Chairman Kerrigan explained he isn't aware of any recourse that can be done before the town meeting acceptance process of new by-law

is completed. Administrator Ward explained this is something he will look into and he will speak with the Town Treasurer to review where things are. Selectman Connolly explained a letter should be sent to the ZBA and Planning Boards identifying properties in tax title. Selectman Connolly made a motion to have a notice sent to the ZBA and Planning Board with notice of the properties in tax title and noting the overdue tax due by applicant. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Surplus Property Committee

Selectman Devault reviewed the committee met and discussed the properties. They have concluded the focus will be on Gene's Auto at this time. They will focus on one property at a time.

Cable Committee

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the committee will be meeting with a date to be determined to establish Goals & Objectives for the new Director and the review of the purchase of new equipment.

Selectman Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant to the Clinton Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator