

**Select Board Meeting
Minutes
March 15, 2023**

Select Board Chair Mr. Kobus, Select Board member Ms. Dickhaut, Select Board member Ms. Perusse, Select Board member Mr. Kerrigan, Select Board member Mr. Devault were in attendance. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Assistant Town Administrator Snell. Chair Mr. Kobus opened the meeting at 6:00PM. Joint meeting with Finance Committee members, School Committee members and Permanent Building Committee members were all in attendance.

Joint Meeting with School Committee, Finance Committee, Permanent/School Building Committee & Planning Board for Presentation by Lamoureux Pagano Architects on Clinton Middle School feasibility Study Update

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Meyer opened the discussion; he explained they have invited all the boards to hear about the feasibility study for the Clinton Middle School Project. He explained Trip Elmore and the team of architects and designers of Doer & Whittier have a prepared presentation, they would like to gather community input on the schematics designs presented. After the review is complete, the next step will be for those in attendance to vote on the choice of design, please register to receive the three colored dots to use. From there the Permanent Building Committee will reduce the options from 7 to 3 choices using input gathered from tonight's meeting. Mr. Trip Elmore thanked all for attending, he introduced the architect team Eric Moore, Christine Baselman, Peter Carussi and Sean Brennen. Each member of the team will explain his or her participation in the design. This is the Preliminary Design Program; this program developed the design concepts for review this evening. Information gathering was completed and the vision was developed, including input that was collected from the public, teachers and students through focus groups and interviews. All of the information has been incorporated into the designs. Each option was designed for an enrollment of 700 student's grades 4 to 8. The designs can accommodate a population of 550, currently the enrollment is 545. Once the design choices are determined, the Permanent Building Committee will vote on the top three. The next phase will be to determine the costs for each, and the reimbursement percentage from the state, the town will then have to review the reimbursable percentage, and the funding needed for the project. From there the community will be presented with the project proposal and cost approval at the June 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

*Five-minute recess taken to allow attendees to vote on design schematics.
Meeting resumed at 7:24PM*

Public Comment

There was none.

Liquor License Change of Category Public Hearing- 220 High Street Ranna, Inc.d/b/a Papacolas Variety with Jyotsna Patel as Manager on Record

Chair Mr. Kobus opened the meeting inviting the applicants forward. Attorney Harold Naughton was before the board with members of the Patel family owners of the Papacolas variety. He reviewed at Town Meeting it was approved to change the category of the liquor license at the business from Beer & Wine to All Alcohol sales, legislature approved the category change and the final approval is the local license authority before applying to the ABCC. The owner and manager of the store are present. Chair Mr. Kobus opened the hearing for Public Comment, he asked for comments in support, there were none. He opened for comments in opposition, there were none. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee & School Committee School Department FY2024 Version A Budget Presentation

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Meyer presented the FY24 School Department Budget Request Version A. He highlighted the revenue and expenditures explaining the funding sources are the Chapter 70 funding, and the Circuit Breaker funding, the state aid, which has increase over the last two years and will be mainaitined until FY27, Chapter 70 is up 1.9%. He explained the School Choice Charter School tuition has decreased to \$216, 649 and the School Choice is out of that funding at \$163, 702. The ESSER III funds projected to be \$862, 774. The entitlement grant is one million, used to supplement with restricted use. The preliminary budget for FY24 is \$30,721,102.00. The goal in forming this budget with the staff was not to ask the town to allocate an increase. There are 3% increases with the contractual obligations to salaries included in budget version A. He has proposed staff changes with the addition of nine new staff positions. The focus of this budget is sustainability. At this time, the school is in a good position to sustain the momentum established. The next steps are to file the reporting to the state to show how the funding has been spent. There is a public hearing scheduled for Monday April 10th to review the public submission. As reviewed the goal for the preliminary budget is not to spend more than the Chapter 70 increase.

Five-minute recess taken.

Meeting resumed at 7:57PM

Phil Duffy, Director of Clinton Community & Economic Development

Underutilized Properties Program Grant Expression of Interest-329 High Street

Mr. Duffy explained he would like to apply for grant for underutilized properties through Mass Development to allow for use of the 329 High Street property. This property is zoned commercial and he would like to propose the use of it as a pop up retail location. He is aware there are some predevelopment activities needed. He had recently attended a meeting at Mass Development that highlighted an area in Worcester used for pop up food retailers, he would love to see something like this brought to the downtown. He asked for the board's interest in supporting this grant for this initiative. Mr. Devault made a motion to approve a letter of support for grant application for 329 High Street as presented by Mr. Duffy. Mr. Kerrigan seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Mr. Kerrigan noted this corner is of high visibility and there are options for versatility for the downtown, this is a terrific idea. The vote was unanimous.

Strand Theatre Roof Replacement Funding Request- 58 High Street

Mr. Duffy reviewed with the board the Strand Theatre building is in need of roof replacement over the stage area. He has funding available, in the past the town offered business assistance through the UDAG (Urban Development Action Grant) loans. He hasn't issued any in 12 years but would like to extend assistance, in the past these funds have been used for past improvements to commercial properties. There are \$34,000 in needed repairs, half could be a loan with a 6% interest rate and half a grant using ARPA funding at 0% with a mortgage note signed this funding should be paid back to town if the property is sold within 5 years. He explained the owner is operating at a loss at this time. Ms. Dickhaut asked if the owner intends to supply financial data to back up this claim. Mr. Duffy reviewed he will return to the next meeting with more information for the boards review. Ms. Perusse asked why the municipality would step in as the bank. Mr. Duffy explained this loan program had been utilized by commercial businesses in the past. Area contractors, funeral homes and 203 Church Street had participated in this program. Chair Mr. Kobus asked for more information to be gathered and a vote can be taken at another meeting.

Joint Meeting Planning Board & Linnean Solutions Consultants

MVP Lawn & Landscapes Resiliency Project Recommendations

Mr. Jim Newman and Ms. Sarah Saydun were before the board to review the report submitted to the board. They have been working on regulatory guidelines and the by law recommendation for the community acceptance. Ms. Saydun explained this is the end of year two working in the community; the key deliverables are the project website, the wetlands tools and the regulatory matrix, including lawn and landscape practices and processes. Mr. Newman explained six goals have been identified to align with the

regulations and by laws. The recommendations are to meet the goals and add to the restrictions to the existing Zoning By laws.

American Rescue Plan Act Recommendations

ARPA Funds Expenditure/Process Timeline

Chair Mr. Kobus explained the Town Administrator Ward recommended the board scheduled this discussion. Over the last, few weeks the House Budget has been worked on part of the discussion was recapturing funding not earmarked. It is recommended the board put together a timeline to aggressively allocate the ARPA funding. As a reminder Police Chief Coyne requested funding to be used for new radios for the department he was researching some costs, we need to invite him in to move forward on that request. Mr. Devault explained he would like to make sure the funding is being used for businesses, to support the creation of new businesses. Ms. Dickhaut explained an invitation should be extended to the Police Chief for the next meeting to review the information he gathered. Mr. Devault explained he would like to gather feedback from the business community, he will work with Mr. Duffy to establish a timeline it is critical to process the feedback. The funding should be used to provide assistance to local small businesses and secondly to municipal improvements, there has not been any feedback gather yet. Ms. Dickhaut reviewed \$150,000 of funding was set aside for small business assistance as part of the local resiliency program and not all the funding was utilized. Mr. Duffy reviewed the intent of the funding has a wide range of eligible businesses. Some is to assistant COVID impacted businesses; there is a wide range of uses identified in uses on the municipal side. Mr. Devault stated he would like to test the proposals and needs in the community; he does not just want to base the amount on the prior programs and the amounts used. Mr. Duffy explained a small number of businesses have approached him. Mr. Devault stated the funding should be used as a pillar towards economic recovery for businesses negatively impacted by COVID. He would like to poll the businesses regarding the funding available, provide education for qualifying factors for funding. We need to gather information on the decision making for the funding. The board will make the decision but there should be a vetting committee that can provide recommendations to the board that makes a lot of sense. Ms. Perusse expressed concerns over making adjustments at this time; it will affect other spending of the amounts already earmarked. There are amounts recommended for spending. Mr. Devault explained \$350,000 has been earmarked as business assistance; there is still another \$300,000 to work with. The funding can be spent on municipal improvements, but his preference is to see funding used to assistant local businesses, only 6% has been allocated toward business, is this an adequate amount? He wants to collect feedback from businesses to determine that. Ms. Perusse asked for a timeline to be established for Mr. Duffy and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce to work towards this endeavor.

Administrative Business

Town hall Use Request: Annual Holiday Pops Concert

Chair Mr. Kobus reviewed the board has received a request for use of the Fallon Auditorium to be used in conjunction with the Annual Holiday Pops Concert event on December 2, 2023 5:00PM to 10:00PM. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

One-Day Liquor License Request: Annual Holiday Pops Concert

Chair Mr. Kobus reviewed the board has received a request for a One Day Liquor License to be used in conjunction with Annual Holiday Pops Concert on December 2, 2023, from 5:00PM to 10:00PM. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

Clinton Public Schools Scholarship Fund Donation Request

Chair Mr. Kobus reviewed the board has received a donation request from Clinton Public Schools Scholarship Foundation. He explained in the past the town donated \$250.00. Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to donate \$250.00 to the CPS Scholarship foundation. Mr. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Government Affairs Committee

Mr. Devault explained there was a meeting held to review drafting a town wide donation policy to have the ability to track donations received and spent. Once drafted Town Counsel will review.

Town Hall Workspace Committee

Chair Mr. Kobus explained the committee met and have identified the first item to work on is the preservation of the documentation of records over the years collected in the lower level. Assistant Town Administrator Snell has conducted research to look at the retention of records and what is required by the state. She has also contacted other communities to get insights on how other towns have done it. Ms. Snell agreed explaining once a plan has been identified we will go from there.

Community Announcements

Chair Mr. Kobus announced upcoming events in the community including,

Tree Surveying Event at Rauscher Farm on March 18, 2023

Vaccine Clinic at town hall on March 22, 2023, Pre-Registration recommended

Indoor Golf at the Library on March 17& 18, 2023

Fundraiser for Real Youth Clinton Mentor Program on March 16, 2023

Ms. Perusse announced CHS Student Council Blood Drive on March 17, 2023

Mr. Kerrigan announced Tribute Road Race on May 13, 2023, nominations have opened for honorees.

Mr. Kerrigan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20PM. Ms. Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant Town Administrator/Select Board