

**Selectmen Meeting
Minute
June 2, 2021**

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

Public Comment

David Baird of 15 Dike Drive was before the board. Mr. Baird read a prepared statement congratulating John, and the financial team, more importantly Town Administrator Michael Ward on the accomplishment of improving the bond rating for the town. He thanked Mr. Ward for being a great financial manager of the town. He wanted to make the board aware of this. He also thanked Selectman Connolly for the years of service he has given to the town, he will miss him. Selectman Connolly thanked him.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from May 19, 2021 Selectmen's meeting and Executive Session for review and approval. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer Collector John Kittredge-General Bond Obligation

Town Treasurer Collector John Kittredge was before the board. He has the prepared packet of information needed for the board's signatures, they are time sensitive and he will leave for signatures this evening. He explained he put some thoughts together he wanted to share with the board, beginning with it is a great day to be a Clintonian, the town is in a stable solvent financial state which is something to be proud of. He has prepared paperwork to bond for a borrowing of \$7 million over 20 years with an interest rate of 1.3%. The borrowing will cover the spending approved at town meeting which includes the purchase of a new firetruck and school repairs. Recently the town was advised to pursue a new company by Hilltop securities for bond rating. Town Administrator led this mission and scheduled a conference call with S & P Global, he scheduled a dry run call for the week prior to prepare with the Town Accountant and himself. The 90 minute call took place on May 18, with Administrator Ward answering the majority of the question with educated and knowledgeable response. He is an educated wealth of knowledge and as a result the town moved a dramatic 3 level ratings, to AA+. There is only one rating category above. This puts Clinton into a category with communities like Northborough, Southborough, Berlin and East Long Meadow. This rating reflects consistent financial management with a surplus in both fiscal year 20 and one anticipated in fiscal year 21. He concluded thanking Selectman Connolly for is

service to the community. Selectman Connolly explained this is huge accomplishment for the town. There is a lot involved with the works of Financial Officers, the Finance Committee and Administrator Ward. Administrator Ward has a passion for this, he has had many conversations with him and he was always challenged to get to this point. This is most impactful for the tax payers of Clinton. The Town Administrator should be credited with this he did everything right and now it is paying off. Mr. Kittredge explained making the change cost \$15,000 and it was suggested the rate may move one possibly two from the Moody's rating. With this information Administrator Ward led the charge and the town moved 3 ratings. Chairman Kerrigan stated it is great to stick with what you believe is right, with incremental progress this came through in the end. Selectman Devault explained he is aware this will be reported in the newspaper but as a member of the marketing subcommittee this should be publicized. This is the best thing he has heard, all the hard work that has gone into this, the community needs to hear and understand this accomplishment. He understands this has been in the works for a while.

Town Moderator Terry Ingano Revising Quorum Limits for Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting June 7, 2021

Chairman Kerrigan invited Town Moderator Terry Ingano forward for discussion on the quorum limits. Mr. Ingano shared he is aware the warrant is 45 Articles and attendees have a tendency to leave the meeting early. He would not want the quorum number to be challenged and business to go undone. He agrees with the limits used for last years with the consideration of COVID restrictions. The quorum was set at 15 for Special Town Meeting and 20 for Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Connolly explained he agrees, if the quorum is low it encourages people to show up. Mr. Ingano explained last year 168 were in attendance. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the quorum for the Special Town Meeting to be held on June 7, 2021 to be set at 15 and the Annual Town Meeting to be held on June 7, 2021 quorum be set at 20. Selectman Boisonneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Ingano thanked Selectman Connolly for his years of service, he knows he has served many years in different capacities including service on the School Committee. You have always been a strong advocate for Clinton and it was known where you stood on things.

Board of Health Chairman Steve Lipka – COVID 19 Update

Chairman Kerrigan invited Mr. Lipka forward for discussion, he explained he is aware there are no reported cases in town as of today's reporting. Mr. Lipka agreed, there are no active cases in town today and the Governors orders are there are no requirements for masks for people vaccinated. Chairman Kerrigan asked about large scale events, if it will just go on the honor system. Mr. Lipka explained you would have to unless you went by the vaccination card. The State of Emergency is lifted as of June 15, 2021, things should return back to normal after the 15th and the approval for use of the building is back

to the board's authority. Chairman Kerrigan asked about Permit fees for the downtown events, like farmer's markets, maker's markets or beer gardens. Mr. Lipka explained there are permits for approval by the Board of Health, a vendor could apply for approval for one week, annual or seasonal approval. The Annual permit is \$50.00 and the Seasonal is half price. They will work with all applicants. Selectman Kobus asked about restrictions for Youth Sports, are there any requirements. Mr. Lipka explained after June 15 there are no restriction. Selectman Connolly stated one year ago the pandemic was dropped on us, like nothing else seen before. The Board of Health stepped up and worked through it. He wanted to express appreciation for all the hard work of the Board of Health and staff. He is aware there were significant challenges to overcome. Mr. Lipka agreed stating the staff stepped up and worked 7 days a week the Public Health Nurse and department staff did a great job. Chairman Kerrigan agreed explaining he was in constant communication with Mr. Lipka over the past year and there was no play book for this. The department did their best and covered the town, keeping everything operating and he is proud of the work that was done. Selectman Kobus agreed explaining as an employee of the school the Board of Health and School Committee working with the Superintendent and Administrators worked hard. We were used as a model by many to return to in person learning. He appreciated the right plans that were put into place.

Community & Economic Development Director Phil Duffy

Grant Application to Massachusetts Brownfields Program for 329 High Street

Community & Economic Development Director Phil Duffy was before the board seeking approval to apply for the Brownfields Program grant for 329 High Street. He explained the application for the grant would be in the amount of \$100,000 to be used towards the redevelopment of the site. It could be used towards all the necessary testing and reporting for the mediation of the site. He proposed transferring \$35,000 from the community development fund that was earmarked to be used for the 172 Sterling Street site. This money has been unspent and can be used to assess the market value of the property. Selectman Devault made a motion to approve the Community & Economic Development Director apply for the Massachusetts Brownfields Program grant to be used towards redevelopment of 329 High Street and the approval to transfer \$35,000 in funding from the Community & Economic Development Fund. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Duffy explained this is a grant that requires a certified vote, he has prepared this for signature and asked the board members to sign.

Traffic Committee Report

Chairman Kerrigan explained the Traffic Committee met on Friday to review a list of issues, he asked if the board wanted to review each issue separate or approve report as a whole. Selectman Connolly explained he would prefer to review separately he would like to review and discuss. The board agreed.

- *Parking at the Intersection of Prospect Street and White Court*

This was requested by the Fire Department, Fire Chief explained it is a difficult turn to make with cars parked on the street and corner. The Traffic Committee recommendation it to install a “No Parking” sign 20 feet from corner. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the Traffic Committee recommendation with the installation of the “ No Parking Sign” at intersection of Prospect and White Court. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- *Oxford Court Handicapped Parking Request*

There was a request made by a resident for an additional Handicapped Parking space designation. The Traffic Committee recommendation is to decline this request, conforming to past practice they do not hand out individual Handicapped spaces, there have been requests denied in the past. They recommend the resident work with the Oxford Court Property Management to review if there is an adequate amount of spaces.

- *Painting of Handicapped Parking Spaces at Terrace Plaza*

Fire Chief recently reviewed the Handicapped Parking spaces at the Terrace Plaza are not in compliance with the painting demarcation. It is the recommendation of the Traffic Committee to contact the owner of the plaza and have the spaces get in compliance with painting the designation of the space. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the request be made to the Terrace Plaza owner to update the painting of the Handicapped Spaces at the plaza. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- *Parking Restrictions on Vale Street at Water Street Intersection*

The request has been made to post “No Parking” signs on Vale Street on the field side of the road from the snack shake to the end of the road. The parking restricts the road when there is an event at the field and poses a challenge to traffic on the street. The Traffic Committee recommend the installation of the signage. Selectman Devault asked how much parking will be impacted. Chairman Kerrigan explained about 4 spaces. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the Traffic Committee recommendation and install the “No Parking” signage. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- *Speed Sign Data Capture Capability*

The request has been made to have the speed monitoring signs capture the data of the area. Administrator Ward explained the Superintendent of Public Works was researching this. He is unsure if the signs used have the capability to capture data, if not he was planning to research if there is something available to assist in data collection. The Police Department Speed Control does have the capability to capture data. This is the sign that is moved from area to area and not permanently installed. Selectman Connolly asked what type of data is trying to be captured, would it be license plate numbers on cars speeding. Administrator Ward explained it would be the times of day there seemed to be a higher volume of speeding. Discussion continued with the purpose of data collection,

it was explained it can help with enforcement of speed control to identify the areas and times there seems to be a high volume taking place.

- *Fire Gate at Entrance to Conservation Land on Rogers Field Way*

A request has been made to have a gate be installed at the end of the Rogers Field Way to work out the assurance of public safety in that area. Recently there have been some reported incidences that have required the Police Departments attention. There would be keys made available to all the public safety departments for access and it will be reviewed by the Conservation Commission. Selectman Connolly made a motion to support the installation of a Fire Gate at the end of Rogers Field Way. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- *Painting of Bridge Height Markings on Main Street*

This request has been made by the Fire Department who are aware of many trucks that cannot make the clearance of the bridge and have to turn around for an alternate route once reaching the bridge. Traffic Committee recommendation is to have the DPW update the height markings on the bridge. Selectman Connolly made the motion to approve the DPW update the painted height markings on the Main Street Bridge. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Administrative Business

There was none.

Old & New Business

Liquor License Late Night Closing Procedure

Selectman Devalut explained he is aware if a business is seeking approval for an extension to close on Saturday to a 1AM closing they are required to send in a written request on a monthly basis. The approvals are granted month to month, he would like to see the process changed to allow the approval to be annual. The request to be made once a year. If there is an issue that comes up the approval can be revoked under the recommendation of the Police Department. This would be easier on the business owner if approval was granted once a year. Solicitor Gibbons reviewed there would have to be a hearing to revoke, before the approval can just be stopped. It requires a public hearing for a change, now it is just voted monthly as a request. Selectman Connolly explained he supports the suggestions, he does not recall an establishment that has had difficulty receiving approval, and none have been denied if they cannot meet the deadline to be included in the formal meeting request. The approval has always been granted including any additional requests being reviewed by the Police Chief for approval. He explained this is something the board can try but there may be a problem and there would have to be a hearing to revoke the approval. Selectman Devault made a motion to change the monthly approval for extension of hours on a Saturday evening to an annual approval. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: The board reviewed all

businesses would be eligible to request approval since last Saturday May 29, 2021 when the restrictions were lifted. So it was decided the annual renewal in January should include a request for late night for the year as well. For the current year the requests can be approved for 6 months. Selectman Devault amended the motion to have the late night closing requests for an extension of hours on Saturday evenings to be approved for 6 months through the end of this year and then for an Annual 12 month approval in January. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the amendment. Under Discussion: Selectman Kobus asked if a business doesn't submit at the beginning of the year. Selectman Devault explained the business can submit at any time during the year. The vote to approve amendment was unanimous. Chairman Kerrigan took a vote to approve amended motion. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Kerrigan thanked Selectman Devault explaining this is a good idea.

Civic Fund Donation Requests

Selectman Connolly explained there are 3 primary events held in the community annually and the balance of the civic fund is \$18,000. He would like to approve donations to the Annual Fireworks event supported by the Fire Department union of \$6000.00, the Olde Home Days event supported by the OHD Committee of \$5000.00 and the Annual Pops Concert supported by the Parks & Recreation Department of \$4000.00, leaving a remaining balance of \$3000.00. Selectman Connolly made a motion to expend donations from the Civic Fund to the Fire Union for \$6000.00, Olde Home Day event for \$5000.00 and the Parks & Recreation Holiday Pops event for \$4000.00. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of Town Accountant Contract Renewal

Chairman Kerrigan explained the board has approved the contract renewal and terms for the Town Accountant in Executive Session, an approval in open meeting is needed. Selectman Connolly made a motion to approve the Town Accountant contract with terms approved in Executive Session. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Town Report

Selectman Kobus asked for an update on the Annual Town Report, is it on track to be ready for town meeting. Administrator Ward explained yes.

Savage Field Lighting

Selectman Kobus asked if the date had been set for the final walk thru of the Savage Field Lighting project. Administrator Ward explained the Chairman of the Building Committee and the Facility Director are working this, the operating manual has been sent out to the town which was the final task.

High Street Reconstruction Project

Selectman Devault explained the construction project is underway and with no parking lines on the road now, he is curious if the angle can be steeper to allow for more parking. This would make the road more passable, he understands the project is close to being finished but can this conversation be had. Selectman Connolly explained a lot of times recommendations can be made but there are outside contributing factors that make them impossible and you wouldn't know unless you were part of the design and planning of the project. Selectman Devault asked for the conversation to be had.

Selectman Connolly Recognition of Service

Chairman Kerrigan presented Selectman Connolly with a plaque recognizing his years of service to the town. He is aware he began service on the Park & Recreation board at the age of 19 and continued on with service on the School Committee and Finance Committee along with numerous building committees and subcommittees. He thanked him for all of his dedicated service over the years. Chairman Kerrigan shared thoughts about his friendship and service with Selectman Connolly. Selectman Connolly thanked Chairman Kerrigan and the board and all the previous board members he served with. He thanked all the Town Officials he has worked with over the years and Town Administrator Michael Ward. Mr. Ward has been supportive to him in this role over the last 12 years and is always been a wealth of knowledge he would walk away learning something from him. He thanked all the town employees who help make Clinton a better place to live and he thanked the voters for their support in electing him. He is aware the Selectman will be known as Select people at this time next year but he wants it known his title is the last Selectman. Selectman Devault shared some thoughts and his appreciation of serving with Selectman Connolly.

Selectman Connolly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01PM. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant to the Clinton Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator