

**Selectmen Meeting  
Minute  
July 7, 2021**

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

**Public Comment**

There was none.

**Review of Minutes**

The board received minutes from June 16, 2021 Selectmen's meeting for review and approval. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Common Victuallers License Hearing- 54 High Street**

**Nicole Brousnet d/b/a The Vegan Nest Café**

Chairman Kerrigan opened the hearing inviting the applicant forward. Ms. Nicole Brousnet was before the board. Chairman Kerrigan asked about the business she has opened. Ms. Brousnet explained she has opened the Vegans Nest Café, which feature all organic food. She explained she intends to source all of the supplies locally always providing organic fresh food. On the menu she offers sandwiches and soups along with other vegan features. Chairman Kerrigan opened the hearing for Public Comment, in favor, there was none. In opposition, there was none. He closed the public hearing. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve Common Victuallers license to Nicole Brousnet d/b/a The Vegan Nest Café as presented. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Kerrigan explained he is thrilled to have the new business, and happy the owners stuck it out through the pandemic, the place looks great. He wished her best of luck. The vote was unanimous.

**JustinCredibles Cannabis Cultivation Presentation- Green Street**

Chairman Kerrigan invited the representatives forward from JustinCredibles for presentation. Mr. Reginald Stafield was before the board with a request to enter into a host agreement for a cannabis cultivation and manufacturing business. He explained currently he operates in Cummington, MA. He opened prior to COVID and despite COVID is ready to expand and needs a larger space to provide more cannabis to the market. He is a woman, minority and veteran owned business that will be seeking a change in location

from the state. They are interested in expanding to 99 Green Street, they are working with a realtor on the space. Chairman Kerrigan stated they are seeking approval to enter into negotiations for a host agreement. Selectman Devault asked if the business was for cannabis cultivation only. Mr. Stafield explained yes cultivating and manufacturing. Chairman Kerrigan explained he is glad to here he is able to expand his business to Clinton. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve Reginald Stafield of JustinCredibles Cannabis enter into host agreement negotiations with the Town Administrator and Town Solicitor. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **Police Chief Candidate Interviews & Appointment**

Chairman Kerrigan explained the board has been presented with a list of three for the Police Chief position. The first candidate is Lieutenant Brian Coyne. Chairman Kerrigan welcomed Lt. Coyne and asked him to review his career and why he has interest in being the next Police Chief. Lt. Coyne thanked the board for inviting him to interview. He is a lifelong Clinton resident, he and his wife live in town and he has three children in the Clinton school system. He has his Associates degree, Bachelor's degree and Master Degree in Criminal Justice. He began his career at the Mass Department of Corrections in Lancaster at the prerelease facility, he worked there 5 to 6 years. He found it to be a good stepping stone to begin his career, then he became a patrolman for the town in 1997, he has been with the department for 24 years. He was a patrolman for 11 years he worked the night shift. In 2008 he was promoted to Detective, which was a great opportunity, he was able to get more training and experience. He was a Detective for four years before becoming a Sergeant in 2012. This was another great opportunity to be challenged and take on the role of a Supervisor, he gained a lot of experience to move on to the next level. In 2014 he was promoted to Lieutenant, which was a difficult challenge but very rewarding, the Chief has been very supportive to him over the last seven years. He realized the impact he had on the department with every role he has served. At this time he assumes the duties of the Chief in his absence, he has experience and knowledge of the position. He has a proven track record. He is aware of some retirements coming up within the department along with three new officers that were sworn in last week. There is constant change, in today's world and the department, the department has to adapt to the needs of the community. He is aware with Policing there will be a lot of change, new supervising and new ideas. He would like to develop new policies, he supports community policing and would like to get more involved with the community, allowing community input in decision making and programming. He recently met the new housing Director and intends to follow up on introducing programing in the housing developments. He is involved in the community with Youth Sports and is a stakeholder in the community, he wants to make sure he does the right thing. Chairman Kerrigan asked, being a Cop over the last 10 years, what do you see as the changes over

the next 10 years. Lt. Coyne explained policing has constantly been changing, he intends to self-assess the department, where they are? What they do? What they can do better? He plans to put together a strategic plan, having the infinite mindset, which is look at the big picture he heard of this from Simon Sinek. The big picture will include the officers and business owners to gather input from. One of the biggest problems today is mental health. He would like to get the training available to all the officers, at this time there are some in new training but all should complete. There is the new reform bill coming which will be more change as well. Chairman Kerrigan asked board members if they had questions for Lt. Coyne. Selectman Devault asked about the parking in the High Street area, there is a continual problem with residents and employees parking in front of other businesses, taking up spots from merchants, what do you think is a successful solution. Lt. Coyne explained this is a long standing issue, the Police Departments role is enforcement. Businesses need to respect other businesses that is the number one problem. He explained working together with the board and businesses on enforcement. Officers are doing their best, he would want to have an officer on foot walking the beat monitoring the enforcement. He would also try to provide some education to the business owners on the parking. He understands a business may leave due to the parking issues. Selectman Kobus explained Lt. Coyne hit on all of his topics. Chairman Kerrigan thanked Lt. Coyne for his time. Lt. Coyne thanked the board and Mr. Ward, he explained he was happy to have the opportunity to interview.

Chairman Kerrigan invited the next candidate Sergeant Miguel Martinez. Sergeant Martinez thanked the board for having him. He introduced himself, stating he is married with 4 children, 2 adult step daughters and two sons 16 & 11 years old. He is active with his children, he is the Vice President for the Fitchburg Youth Soccer organization. He also serves as head coach in the high school soccer program. He started a weight lifting program for the youth to prepare for sports. He explained he began his career in Clinton at the age of 21. At that time he began coaching and was mentored by Mr. John Gorman. What he learned is invaluable. He has participated in a lot of Police Department programs and been involved with a lot of charitable events in town. He is the current President of the Police Association, which does a lot with the community, he believes in giving back to the community. He works with the drug task force and does a lot of work speaking in schools and civic organizations on drugs, he works with parents and teachers. He loves Clinton, he wants to give back and help families. He has done a lot of undercover work with narcotics, he has participated in many seizures that have brought back over a million dollars in assets to the community, which provides a lot back to the town he is the only department that provides like this for the community. He continued discussion regarding his workings in the detective unit and the Worcester County Drug Task Force. He also was a Federal recruit working with the Federal Drug Task Force at one time, he worked on high level cases. He has been a Clinton Police Officer for 34 years, and is proud of it. He has trained a lot of officers and there is a lot of great young talent in the department

now. He is excited as to what is coming to policing and its future, he would love to be in the leadership role. He encourages team building and working together with an open dialogue. It is important to know your people and work with them. If they want to do something and are passionate about it allow them the opportunity. He adopts a living attitude "in it to win it". He thanked the board for the opportunity to talk about the history he has with the department he has a lot of knowledge of the organization and he believes in self-organization and the department is made up of great group of people. Chairman Kerrigan asked where do you see the job changing in 10 years, what priorities do you see? Sgt. Martinez explained he has a warrior attitude. Policing has been the guardianship role, now with policing needs to be more responsive to the community needs. The guys need to be trained with a different mindset. A more softened approach not an aggressive approach is needed. There should be a trust built with the community and the establishment of a partnership with social services to help the Police Department with drug addiction and mental health. There needs to be trust and transparency, embracing the minority populations and together we will thrive. Chairman Kerrigan asked how he sees policing changing, what challenges are ahead. Sgt. Martinez explained a challenge is the overdose situation, there needs to be more education on treatment and help to those with addicted family members. He explained he is a huge proponent of narcotics enforcement. At this time Clinton has programs with recovery coaches who are sent for training and provide services to those in need. Education is needed to get the person on the right track. He also explained mental health is another area they receive a lot of calls on. He knows this needs to be addressed with a combination of better resources and education. Selectman Devault asked about the parking situation for the downtown, the town is making a 4.5 million dollar investment and businesses complain there is not parking available. Sgt. Martinez reviewed he would bring back walking the beat, having a Police presence in the downtown. This will allow for the Police to be seen firsthand in the community by the business owners and citizens. Selectman Kobus stated he is aware of Sgt. Martinez's community engagement, he remembers being a kid, and Sgt. Matinez and his brother would work with the kids at the baseball fields. Sgt. Martinez explained you do not see legends, never see great run this long in the town of Clinton. Whoever is next in line has some big shoes to fill. He thanked the board.

Chairman Kerrigan invited the next candidate Sergeant Joann Duggan. Sergeant Duggan introduced herself, she stated it is an honor to be before the board as one of the candidates for the Chiefs position. Chairman Kerrigan asked her to describe her career. She has been in the department for 23 years. She is the third generation in her family to serve on the Clinton Police Department, he grandfather and father both served on Clinton Police. She is the only female officer in service with the town. She received her Master Degree in 2002, in 1999 she became the rape investigator for the department. She has worked all the shifts throughout her career. She is aware Police reform is coming, there will be needed updating to policy and some growing pains in the department. This week

three new officers began in the department and she is aware there are more retirements to come within the next 2 years. Chairman Kerrigan explained they are looking for the best person to fill the role, why would it be you. Sgt. Duggan explained she is ready for the leadership role in the department, she is motivated to stay focused on task. She knows policing is changing from day to day there is constant change with new laws and policies. The leadership needs to be adaptable and lead the department forward. Chairman Kerrigan asked what she sees the priority and goals for the department. Sgt. Duggan explained the policy can be updated and there should be more outreach in the community. She would meet with church and business leaders along with the School Administration to find out how to best serve the community. She would determine the specific needs for Clinton. She explained she would focus on a cohesive department, in policing there can be a lot of unknowns. Selectman Devault asked about the parking issues on High Street, allot of businesses complain there is no parking available to their customers, how would you resolve this issue. Sgt. Duggan explained to improve parking the businesses have to take a role in alleviating the issue. She would recommended Officers walk the beat, add additional signage and work together with the DPW on notification and education on the parking restrictions. She explained the enforcement can be enhanced with education and notification along with working with businesses. Selectman Kobus thanked Sgt. Duggan for her service, he asked with her experience in the department how she can improve the relationship with Policing and the community. Sgt. Duggan explained she would solicit feedback from the community, asking how they feel the Police do their job, are there improvements to be made. She would reach out to all parts of the community for feedback. Chairman Kerrigan thanked Sgt. Duggan. Sgt. Duggan thanked the board stating it was an honor and a pleasure to interview. Chairman Kerrigan explained there are three great candidates, all really qualified. The board received results from the civil service and the assessment center with a qualified list of how candidates ranked through the process. Solicitor Gibbons reviewed the board can abide by the results, if they chose to bypass a candidate they have to provide a reason. Chairman Kerrigan agreed the board can appoint based on list. Selectman Kobus made a motion to appoint the Police Chief based upon the reported results received and the interviews. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Kobus made a motion to appoint Lt. Brian Coyne as Police Chief. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Kobus reviewed there were three qualified candidates with long standing ties to the community, there has been a lot of recent turmoil in law enforcement and the department has done a great job and continues to do so. Chairman Kerrigan stated the department is in good hands he thanked Chief Laverdure for his decades of service, he stepped up and covered while the process continued. The process was seamless and the budget passed at town meeting includes two lieutenant positions, so the candidates will have opportunity to continue up

the ladder. This is a tremendous opportunity for the town with the start of a new generation of leadership at the Police Department. The vote was unanimous

### **Phil Duffy – Director of Community & Economic Development FY21 CDBG Application**

Community & Economic Development Director Phil Duffy was before the board. Mr. Duffy explained this is a long standing grant program where federal funding is used towards local community projects. This is a single project application, the DHCD will award the grant. He explained for project recommendations he was considering the Ash Street area, the flooding that occurs has made an impact on the area surrounding the playground, it is in rough shape. His other recommendation is the curbing and sidewalks of Prospect Street to connect Walnut Street to High Street. He explained the application will require a public hearing which he plans for August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The board agreed Ash Street area is in need of attention and improvement. Mr. Duffy expressed he was leaning towards Ash Street as well. Selectman Devault asked for a timeline for the application and process. Mr. Duffy explained the application is due by September and the funds will be awarded in January.

### **Clinton Housing Authority Tenant Board Member Appointment**

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the board has received notice an appointment needs to be made by August 13<sup>th</sup>. Interested tenants have completed form to submit interest, but there isn't a lot of information provided. He would like to make the decision based on addition information. Selectman Devault agreed explaining the form submitted only provides name and address. He explained he would like more information on their interest in serving. Chairman Kerrigan agreed explaining the board can table appointment and request more information from the interested candidates. Administrator Ward agreed and explained he will reach out to the candidates and invite them to the next meeting or to submit a letter sharing why they would like to serve on the housing board.

### **Notice of Vacancy on Bigelow Library Board of Trustees**

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the board has received notice of a vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees. Administrator Ward reviewed the board can advertise the vacancy and ask for the Board of Trustees to join them at the next meeting in August to make the appointment. Chairman Kerrigan agreed the next meeting will be held the first or second week in August. Administrator Ward explained there are two years remaining on the term but the appointment is made to fill the vacancy until the next election where the seat would be on the ballot to fill the remainder of the term. The board agreed to advertise and host a joint meeting with the Library Trustees in August to make appointment.

## **Administrative Business**

There was none.

## **Old & New Business**

### FY2021 Year End Transfers

Administrator Ward explained the Town Accountant had prepared a spread sheet of year end transfers for fiscal year 2021 for the board review and approval. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to authorize the transfers as presented. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### WRTA Transportation Contract

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the WRTA has sent over the contract for the annual agreement for the town to provide the senior van service through the Council on Aging. The WRTA will provide the buses and a payment of \$50,205.00 and the town provides the drivers and insurance. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve the annual WRTA contract as presented. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### Crystal Club Charity Donation Request

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the board has received a request from the Crystal Club Charity for a donation to support their upcoming annual golf tournament and fundraising event. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve a donation. Selectman Devault seconded the motion making the amount of \$500.00. The vote was unanimous.

### MAIA Advanced Organics

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the board has received notice from the Cannabis Control Commission that they have completed applications for MAIA Advanced Organics to become a marijuana product cultural manufacturer at 1R & 3R Green Street. The town has sixty days to complete a form that the company in compliance with all local rules & regulations. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve based on all boards have been taken care of. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Administrator Ward explained he planned to check with the Building Inspector to ensure all has been completed for inspections as well.

### Personnel Board Vacancies

Chairman Kerrigan explained Mary Neely Winkler has resigned from the Personnel Board creating three openings and there are three letters of interest the board has received. They are all qualified candidates to serve. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve the three candidates who have submitted interest to volunteer on the Personnel

Board. Selectman Kobus seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Kerrigan announced the candidates are John Baird, Mary Rose Dickhaut and Jolisa Chiounard. The vote was unanimous.

#### Town Meeting Warrant Articles Implementation Timeline

Chairman Kerrigan explained Selectman Kobus would like to review. Selectman Kobus explained he would like to contact Department Heads and ask for a timeline for the purchases or projects that had received approval at town meeting. He explained it would be helpful to have a projected completion date and not roll over articles. Selectman Devault stated he agreed it will be helpful to not have them fall behind like in previous town meeting warrant articles. The Town Administrator is planning an organizational chart with action items to monitor. This can be dovetailed with the action item list. Selectman Perusse asked for a timeline, will this be completed by next quarter, or in a 3 month timeframe. Selectman Kobus explained by the September board meeting. Administrator Ward agrees he will gather data over the summer on and get the timeframes for the projects and have schedule in place.

#### Street Sweeper Service Schedule

Selectmen Kobus explained he would like to work with Superintendent McGown on a tentative plan. He is aware there is going to be some repaving of roads and feels this will be a good idea to keep up with sweeping. He would like to see the downtown area keep up frequently. He isn't sure if the department has the manpower he would like to explore. Chairman Kerrigan explained this can be part of the snow removal scope, along with the maintenance of sidewalks and streets. It can be included on the Goals & Objectives for the next meeting. Selectman Devault asked if the board will be reviewing the subcommittee assignments at the next meeting.

#### Late Night Closings

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the board received a request from T's Liberty Tavern. Administrator Ward reviewed under the board's new policy he had included this request under the informational part of packet and notified the Police Department of the addition to the list.

#### Facility Department

Selectman Kobus asked if notice can be given to the facility department regarding the entry way into the Chamber room. Please have this reviewed to see if anything can be done regarding the squeaky sounds when entering the room can be disruptive.



## **Committee Reports**

There were none.

Chairman Kerrigan explained the board will enter into Executive Sessions and may return to open session. The board will enter into Executive Session under article 6 for discussion of the Landfill Property Access Negotiations. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Boisoneau “aye”, Selectman Devault “aye”, Selectman Perusse “aye”, Selectman Kobus” aye”, Chairman Kerrigan “aye”.

## **Executive Session Article 6 Landfill Property Access Negotiations 8:35 PM – 8:56PM**

Selectman Devault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57PM. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant to the Clinton Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator