

**CLINTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015, 6:30 P.M.
SELECTMEN'S ROOM, TOWN OFFICE**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Towne called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Towne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SELECTMEN PRESENT/QUORUM: Chairman Jeffrey Towne, Vice Chairman Geraldine Dixon, Selectmen Ed Blanchard, Randy Clark, and Ronnie Irving. Also present Interim Town Manager Pamela Violette and Deputy Town Clerk Donna Runnels.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Selectmen's Minutes

Selectman Clark moved the Board approve the minutes of the December 23, 2014, meeting. Selectman Dixon seconded the motion. Vote 5 – 0 to accept the minutes.

Equipment Update

Interim Town Manager Pam Violette reported the town truck transmission went and will cost \$3,600-\$3,700 to replace. It also previously needed a new alternator. Selectman Irving said he knew they had problems with it last fall because they had a booster pack on it. Chairman Towne said the choice is whether to keep or replace it. ITM Violette said that she had contacted Lee Bragg, the attorney used for the bond money, and it was his opinion that money for a truck could come from the bond. Selectman Dixon suggested putting the highway work out to bid. Selectman Clark suggested a lease. ITM Violette contacted the Bank of Maine regarding a bond. The first payment of \$13,000 would be due in 2016 with an interest rate of 2.86%. TD Bank did not respond. Selectman Irving said Ford Credit has some options if the town has multiple vehicles. ITM Violette said she had to apply for a fleet ID number which she has done. ITM Violette asked Selectman Dixon what she meant by contracting out. Selectman Dixon said we could ask Nitram. ITM Violette said the town has been plowing and sanding with the two tractors. She also said that Clayton Pierce called Hammond Tractor to come look at the new tractor. Selectman Blanchard said they hit a pole with it. ITM Violette said Hammond's mechanic said that our tractor doesn't fit the town's needs. Chairman Towne said the budget has a request for a new truck. He said the only thing we can do is repair it at this point. Selectman Irving said it has to have a transmission. Selectman Blanchard suggested a remanufactured Ford transmission with the best warrantee possible.

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Selectman Irving said this would be considered commercial use. Selectman Blanchard said the transmission could be ordered, and we could have it in a couple days. Selectman Irving said we won't get a truck before July so we have to put a new transmission in.

Selectman Blanchard moved that a contractor put a remanufactured Ford transmission with a three-year warrantee into the town truck. Selectman Clark seconded the motion; it carried 5 – 0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Transfer Station, Director Gerald Howard: Recycling

Transfer Station Director Gerald Howard asked the selectmen if they wanted him to cut bags open. He stated there are more shingles and sheet rock going in, and they found a half-full propane tank in the trash. Selectmen Clark stated we have to stay in the law. Mr. Howard said that he would like to make it mandatory to use clear bags. He raised safety concerns for both staff and citizens using the transfer station. Chairman Towne asked what other towns do. Mr. Howard said they use clear bags. Chairman Towne said the other alternative is to watch them dump it in the hopper. Mr. Howard said that the recycling is going great and that 21 tons were saved from going to PERC. Selectman Irving suggested a sign that people will be prosecuted for hauling in hazardous material. Selectman Dixon doesn't think the townspeople will like buying clear bags. Mr. Howard said they've been doing this two weeks, he needs control, and the selectmen need to send him in the right direction. Selectman Dixon said that a lot of people will be upset. Selectman Irving said that he didn't think they planned on everyone doing it. Selectman Dixon said she bets 75% of people are doing it. Mike Hatchey asked if they can charge people if they want to pay. Chairman Towne said the town could charge \$1/bag. Roger Barber in the audience said they voted down the \$1/bag issue in Benton/Clinton. Chairman Towne said that was an advisory vote, recycling is mandatory, and he wondered what other towns were doing. Selectman Dixon said that the town needs to give it time. Chairman Towne said that commercial haulers also have some safety concerns. Mike Walton, a resident, suggested not packing down the trash. Chairman Towne asked about opening non-clear bags and dumping into the hopper. Selectman Dixon asked about dark bags of recyclables. Selectman Irving said yes, he wants to be able to see what is in the bag. Selectman Clark asked how you would enforce clear bags. Chairman Towne again said to just empty dark bags into the bin. Selectman Irving said if you want to use dark bags, you're going to dump them. Selectman Clark said he has black bags at home, but if Gerald tells me I need clear bags, he'll get clear bags. Chairman Towne said a simple rule that applied to everyone would help behavior, and he agreed it's a safety concern. Chairman Towne asked if we have ever penalized anyone for having waste. Mr. Howard said yes; it was asbestos from a floor. Selectman Irving said it was probably an innocent mistake. Mr. Howard said the person threw it in trash instead of demo. Selectman Clark asked about posting a sign. Chairman Towne said it sounds simple and workable.

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Selectman Clark moved that Gerald have authority for safety reasons to request people with black bags to dump them. Selectman Dixon asked when this goes into effect as you're springing it on them. Chairman Towne said there would be an amendment to the mandatory recycling rules. Selectman Clark moved to enact a rule requiring non-opaque trash bags to be opened and dumped. Selectman Irving seconded the motion. The vote was 4 – 1 in favor with Selectman Dixon voting nay.

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Town Budget

Selectman Clark did a salary survey by taking 2013 Maine Municipal salary survey and averaging what each employee made compared with our employees and then making recommendations. Selectman Clark said the section for police chief is for info purposes, and he did nothing with the fire department.

Selectman Irving said the fire department was supposed to be looked at. Selectman Blanchard asked if the police chief included benefits. Selectman Clark said that he assumed they did; they didn't specify.

Chairman Towne asked how the board wants to deal with the budget. Do they want to wait until March? ITM Violette asked if the plan is to raise the \$200,000 every year for road reconstruction. Selectman Irving said this bond was to get us caught up; we need to raise more than \$200,000 next year. Last year there was \$200,000 and \$65,000 for paving. Selectman Clark mentioned the tennis court has not been done. Chairman Towne asked the selectmen if there were any items for the capital reserve fund not in any budget. Selectman Dixon suggested more money for the ambulance.

Fiscal Year 2014 Audit

Chairman Towne mentioned Uncompensated Absences on page 21 of the audit and said we have less liability than we thought. ITM Violette asked if the selectmen were comfortable with her signing the management letter. Chairman Towne asked if it is the consensus that the letter can be signed. Chairman Towne said the overlay article could cover the Uncompensated Absences. Chairman Towne said he would write something up, and it would probably have to be reviewed by MMA. The town could deal with it yearly without raising any money.

SUPPLEMENTS AND ABATEMENTS

Abatement #17-2014 was discussed. ITM Violette said that Steve Dostie was warned that this property would go to foreclosure prior to tonight's meeting. Selectman Dixon asked how much Dostie owed. ITM Violette said that as of today, \$1338.01. ITM Violette said Mr. Dostie was told there was no guarantee this abatement would be approved. Chairman Towne said that if there was a dispute, Mr. Dostie should have paid it and asked for reimbursement. Selectman Blanchard said there's a two-bay garage and

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deck on the house now which are not on the picture. Selectman Clark asked if the abatement last time was not large enough, and he wanted to know if the abatement was approved, would Mr. Dostie still be in foreclosure. Selectman Clark said he didn't think we can let him off the hook for foreclosure. Selectman Irving said he should have come before now. Selectman Clark said they could correct the abatement, but that's not going to change the foreclosure. ITM Violette said Dostie paid \$160 after he talked to Carroll because he figured that's all he was going to owe. Chairman Towne said that we can't abate town property. No action was taken.

Selectman Clark moved to approve abatement recommendation 18-2014 in the amount of \$231.87. Reason: only bought a portion of land. Second by selectman Irving. Vote 5 – 0.

Selectman Clark moved to approve supplemental assessment 4-2014 in the amount of \$244.26. Reason: only sold a portion of land. Second by selectman Irving. Vote 5 – 0.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Update 2012 Foreclosures

ITM Violette said she would like to investigate two locations further before advertising the foreclosures. Chairman Towne asked if it's 60 days before the town is liable. ITM Violette said the town needs to put insurance on the properties after 60 days. Also, the code enforcement officer asks that he have a chance to inspect these properties. Chairman Towne said to put agenda foreclosure notice bids on the next meeting agenda.

Loss Prevention Report

ITM Violette met with John Waterbury of MMA last week. There has been a huge jump in the cost of our workman's comp because of losses. MMA will be doing an inspection of all departments on February 18 going over plans, policies, training records, etc. Each department has been notified. A town safety committee has to be organized. Chief Petley will head it up; Sgt. Bell of the police department and Cindy Lowell of the library will be members. There are scholarships and training resources available through MMA which the town could take advantage of.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Dixon asked if we should put the old tractor out to bid. ITM Violette said that right now it is needed.

Selectman Blanchard asked if we would hold an executive session next meeting. Chairman Towne said if he's back, we can have it.

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Selectman Irving asked if Asplundh is still cutting brush and said that payment should be coming out of highway's budget unless they're cutting wood on the road projects. Selectman Irving asked ITM Violette to question that invoice for the Goodrich Road.

WARRANT

Selectman Clark moved to approve Treasurer's Warrant #42 in the amount of \$303,447.60. Selectman Dixon seconded the motion, and it passed 4 – 0 with selectman Blanchard abstaining as a payment to his son's business was on the warrant.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Budget
- Executive Session on DOL fine issue
- Foreclosure bids

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS NOT RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA - The Board's rules of procedure have imposed a 15-minute time limit.

No questions or concerns voiced.

ADJOURN: Selectman Clark moved to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.; second by Selectman Irving. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna J. Runnels
Deputy Town Clerk

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