



**CLINTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, February 23, 2016, 6:30 P.M.  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Towne called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Towne led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. SELECTMEN PRESENT/QUORUM:** Chairman Jeffrey Towne, Vice Chairman Ronnie Irving, Selectman Edward Blanchard, Selectman Geraldine Dixon and Selectman Stephen Hatch. Also present Town Manager Pamela Violette and Deputy Town Clerk Earla Haggerty.
- 4. ACTION ITEMS:**
  - a. **Approval of Selectmen's Minutes** – Selectman Dixon moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting as presented. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1. Selectman Irving abstained because he was not present at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - b. **Highway Contractor Bid Opening** – Chairman Towne opened the following four bids:
    - a. Tim Gerow, Clinton, Maine - \$105,000
    - b. Taylor Grading, Hartland, Maine – Bid only on grading town roads
    - c. Nitram, Benton, Maine - \$123,000
    - d. Drew Contractors, Hermon, Maine – Bid only on roadside mowing

Chairman Towne noted only two bids could be considered, that being Tim Gerow for \$105,000 and Nitram for \$123,000 because the partial service bids were non-conforming to the Selectmen's original bid request. Chairman Towne asked for Board discussion on the two acceptable bid proposals.

Discussion among Board members turned to whether or not the Board had the authority to award a contract given the direction of the voters in the June 2015 Town Meeting Warrant Article. 34. In an effort to clarify the will of the voters Chairman Towne read Article 34 into the record:

*"To see if the Town is interested in studying whether it is more cost effective to contract out the entire Highway Department beginning with fiscal year 2016/2017".*

Chairman Towne was of the opinion that because the voters had approved Article 34 last year for the Board to perform a study - then it follows that the voters would make the decision arising from the results of that study.

Resident Mike Walton questioned whether or not Selectmen were abdicating Board authority by not immediately awarding a contract instead of handing the decision off to the voters. Chairman Towne stated that in this situation it should be the authority of the voters that makes the decision – especially

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given the contract approval will virtually eliminate a town department – a material change to the town's departmental organization.

Judy Irving, a member of the Budget Committee asked how the committee should be expected to present the Selectmen with an FY 2016/2017 Municipal Budget on March 8<sup>th</sup> with the absence of an entire budget for the Highway Department. Conversation followed that perhaps the Budget Committee could make a recommendation or develop a comparison sheet illustrating the advantage of one choice over the other.

Chairman Towne stated that he would be more comfortable with more discussion on the matter if he could study the language of each proposal. Town Manager Violette stated that she would make copies for each selectman.

Selectman Hatch moved to award Tim Gerow the Highway Maintenance contract in the amount of \$105,000 contingent upon Town Meeting approval. Selectman Dixon seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1 Selectman Irving abstained because of part time work for Tim Gerow.

Chairman Towne placed the item on March 8<sup>th</sup> agenda for further discussion.

**c. Tax Acquired Property Bids – 46 Morrison Avenue**

Selectman Dixon advised that she would excuse herself from this item given there was a family relationship involved.

Chairman Towne opened the first envelope with a bid of \$6,210 from Ellis Appleton, Sr. of Waterville, Maine. The bid included a bank check in the amount of the minimum bid requirement - \$4,000.

Town Manager Violette advised that another bid was available but the manner in which it was submitted warranted an explanation. She advised that Christopher Olsen, the previous owner, had overnighted a bid using FedEx. FedEx guaranteed the delivery by 3 p.m. on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, however, the FedEx plane broke down, delaying the delivery of the actual bid documents until the 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Olsen had provided photo copies of the documents and a \$4,000 check by Email before the deadline but Town Manager Violette wasn't sure the Selectmen would allow the bid.

Selectman Irving asked why Mr. Olsen had waited until the last minute to submit a bid. Town Manager Violette advised that in the past the Town had allowed the previous owner to redeem the property even if the bid was not the highest bid. However, in this case the consensus of the Board was that only one bid had been received as required by the request for proposal and, although the extenuating circumstance for the second bid was unfortunate it did not rise to the level of requiring the Board to set precedent by accepting bids by fax or email.

Selectman Irving moved to accept the bid for 46 Morrison Avenue in the amount of \$6,210 from Ellis Appleton, Sr. of Waterville, Maine. Selectman Blanchard seconded the motion. Vote: 3-1-1. Selectman Hatch being the opposing vote and Selectman Dixon abstained.

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**d. Planning Board Appointment** – Town Manager Violette presented an application for Appointment to the Planning Board from Victoria Winsor. Selectman Dixon remarked that the appointment would have to be for an alternate because there are no vacancies on the Planning Board. Town Manager Violette concurred.

Selectman Irving moved to appoint Victoria Winsor as an Alternate member to the Planning Board for a three year term – expiring June 30, 2019. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.

**e. Local Roads Sign Replacement Program** – Town Manager Violette presented an application from Maine DOT's Local Road Sign Replacement Program which deals with the erection of new or replacement signs of non-uniform or obsolete warning and/or regulatory signs. The program pays for 90% of the replacement cost with the town paying 10% and it was her intention to apply for the program unless the Board had an objection. It was the consensus of the Board that the program was advantageous and contributed to public safety.

Selectman Irving moved to approve the town manager's intention to apply for the Local Traffic Signs Grant Program. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:** 2016-2017 Budget – Discussion on the budget would be premature so item was moved to March 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**6. SUPPLEMENTS AND ABATEMENTS:** None

**7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. General Assistance Audit** – Town Manager Violette advised that the annual General Assistance audit had been performed and the Town remains in good standing and will retain the 70% reimbursement status.
- b. Farm Day Fundraiser** – Town Manager Violette advised that a non-profit group was requesting a waiver of fee and insurance on Farm Day. Selectman Irving asked if other non-profits were allowed the privilege. Town Manager Violette said the Girl Scouts, Seniors group and a AA group use the room on a regular basis.
- c. Clinton High School Monument** – Town Manager Violette provided a rendering and the proposed placement of the monument. The consensus of the Board was that the monument was acceptable and the project should proceed.
- d. Road Posting Problems** – Town Manager Violette and the Board discussed the need of new signage for posted roads and the problems related to allowable “working” truck traffic and “through” truck traffic. Selectman Irving requested that the police show a presence at the problem areas which would serve as a deterrent.

**8. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS - None**

**9. TREASURER'S WARRANT:** Selectman Blanchard moved to approve Treasurer's Warrant # 53 in the amount of \$64,964.87. Selectman Dixon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Warrant approved.

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**10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA – March 8, 2016**

1. Budget Committee Report
2. FY 2016-2017 Budget
3. Highway Maintenance Contract
4. Annual Audit

**11. 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.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

**12. ADJOURN:** 7:56 p.m. Selectman Irving moved to adjourn. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Earla J. Haggerty  
Deputy Town Clerk