

CLINTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL & MAY

Happy Easter!
April 21st



Reminder

The 2nd Installment for
2018 Property Taxes
is due
Monday, April 1, 2019



*HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!
MAY 12TH*

CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Monday, April 15th for

Patriot's Day

and

Monday, May 27th for

Memorial Day



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 9th—6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23rd—6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing on

FY 2019-2020 Municipal Budget

Tuesday May 14th—6:30 p.m.

Informational Meeting for FY 2019
Municipal Budget and Town Meeting
Warrant

Tuesday May 28th—6:30 p.m.

**Nomination Papers Due
April 22, 2019
for Selectmen &
School Board**



WE'RE
HIRING

Municipal Town Clerk and Administrative Assistant

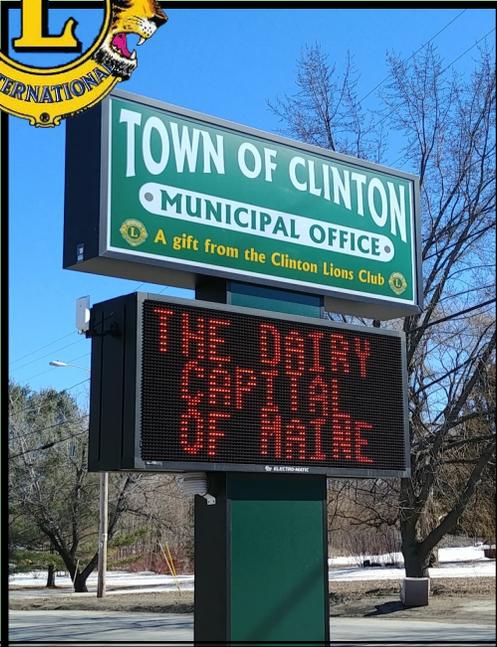
WE'RE
HIRING

The Town of Clinton is seeking to fill the position of Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant. This is responsible administrative and fiscal work supporting executive tasks of the town manager's office as well as serving as an officer of the Town as Town Clerk. An employee of this class is responsible for administration and coordination of federal, state and local elections, preparing legal town documents; securing town records; issuance of various licenses and permits; oversees the town's vital statistics, performs various fiscal data entry with the town's Trio municipal software system, and files various agency reports with the State of Maine.

This individual must exhibit skill sets that include organizational skills, attention to detail, and the ability to maintain confidentiality in all matters of Town business. Requirements include three to five years experience with HR/Payroll processes; a working knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles; cash receipts and the ability to handle cash. Previous experience in a municipal office is preferred but not required. Also of importance is the candidates ability to develop and maintain friendly customer service attitudes with the public, co-workers and town officials.

Salary is dependent upon experience. Health Insurance for the Employee and Income Protection is paid by the town. A Simple IRA is available to this employee with a maximum of 3% match.

Interested individuals must provide a cover letter and resume not later than 3:30 p.m. on **Friday, April 5, 2019** addressed to the attention of the Town Manager at 27 Baker Street, Clinton, Maine 04927.



The Jon Whitten Message Center

The Jon Whitten Message Center

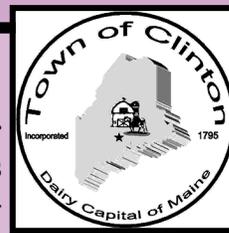
Donated by the Clinton Lions Club

At their February 26th meeting the Clinton Board of Selectmen honored by Resolution long-time resident, Jon Whitten, by permanently naming the new roadside message center

"The Jon Whitten Message Center"

Several months ago the Clinton Lion's Club was searching for a community project for the Club to participate in. It was Jon Whitten whose vision to improve communication for the residents of the Town made the motion to donate the entire purchase price to the Town for the purpose of a roadside message center. **The Town will benefit from the Lion's Club's generosity for many years to come!**

The Budget Committee's Work is Done for Another Year!



The Budget Committee did a fantastic job again this year pouring over detail of nearly 20 separate budgets - giving up eight Monday evenings beginning in January to meet with nine department heads to discuss in-depth each department's plan for the new fiscal year. The result being the Committee was able to bring in a municipal budget with an increase of less than 2% over last year!

Budget Committee Chairman, Judy Irving, presented the Committee's final report to the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, March 26th in the amount of \$2,652,783 - an increase of \$43,203. However, the net impact of the municipal budget on the mil rate is only 45% of that amount given they approved a Revenue Budget of \$1,466,896.

Volunteerism at this level is impressive in that its best work is often done behind the scene and out of sight with little recognition or appreciation. However, in Clinton's case, this Committee holds considerable influence with voters in that over time their recommendations have proven trustworthy. It's a community respect and reputation well deserved because of their hard work.

Please plan to attend the Public Hearing on the Budget on April 23rd!

Thank You to all our hard working Committee Members!

Budget Committee Members

**Judy Irving,
Chairman,**

**Naomi Wiswell
Terry Knowles
Elizabeth Irving
Terry Gerow
Paul Heath
Arthur Glickman
Robert St. Pierre**

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife



Photo I.D. or some form of identification is now required by IF&W to purchase licenses and registrations issued through that agency.

This is NOT a requirement by the Town.

For your convenience
the Town Office accepts credit cards and debit cards.



However, it is your responsibility to remember the processing vendor **PAYPORT** collects an additional processing fee which cannot be refunded after the transaction has been completed.

Motor Vehicle



To register your vehicle, you need to show **proof of insurance** and, we need to know the **current mileage**. If the car is new to you, a **Bill of Sale** and proof that you paid sales tax on that purchase. You will also need the previous **title or the blue title application** form from the dealership.

Pothole Season is always frustrating, but it helps if you know who to call.

For potholes on Route 100, Baker Street, Pleasant Street, Hinckley Road, or the Canaan Road, you **MUST** call

**Maine Department of Transportation
624-8200**

**All other calls should be directed to
Clinton Town Office
426-8511**



Please take a few moments to think about how many square feet there are in your living room. Is it about 397 square feet? Now, try to imagine operating a professional law enforcement agency effectively, efficiently and safely out of that small space. See the problem?

That is exactly what Chief Bell has been trying to do for the last three years. Essentially, three full-time officers conduct all law enforcement operations necessary to protect the citizens of Clinton in a space about the size of the average living room. Under these conditions it is impossible to secure or insure the safety of detainees, officers or members of the public without proper ways and means to do so. Town administration has reached out to the Maine Municipal Association's Risk Management group to help identify the risks of continuing police operations without adequate facility.

To date the department has managed as well as it has with "a little help from their friends", meaning, our neighboring departments Fairfield and Winslow. These towns allow our department to use their policing resources from time to time to perform functions for which Clinton does not have facility. We are extremely grateful, but with call numbers exploding (*from 2,888 calls in 2012 to 9,981 in 2018, - 2,026 of which were service calls*), it is increasingly difficult to keep leaning on the generosity of friends. It's time to address the disconnect between the professional performance of this department which residents have come to expect and the public's lack of understanding the department has not been provided adequate facility in which to perform their duties.

At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 12th Chief Bell proposed an affordable and viable solution - converting what is commonly referred to as the "old Dick's Store" on Main Street into a multi purpose facility with a plan designed in such a way as to answer the growing needs of both the Police and Fire Departments.

The Board of Selectmen acknowledge the current space is inadequate as a police facility and approved the concept of purchasing and renovating the building on Main Street. The Board asked that a more in-depth proposal be completed for consideration at their next meeting on March 26th.



Photo: March 20, 2019

At the March 26th Selectmen's meeting Chief Bell presented a Purchasing Agreement for 1152 Main Street in the amount of \$185,000. Selectmen were in agreement the purchase of the building—because of its proximity to the Fire Department—made the purchase extremely valuable to the town's future ability to expand and improve public safety facilities. Therefore, subject to voter approval on June 11th, the Selectmen signed the Purchasing Agreement.

PS. The new budget **DOES NOT** include dollars for the purchase, renovation or operation of the 1152 Main Street project.



Clinton Fire Department



While you are reading this newsletter I hope we are finally into the warm spring weather!! With spring approaching I would like to remind Clinton residents of the town and State of Maine about open burning policies and procedures.

Maine State Law requires residents to obtain a burning permit for outdoor burning of debris. You may obtain a burning permit at the fire station, located at 19 Church Street at NO CHARGE. You may also obtain a permit on line through the Maine Forest Service for a charge of \$7.00. Whichever you prefer is fine, just please remember to get a permit prior to burning. Permits are issued weather permitting 7 days a week. In the past the department has limited burning until after 5pm during the weekdays. As of now we have decided to change this policy and allow permits any day of the week after 0900 in the morning. So weather permitting burn permits will be available 7 days a week after 0900. The reason for the 0900 time frame is once the snow is gone we get a fire weather report from the Maine Forest Service that predicts the fire danger for the day and allows us to make the decision on issuing burn permits. A new fire danger classification has been established by the state as well. The classification went from a number system to a word system. The new system goes from **Low, Moderate, High, Very High, and Extreme**. Clinton Fire will issue permits on the first three classes, **low, moderate and high**. This will all be weather permitting, meaning dependent on winds, recent rainfall, humidity, etc. As an example on class **High** day we may issue permits if there is minimal winds, or a forecasted rainfall during the day, but if it is windy and has been dry permits may be closed. Clinton Fire will not issue any burn permits on days that are classified as **Very High and Extreme**. On these days the State of Maine may ban any open burning at all, including campfires. We encourage residents to call the station prior to getting a permit to save you a trip to the station. **Feel free to call us at 207-426-8522.**

What do you need a burn permit for? A burn permit needs to be obtained for any outdoor burning other than a recreational small campfire for cooking and or heating.

This means for burning of, clean unpainted wood scraps, wood debris, brush, vegetation, grass, leaves, etc. A small amount of paper products may be used to ignite the fire, but nothing extra. On the permit are clear instructions on the requirements and standards for open burning. We ask that minimum of one adult be on site at all times, and a water source and hand tools be available for use as well. Also the fire may not be left unattended at any point and the fire must be extinguished before leaving.

A recreational fire is a small fire contained to a burn area surrounded by non-combustible materials or a commercial steel fire pit. The wood burned in these fires must be clean cut to length wood. No burning of brush, leaves, or large pieces of wood, those would require a permit.

What can't you burn? Household Trash, pressure treated wood, other fake wood products such as press board, plastic, paper products, metal containers, furniture, tires, etc. If it did not come from a tree, or it has been manufactured with chemicals it cannot be burned.

Please be safe when conducting outdoor burning, please obtain a burn permit, always keep a water source handy, never leave a fire unattended, and always make sure the fire is completely extinguished. Please feel free to call the fire station with any questions about burning, and also before you drive in to town you may call to make sure permits are being issued that day.

Chief Travis Leary



Losing Homestead Exemption Value

It was December 16, 1773 when citizens dumped tea into a harbor in protest of the method by which taxation was being assessed! The fact that after nearly 300 years we still allude to that dramatic event serves to illustrate just how emotional the subject of taxes can become.



In Clinton the emotion centers around the subject of Revaluation. The State of Maine, Selectmen, the Assessor and a significant portion of voters understand the need to establish balance in Clinton's tax system through a revaluation of ALL properties. The lack of the revaluation is causing Clinton to lose state reimbursement for **Homestead Exemptions** which many of our residents qualify for.

In 2017 the exemption deducted \$20,000 from the taxpayer's taxable value—in 2018 the exemption decreased to \$18,000. **So, the effect was that all residents having a Homestead Exemption paid tax on \$2,000 more value in 2018 because without a revaluation Clinton's Annual State Valuation Report could not support the previous year's exemption amount of \$20,000 so the state reduced it to \$18,000.**

Winter Roads

Winter roads in Maine are frustrating no matter which side of the Road Commissioner's desk you are on—and, gravel roads are the worst! With nearly a dozen roads, flooding, icing, eroding, or turning into muddy ruts all at the same time town resources get stretched very thin very quickly.

Clinton's Road Maintenance Contractor, Tim Gerow, responds as quickly as possible, deploys town assets where they are the most effective for road safety and to mitigate the problem.

It helps a great deal if drivers would simply slow down and if juveniles would not find it amusing to take traffic cones and signage that are used to warn the public of road conditions.

The Town may sympathize with residents whose vehicles become damaged, but state law forbids the use of public funds to be spent on private property, therefore, the town cannot repair private vehicles.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Monday through Thursday

8:00am to 3:45pm

Walk in appointments at the Town Office

Tuesday mornings 8:00 am-Noon

Thursday Afternoons 1:30 pm-3:30pm



NEW HOURS!



Community Spring Event Planned for Clinton Sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Committee



Saturday, April 6th

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

At the Methodist Church

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage & Fruit & MILK

Easter Basket Festival

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$2.00 per person



Parks & Recreation

Committee Members

Katina Hubbard ~ Jeffrey Pierce

Willie Mooney ~ David Woods

Kevin Douglass

Arielle Young

Ann Lane



Drink Milk !! Celebrate that Clinton is the Dairy Capital of Maine

5 Year Capital Improvement Plan

Almost nothing regarding municipal budgeting contributes to the health and well being of a community like planning and consistently funding capital improvements. It's been tried before in Clinton but, unfortunately, the forces of time and changes in management caused it to fall by the wayside.

This year, with an eye on the future, the Budget Committee insisted on it's resurrection and recommended first year funding in the amount of \$50,817.

The Fire Department was funded for \$28,000 for replacement of Engine 3 and Heart Monitors; Town Hall maintenance was funded for \$5,000; Assessor's mapping for \$2,000 - all very good choices to help us care for our infrastructure.

There will be more discussion at the Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 23rd.

No Scales!

Please be advised the scales at the Clinton/Benton Transfer Station are temporarily out of order.

It will be several weeks before the Scales will be open given the extent of the repair necessary.

In the meantime please plan accordingly regarding your need for weighing. Call Mike – 426-8187

Brown Memorial Library



Upcoming Visiting

Authors:

Ed Rice: April 4th at 6:30pm- A program on Louis Sockalexis, the first Native American from the Penobscot Nation who played for a major league baseball team, The Cleveland Spiders, now the Cleveland Indians. He wrote a book back in 2003 called "Baseball's First Indian: Louis Sockalexis: Penobscot Legend, Cleveland Indian". He is trying to raise awareness of who Louis Sockalexis was and why he is important to Maine.

Mac Smith: April 30th at 6:00pm- He wrote the book "Mainers on the Titanic", it ties to passengers who were on that most famous ill-fated ship.

Event: We are also having a child abuse awareness program put on by the Family Enrichment Council. It is on Tuesday, April 16th, from 1:30 to 3:00.