



Clinton Community Newsletter



Calendar of Events

May 9th - Tuesday - Public Hearing
Proposed Land-Use Permit Fee Schedule

May 15th - Monday - Absentee Ballots Available
May 23rd - Tuesday - Informational Public Hearing
for FY 2018 Budget

June 13th - Tuesday - Town Meeting Election

Unpaid Property Tax

The Tax Collector's List for unpaid property tax will be published in the annual town report as of Tuesday, May 2nd.

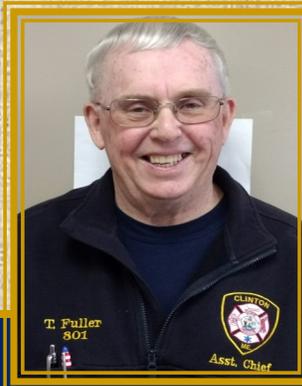
As of April 5th the 2016 property taxes were 12% uncollected, which translates to \$378,209 still awaiting payment and accruing interest at the rate of 7%

There were 12 parcels of tax acquired property for tax year 2014 which are being sold by sealed bids

Free!

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Wednesday - June 21st - 6 to 7:30 pm
Old Mill Park



As a result of Chief Petley's recent retirement Assistant Chief Tim Fuller has been appointed Clinton's Fire & Rescue Chief until June 30, 2017

Selectmen's Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, May 9th
Tuesday, May 23rd

Thursday, June 15th
Tuesday, June 27th
6:30 p.m.

The Town Office is open until 6 p.m. on these dates

First Day of Summer ~ June 21st



MAY & JUNE

The Boston Post Cane - 2017

Selectmen are pleased to announce the Historical Society presented Clinton's Boston Post Cane to **Russell Woodrow Labelle, Sr.** at a luncheon held at the Shawmut Chapel in Fairfield on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Ninety-seven year old Russell and Hannah, his wife of sixty years, have lived in Clinton for more than forty-five years, where they raised four children, Candace, Russell Jr., Todd and Paul.

Russell drove truck for a living and didn't decide to retire until he was 85 years of age! He no longer drives the "big rigs" but even at 97 he still drives his own car.

Pictured from Left to right is the President of the Clinton Historical Society, Buddy Frost, Russell Labelle, Sr, Hannah Labelle, and Clinton's Town Manager, Pam Violette.



Congratulations Mr. LaBelle!

The Mystery Continues...



The Boston Post Cane tradition dates back to 1909 when the publisher of the Boston Post newspaper decided to make ornate canes for towns in Massachusetts to award to their oldest citizens. The tradition became very popular throughout New England, quickly spilling out of Massachusetts for most of the 20th century. There are now 475 New England towns continuing to honor their oldest residents by participating in the Boston Post Cane program.

Interestingly enough it seems this very prestigious artifact has a somewhat hapless history in Clinton. It is hard to understand why someone would stoop low enough to steal a town treasure, especially one intended to honor our oldest citizen but, that is exactly what happened in June 2011.

Upon returning to work on a Monday morning town officials discovered a nefarious act had taken place in the town office over the weekend - the Boston Post Cane had been stolen from the display case. Police investigation and subsequent searches of area antique dealer establishments yielded nothing. Fortunately, the Historical Society and a town resident provided Clinton with two replacement canes.

To date the missing cane has not been found or returned.

If you have information regarding the disappearance or the whereabouts of this town artifact please contact the Clinton Police Department at 426-9192



There is a new face at the Town Office!

Town Clerk, Melody Fitzpatrick, announced Monday, April 10th that **Kathy Selfridge** will join Katina Hubbard at the Town Office counter on Monday, April 24th to begin duties as Deputy Town Clerk. Kathy comes to Clinton with a wealth of experience having worked for more than ten years performing Town Clerk/Tax Collector duties while serving in three municipalities in Maine.



Clinton Public Safety

In 2016 the
Clinton Fire & Rescue Department
responded to 393 Ambulance Calls,
29 Fire Calls and 51 Public Assistance Calls

The Clinton Police Department
handled 6,606 police incidents

2016 Service Statistics



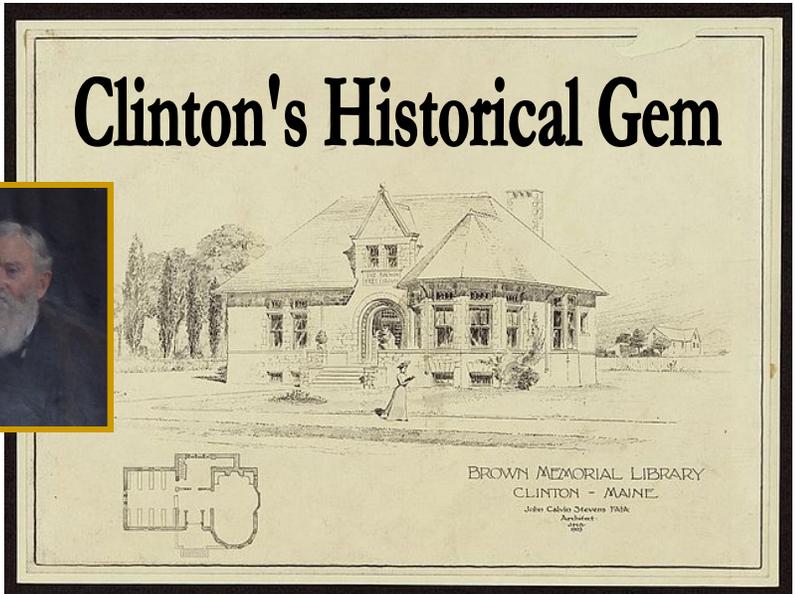
The Brown Memorial Library located on Railroad Street has an impressive history as far as small town public libraries go.

In 1899 William W. Brown donated to the Town of Clinton the land, funds for construction, a few hundred books and a small endowment to provide for on-going maintenance in honor of his parents.



The Richardsonian Romanesque style building, was designed by a noted architect from Portland, John Calvin Stevens. Constructed of pink granite walls and red sandstone trim the building has become quite beautiful during its 117 years of providing literary enjoyment to the residents of Clinton.

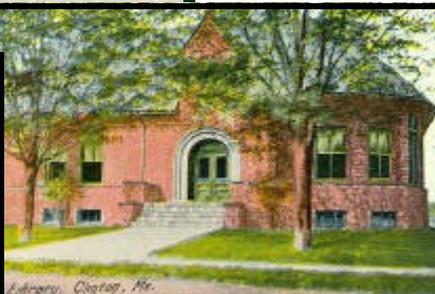
In 1975 to honor the Library's 75th birthday the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places a prestigious recognition which serves as evidence that our Library truly is Clinton's historical gem.



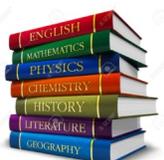
More than just a place to find great books for all ages the Library offers a large collection of DVD movies, free internet access and, recently acquired for all the history buffs in town, ANCESTRY.COM which offers a plethora of genealogical publications, historical materials and an impressive collection of old Clinton Newspapers

The budget for the Brown Memorial Library for the new fiscal year is \$65,095, which includes salary and benefits for two part-time employees, one of which has served as Librarian for a number of years.

This is an amazing place for the whole family to visit - enjoyment for all ages on many levels.



Cheryl Dickey-Whitish, Librarian



FY 2017-2018

Non-Property Tax Revenue



BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Judy Irving
Chairman

David Rancourt
Kelly Rancourt
Crystal McFarland
James McFarland
Myron Whittaker
Robert St. Pierre
Tracey Weymouth
Terry Gerow



Typically, budget amounts for Kennebec County and MSAD # 49, which represent 47% of the total amount raised by taxation, are not available until late May.

REVENUE CATEGORY	Approved FY 2016-2017	Proposed FY 2017-2018	Difference	%
Interest Income - Property Tax	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	0.00%
Interest Income - Bank Accounts	1,200	1,400	200	0.32%
Real Estate Tax Lien Fees	14,000	14,000	-	0.00%
Excise Tax - Boats	2,800	3,000	200	0.32%
Excise Tax - Motor Vehicles	500,000	550,000	50,000	79.18%
Total Tax Collector Revenue:	\$ 538,000	\$ 588,400	\$ 50,400	79.81%
Hunting/Fishing Agent Fee	\$ 850	\$ 850	\$ -	0.00%
Recreational Vehicle Agent Fee	825	825	-	0.00%
Motor Vehicle Agent Fee	12,000	12,000	-	0.00%
Snowmobile Reg. Reimbursement	1,500	1,500	-	0.00%
Dog License Fees	400	400	-	0.00%
Dog Late Fees	250	250	-	0.00%
Animal Control Officer Fees	700	700	-	0.00%
Copier Fees	400	450	50	0.08%
Fax Fees	400	450	50	0.08%
Vital Records Fees	2,800	2,800	-	0.00%
Total Town Clerk Revenue:	\$ 20,125	\$ 20,225	\$ 100	0.16%
Land/Building Fees	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,300	\$ 100	0.16%
Plumbing Inspection Fees	3,000	3,000	-	0.00%
Total Code Enforcement Revenue:	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,300	\$ 100	0.16%
Concealed Weapons Permit Fees	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 50	0.08%
Accident Report Fees	50	50	-	0.00%
Total Police Department Revenue:	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 50	0.08%
Ambulance Fees	\$ 97,000	\$ 97,000	\$ -	0.00%
Total Fire & Rescue Revenue:	\$ 97,000	\$ 97,000	\$ -	-
Cable TV Fees	\$ 19,000	\$ 17,000	\$ (2,000)	-3.17%
Banquet Hall Income	1,000	1,200	200	0.32%
Bad Check Fees	100	100	-	0.00%
First Park Income	6,700	6,700	-	0.00%
Transfer/Recycling Income	185,000	185,000	-	0.00%
Browns Memorial Library Income	600	700	100	0.16%
Cemetery Lot Fees	750	750	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous Income	2,800	2,800	-	0.00%
Total Treasurer Revenue:	\$ 215,950	\$ 214,250	\$ (1,700)	-2.69%
Total Municipal Revenues:	\$ 875,425	\$ 924,375	\$ 48,950	78%
BETE Reimbursement	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	0.00%
Tree Growth Reimbursement	5,500	5,500	-	0.00%
Veteran Exempt Reimbursement	1,700	1,700	-	0.00%
Homestead Exempt Reimbursement	87,600	100,000	12,400	19.64%
General Assist. Reimbursement	9,000	5,000	(4,000)	-6.33%
Municipal Revenue Sharing	149,200	155,000	5,800	9.18%
Road Assistance	54,000	54,000	-	0.00%
Total State of Maine Revenues:	\$ 332,000	\$ 346,200	\$ 14,200	22.49%
GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 1,207,425	\$ 1,270,575	\$ 63,150	100%

The **Non-Property Tax Revenue Budget** is made up of several income streams tied directly to the official offices and authorities represented in a town office administration, i.e. Treasurer, Town Clerk, Motor Vehicle Agent or Inland Fisheries Agent. These income streams are made up of all dollars collected through various departmental services and are projected for the FY 2017-2018 Budget to be \$924,375. In addition to these municipal revenues the town receives revenue from the State of Maine which amounts to \$346,200 in this new budget - bringing the grand total of the Non-Property Tax Revenue Budget to \$1,279,575. This grand total is an increase over last year's revenue of \$63,150, found largely in a projected increase of \$50,000 for vehicle excise tax.

When the projected Non-Property Tax Revenues are used to off-set the projected **Municipal Expense Budget** of \$2,543,394 (shown on the next page) the remaining balance to be raised by property taxation is only \$1,272,819 - which, typically is approximately half of the amount actually raised by property taxation once the Kennebec County Tax and the MSAD #49 School Budget is included.



Informational Public Hearing
Tuesday, May 23rd - 6:30 pm
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Municipal Expense Budget

Expense Category	Approved		Proposed		% Change
	FY 2016-2017		FY 2017-2018	Difference	
Administration	\$ 267,684		\$ 274,377	\$ 6,693	9.78%
Municipal Building	15,748		14,700	(1,048.00)	-1.53%
Code Enforcement	38,086		45,034	6,948.00	10.15%
Assessors' Agent	12,500		26,000	13,500.00	19.73%
General Assistance	27,039		26,863	(176.00)	-0.26%
Fire & Rescue Department	390,629		420,324	29,695.00	43.40%
Police Department	243,160		289,084	45,924.00	67.12%
E-911 Fire/Police Dispatch	17,417		17,731	314.00	0.46%
Animal Control	12,107		12,107	-	0.00%
Highway Department	148,373		153,737	5,364.00	7.84%
Winter Plowing	289,075		285,517	(3,558.00)	-5.20%
Transfer/Recycling Station	316,320		314,486	(1,834.00)	-2.68%
Brown Memorial Library	63,998		64,836	838.00	1.22%
Street Lights	18,700		18,700	-	0.00%
Debt Service	225,723		225,723	-	0.00%
Insurance Expense	145,200		115,300	(29,900.00)	-43.70%
Planning Board/Appeals	700		700	-	0.00%
Non-Profit Organizations	20,546		20,546	-	0.00%
Parks & Recreation	13,454		6,800	(6,654.00)	-9.73%
Cemetery Maintenance	21,882		9,096	(12,786.00)	-18.69%
Election Expense	11,633		11,633	-	0.00%
Road Paving (Cap. Reserves)	150,000		150,000	-	0.00%
Nuisance Property	25,000		25,000	-	0.00%
Mowing Contract	-		15,100	15,100.00	22.07%
MUNICIPAL BUDGET TOTAL:	\$ 2,474,974		2,543,394	\$ 68,420	100%

The FY 2017-2018 **Municipal Expense Budget** as requested by Department Heads; recommended by the Budget Committee and proposed to the voters by the Board of Selectmen shows a net increase of a mere 2.6% (\$68,420) over last year's budget. The greatest increases are accounted for in the budgets of the two departments that protect lives and property, thereby contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community — the Fire & Rescue Department and the Police Department. Those increases are largely for vehicles and for salaries and benefits for thirty-six full and part time employees.

This Municipal Expense Budget has the usual collection of increases and decreases in departmental expenses as town services change and the impact of contracts and mandates come into play. Overall the expense budget came in at a net increase of \$68,420 or 2.6% of the budget.

When the total of the **Non-Property Tax Revenue Budget** (on the previous page) is applied to this **Municipal Expense Budget**, the net impact on property tax bills will be just \$1,272,819 or 50% of the total expense budget.



Understanding the Value of Town Services



It is not always easy to appreciate the value of town services and how each of those services add quality to our daily lives, especially when we are looking at our annual property tax bill which, unfortunately, manages to increase a little each year. So, let's put town services in perspective as the matter relates to not only the municipal budget but to the health and well being of Clinton.

Public Safety: The State of Maine's 2016 Property Valuation Report for Clinton reveals a property value of all homes, businesses and buildings in Clinton at just over 184 million dollars. The 2010 census report officially establishes Clinton's population as 3,486. It is the combination of these two obscure and unrelated numbers that drives the mission of the Clinton Fire & Rescue Department and the Clinton Police Department. Their mission to **PROTECT & SERVE** residents and their property has real time value for taxpayers as well as the 36 employees staffing these departments every time there is a call for assistance or protection. The equipment, gear, vehicles and staffing costs necessary to adequately perform the mission of **PROTECT & SERVE** accounts for 24.77% or \$629,939 of the total municipal budget. These are the town services we all hope never to need but their quiet presence in the background of our daily lives reassure us that professional and responsive help is near when we need it.

Transfer & Recycling: Another town service that is hard to quantify on a daily basis is the operation of the Clinton/Benton Transfer and Recycling Station which processes and disposes all refuse and debris for two communities at a cost projected to be \$314,486 for the new budget. The current contract with the Town of Benton provides approximately \$80,000 in reimbursement revenue which off-sets 45% of directly related expenses. This department is staffed by two full-time employees who do a fine job of keeping the facility in a neat and orderly fashion.

Code Enforcement: (97 Permits issued in 2016) Professional Code Enforcement Services, working in conjunction with the Planning Board, provides taxpayers assurance that building codes and safety standards are applied fairly and uniformly in our community and that growth and development will take place in a healthy safe manner. Recently, in addition to daily operations the Code Enforcement Office has begun bringing Clinton into compliance with State law and town ordinances regarding nuisance properties. This enforcement of current laws not only protects the property values of abutting owners but also impacts the value of entire neighborhoods. Nuisance properties are also high-risk to health and safety issues for those neighborhoods. Code Enforcement Services for the new fiscal year will burden taxation a net amount of \$9,200 or less than one half of one percent.

Roads: Road Maintenance is a visible and often controversial town service and, certainly the most difficult budget to develop. To avoid the expense of purchasing and maintaining expensive highway maintenance equipment the town converted services from a town owned Highway Department to a Highway Maintenance Contractor in FY 2015/2016 which has proved to be cost effective. Historically Clinton has used a combination of bonds, capital reserves, surplus and budget dollars to address the paving and maintenance of the town's 42.64 road miles. (85.28 lane miles) However, developing a budgeting schedule for paving and keeping up with the need for reconstruction, culverts, road side mowing, etc. can be very challenging for the Board of Selectmen when also trying to keep the mil rate as low as possible. The proposed budget includes an appropriation of \$150,000 for paving - that seems like a lot, but to put that number in prospective, it will cost just over \$142,000 to pave 11,000 ft of the Upper Bellsqueeze Road and that is NOT included in the estimated \$375,000 it will cost to reconstruct the road and prepare a base for pavement.



There are several town services that are not easily identified as such, like General Assistance, Street Lights, Cemetery Maintenance, Tax Assessing, Animal Control, Election Services and general Administration of the Town Office. All of these services have a cost associated which can be found in the current budget and each has an intrinsic value to us when we find ourselves in need of the services provided. Most of the time we are unaware of their presence in our community but these services, when well administrated make Clinton a great place to live.