



TOWN OF CLINTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Room, Town Office Building
27 Baker Street, Clinton, Maine 04927

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:31 pm** – Chairman Towne opened the meeting.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chairman Towne lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to The United States of America
3. **SELECTMEN PRESENT/QUORUM:** Jeffrey Towne, Chairman, Stephen Hatch, Vice Chairman, Ronnie Irving, Edward Blanchard and Brian Bickford. Chairman Towne declared a quorum with all members of the Board being present.

UNSCHEDULED AGENDA ITEM – VFW GRANT – Steve Dostie

Chairman Towne recognized resident and a member of the Fairfield chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Steve Dostie. Steve presented the Board with a \$10,000 check as a VFW Grant to the Town of Clinton to be used for the needs of veterans, elderly, single parent homes, home weatherization, property taxes and emergency needs for residents. TM Haggerty provided a Five-Year Grant Report which revealed the VFW had granted \$44,000 to town residents and the town had made grant awards in the amount of \$37,000 leaving a current balance of \$7,654.38. The Board thanked Steve and the VFW for their continued support of the needs of the Town of Clinton.

Selectman Irving moved to accept the \$10,000 VFW Grant. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

4. CONVERSATION WITH BENTON SELECTMEN – RECYCLING – FY 2020-2021

Two members of the Benton Board of Selectmen were present – Robin Cyr, Chairman and Doug Dixon, Vice Chairman. The two Boards discussed the various options available for the disposal of recyclables. TM Haggerty provided a detailed spreadsheet that established current cost for incineration at the PERC plant in Orrington at approximately \$28,000 for tipping AND hauling. (Tipping: \$19,821/Hauling: \$8,360) Using current year data as a baseline the Selectmen discussed three other options for disposal of recyclables – Eco-Maine in Portland, Waste Management in Norridgewock and Fiberight in Brewer.

Fiberight was quickly eliminated based on its poor performance to provide sustainable service to its member municipalities. It was unanimous among the Selectmen that Fiberight was unacceptable.

However, there was a lengthy discussion regarding the value of sending recyclables to Eco-Maine in Portland where items would be sort and marketed rather than being incinerated. The concept appealed to everyone until transportation was factored in at a 57% increase. Estimated cost for hauling to Portland was between \$350 - \$450 per trip. Based on the comparison of 42 trips made to PERC last year the hauling cost went from \$8,360 to \$14,700. The per ton tipping fee increase of 50% - from \$73.13 at PERC to \$115 at Eco-Maine was also discouraging, especially since the contamination penalty was not included in the equation and remained an unknown variable. Overall it became apparent to Selectmen from both communities the Eco-

Maine was attractive in the services they could provide the community but the hit on the bottom line was just too big a burden for taxpayers. Members of both Boards agreed that Eco-Maine's 61% increase in recycling cost over last year was too high.

The discussion turned to whether or not Clinton should revise the contract with Waste Management (WM) from Norridgewock to include recyclables. Currently WM takes all of the Clinton/Benton solid waste and demo debris and TM Haggerty reported that WM was willing to take the recyclables as well. Ironically, WM would sort and send the Clinton/Benton recyclables to Eco-Maine and they would provide the transportation to Portland at a cost of \$40 per ton. Based on last year's 268.88 tonnage the \$40 fee would amount to \$10,755 on top of the estimated \$8,360 in transportation cost from Clinton to Norridgewock. Transportation fees would amount to \$19,115—just for recyclables. WM's tipping fee would also be \$115 per ton which when annualized becomes \$30,921 for 268.88 tons. Over all data revealed a 77.5% increase in cost to take recyclables to Norridgewock.

As painful as it was to admit the only real option financially was to continue incineration of recyclables at the PERC plant in Orrington the decision was unanimous by the members of both Boards.

There was a brief discussion regarding the success and popularity of the Recycling Exchange Shop. Robin Cyr stated that she had heard only good reviews from Benton residents.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **Approval of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – December 23, 2019** – Selectman Irving moved to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2019 meeting as presented. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

- b. **Waste Wood Disposal Bid Opening** – TM Haggerty provided Chairman Towne three sealed bids for the Waste Wood Disposal project which she had received by email or Fax. Chairman Towne opened the bids and read them into record.
 - JMM Enterprises, Inc. from Eddington, Bid total \$15,600
 - Maine Resource Recovery Association, Newport, Bid total \$13,810
 - GottaDo Contracting, Plymouth, Bid total \$30,880

*Cost calculated on an estimate of 160 tons

After a brief discussion about funding and DEP time constraints the Board opted to table the award until their January 28th meeting. Selectman Hatch moved to table the Waste Wood Disposal Bids to the January 28, 2019 meeting.

- c. **Parks & Recreation Committee Appointment** – Selectman Irving inquired as to whether or not Kayla Norstar had previously been a member of the committee and whether or not she had attended meetings. TM Haggerty said Kayla was at two meetings that she attended but could not speak to her attendance record as a whole. Selectman Irving moved to appoint Kayla Norstar as an alternate member to the Parks & Recreation Committee with a term ending June 30, 2020. Selectman Bickford seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 Motion Carries

TM Haggerty presented Chairman Towne with an appointment form for the Budget Committee For Alyssa Connell. Selectman Irving moved to appoint Alyssa Connell to the Budget Committee with a term ending June 30, 2020. Selectman hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. **Resident vs. Non-Resident Appointment to Town Committees** – TM Haggerty advised that she could not find language in the town charter permitting or forbidding the appointment of a non-resident to a committee. She stated that the nature of the Town Charter is to direct residents and employees so there is an assumption it speaks to and for residents.

b. **Job Description - Code Enforcement/Facility Maintenance Supervisor** – TM Haggerty provided the Board with a copy of the revised job description for the code Enforcement Officer and a copy of the CEO Budget for the new FY 2020-2021 Municipal Budget which reflects a salary adjustment of \$6,639. New responsibilities added to the job description is Grant Assistant and Facility Maintenance for town owned properties.

c. **Property Acquisition Report– January 30, 2020** – TM Haggerty explained that the previous tax collector had not filed a lien with the Kennebec Registry of Deeds on the Main Street property for the \$38,000+ worth of clean-up of a Nuisance property in May of 2018. To exacerbate the problem the Assessor’s Agent Garnett Robinson, not knowing the item had been put in TRIO with an incorrect file date inadvertently did not include the item in the FY 2018-2019 commitment. These two errors prohibit Clinton from acquiring this property until the lien being filed in the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds on February 7th matures – 18 months from now.

With the help of Mary Dennison and TRIO Support team we were able to correct the date in the TRIO system, send a legal 30- day notice to lien, and file the proper lien at the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds.

Unfortunately, the same exact errors were made on the Tammy Green property on Morrison Avenue. A 30- day notice to lien has been sent and we will file a lien at the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds on February 7th.

Bottom line: Just because a tax record has been labelled “Lien” in the Trio tax system doesn’t mean it was put through the proper process. Trio and Garnett did not include the property in the “Notice to Lien” process because the incorrect dating put it outside the date sensitive margins of the lien process. The perfect storm!

d. **Town Clerk’s Timeline to Town Meeting** – After discussion with regard to the town charter requirements for town meeting the Selectmen revised the dates of the Timeline to Town Meeting which is Tuesday, June 9th.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **Grass Eaters Lawn Care Maintenance Contract** – Selectman Irving motioned to approve the three-year contract for mowing town properties with Grass Eaters Lawn Care and Maintenance. Selectman Bickford seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

7. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT** – No new items
8. **SUPPLEMENTS AND ABATEMENTS - None**
9. **NEXT AGENDA ITEMS – Tuesday, January 28, 2020**
 - Waste Wood Disposal Bids
 - Thank you Letter to VFW
 - CMP - LED Street Light Conversion Quote
 - Tax Abatement – Nadeau Property
 - Paving Program for Spring 2020 - Report on Available Funds
10. **TREASURER'S WARRANT: January 14, 2020 - Treasurer's Warrant #13**

Selectman Blanchard moved to approve Treasurer's Warrant # 13 in the amount of \$387,912.51. Selectman Irving seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.
11. **COMMENTS / QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS NOT RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. (Rules of Procedure – 15 Minute limit)**

Geraldine Dixon asked how much money had been spent on the Recycling Exchange Shop.
12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matter - M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A)**

8:45 pm – Selectman Irving moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

9:32 pm – Selectman Hatch motioned to come out of Executive Session. Selectman Bickford seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.
13. **ADJOURN – 9:32 pm** – Selectman Hatch motioned to adjourn. Selectman Irving seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Earla J. Haggerty
Town Manager/Deputy Town Clerk