



TOWN OF CLINTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING AGENDA
February 11, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Room, Town Office Building
27 Baker Street, Clinton, Maine 04927

1. **CALL TO ORDER- 6:32 pm** – Chairman Towne called the meeting to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chairman Towne led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance
3. **SELECTMEN PRESENT / QUORUM:** Jeffrey Towne, Chairman; Stephen Hatch, Vice Chairman; Ronnie Irving; Brian Bickford and Edward Blanchard. Chairman Towne declared a quorum noting Selectman Ronnie Irving was absent. Selectman Irving arrived at 7:15 p.m.
4. **ACTION ITEMS:**
 - a. **Approval of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2020**
Selectman Bickford moved to approve the January 28, 2020 Selectmen's Meeting Minutes as presented. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0.
 - b. **Approval of Special Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – January 31, 2020**
Selectman Bickford moved to approve the January 31, 2020 Special Selectmen's Meeting Minutes as presented. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0.
 - c. **Affinity LED Lighting – Street Light Conversion to LED Project** – Kevin Wiswell, Wiswell Electric and John Branagan, Affinity LED Lighting were in attendance to present the Board with a proposal to convert 107 street lights to LED fixtures. Mr. Branagan explained a map of the 107 street lights would be developed and the town could choose to add or removed streetlights locations at that time. Branagan offered two proposals – one for “smart” fixtures (\$54,697) which could be operated remotely to dim or program at will. After discussion the \$15,000 additional cost simply to be able to manipulate street lights seemed unnecessary. Branagan's second proposal seemed more practical for Clinton with all of the fixtures being “smart ready” for future conversion if necessary. The second proposal in the amount of \$39,136 offered a 10-year warrantee on all equipment provided by Affinity.

Kevin Wiswell explained that as the installers of the Affinity fixtures his crew finds that old wires need to be replaced in order to install the new fixtures safely and prevent a maintenance call to that pole later. Kevin estimated 10% be added to the project cost to cover that activity. Chairman Towne asked about the life span of the Affinity fixtures to which Branagan explained they typically last 27 to 30 years.

TM Haggerty explained that a Board decision was not necessary for this meeting. The Board would actually review a Reserve Transfer account on the February 25th Agenda which would determine whether or not the LED conversion project would be realized in FY 2020-2021. She advised the project would consist of the \$6,288 purchase of CMP's light fixtures (not poles) from \$39,136 for Affinity and 10% (\$4,000) of project cost for rewiring. The estimated cost would be to transition streetlights to LED would be approximately \$ 49,424.

Community Policing Update - Police Chief Bell provided the Board with an assessment of his department's performance and that of the Fire & Rescue Department surrounding the tragic weekend vehicle accident on the Hinckley Road where three Clinton teenagers lost their lives. Chief Bell reported that Clinton Fire & Rescue performed admirably in the most horrific circumstances. He advised the Police Department took up the second perimeter to control the public and keep the accident scene safe for the rescue personnel and provided the family notifications. The Board expressed gratitude to both departments for performing at high professional standards and for taking care of the residents of Clinton in such difficult circumstances.

d. RFP Road Paving Plan – Spring 2020 – Tim Gerow, Highway Maintenance Contractor

The Board discussed the RFP for paving the Horseback Road, Cindy Blodgett Drive, Hillcrest Drive and High Street. Selectman Irving reminded the Board that approximately \$20,000 of the paving funds available would be used for prep work on shoulders and brush cutting. TM Haggerty stated she would get the RFP's out to the contractors on the paving list on Thursday, February 13th and the bids would be opened on the March 10th agenda.

Selectman Bickford asked about the State's expectations regarding the guardrail project on the Horseback Road. TM Haggerty advised that Tim Gerow inquired of the State that said the guardrail was free. Because installation is expensive it could not be a project included in the current budget, but could be considered as a Reserve or an article in the FY 2020-2021 budget. She advised she would ask Tim Gerow to work up an estimate.

e. Tax Year 2017 Acquired Property Plan – TM Haggerty explained there were seven properties in acquisition. Two properties proved to have hindrances to acquisition that had been resolved by owners of record and the Assessor's Agent, Garnett Robinson. TM Haggerty provided a spreadsheet indicating the minimum bid for each property was made up of three year's unpaid tax plus interest and Lien Costs and a one-time Administrative cost of \$200. The Board discussed the various properties and decided to accept them all for sale. Chairman Towne determined a vote was appropriate for each property.

1. Selectman Irving moved to include **800 Bellsqueeze Rd (Map 002, Lot 082-H)** in the 2017 Acquired Property Tax Sale scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with a minimum bid of **\$2,028.16**. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

2. Selectman Irving moved to include **41 Church Street (Map 017, Lot 047)** in the 2017 Acquired Property Tax Sale scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with a minimum bid of **\$2,424.77**. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

3. Selectman Irving moved to include **Mutton Lane (Map 011, Lot 037-1)** in the 2017 Acquired Property Tax Sale scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with a minimum bid of **\$1,407.55**. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1. Selectman Bickford abstained from the vote. Motion Carries.

4. Selectman Irving moved to include **791 Hill Road (Map 011, Lot 008-C)** in the 2017 Acquired Property Tax Sale scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with a minimum bid of **\$2,156.79**. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

5. Selectman Irving moved to include **261 Canaan Road (Map 005, Lot 042)** in the 2017 Acquired Property Tax Sale scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with a minimum bid of **\$5,361.71**. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1. Selectman Blanchard abstained from the vote. Motion Carries.

6. Selectman Irving moved to include **76 Pleasant Street (Map 017, Lot 113)** in the 2017 Acquired Property Tax Sale scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with a minimum bid of **\$1,273.19**. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries

4. Selectman Irving moved to include **112 Gustafson Rd (Map 005, Lot 051-099)** in the 2017 Acquired Property Tax Sale scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, with a minimum bid of **\$1,099.40**. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

TM Haggerty said the public notice for the March 10th sale would be in the weekend paper, letters would be sent to the owners of record on February 13th, and bid packets would be available to the public on Tuesday, February 18th.

Chairman Towne stated the Quit Claim Deeds should be on the March 24th agenda.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Transfer Station

- **DOL Training** – TM Haggerty advised the DOL training for the Transfer Station staff for Forklift Certification had been completed on Tuesday, February 4th. She advised this was an on-going effort to develop official training records for all employees and to keep the files current.
- **Brush & Waste Wood Disposal** – TM Haggerty advised both the brush pile and the waste wood pile had been removed from the Transfer Station site by Maine Custom Woodlands. The original contract price for the project was \$8,600, however, a large piece of metal caused equipment repair of an additional \$625. MCW did a great job of cleaning up the site.
- **DEP Requirements – Wood Ash and Ground Water Testing** – The next step towards getting the Transfer Station's license out of the 90 day hold is a groundwater test which must be performed by an engineering company. Frank Gioffre had estimates of \$800 but he was still reaching out to companies for a cheaper alternative. The Ash Plan is being put in writing and will be sent to DEP soon.
- **Recycling Exchange Shop Report** – TM Haggerty expressed her anxiety over getting the electrical work done that was promised in December. Wiswell Electric is over extended and keeps pushing the project which is estimated at \$700 - \$800 back on the calendar. She also advised that Dave Woods was arranging for an LP monitor to be put in the office building because the current electrical heater is making the electric bill too high. She also advised the Board the items being weighed out of the Exchange Shop is approaching 5,000 lbs.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

7. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** TM Haggerty advised that Garnett Robinson would be on the next agenda to talk about the State audit that happened unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 5th. She advised Garnett was upset about the state's findings because he didn't think the town would be able to certify at 80%. Further, he was concerned about the state formulas and how it was affecting state revenues including the school formula. Recognizing it is the Selectmen's fiduciary responsibility to provide an equitable tax system in place the Board discussed different scenarios they could employ for the new fiscal year.

Chairman Towne asked TM Haggerty to get three quotes from banks for a loan for \$225,000 which would allow the town to pay for the reval over ten years. Another suggestion was not to repeat the article for a reserve transfer but rather put it on the mil rate and then to take the \$200,000 out of surplus as "tax relief" to stabilize the mil rate. It is clear the Selectmen can no longer allow a few uninformed voters to hold the Town/2,200 tax payers hostage on the question about moving money from one pocket to another.

TM Haggerty stated the voters do not have to approve the revaluation – the legislature has mandated that all towns shall have a reval every 10 years, therefore, it is the Selectmen's responsibility to protect the tax payers (Homesteaders & Veterans) that are losing 20% of their state benefit for tax relief as well as protect

the state income streams that act as tax relief to the taxpayers. How the Selectmen will treat the matter of Revaluation in FY 2020-2021 will be determined after a meeting with Garnett.

8. SUPPLEMENTS AND ABATEMENTS: None

9. NEXT AGENDA ITEMS – Tuesday, February 25, 2020

1. Review Proposed Reserve Account Transfers for FY 2020-2021
2. Authorize Combining Cemetery and Veteran Memorial Reserves – Fred Lunt, Sexton
3. Review Proposed 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2020-2021
4. Review Proposed Municipal Revenue Budget – FY 2020-2021
5. Assessor's Report & Recommendations for Tax Year 2020-2021- Garnett Robinson, Assessor

10. TREASURER'S WARRANT: Selectman Blanchard moved to approve Treasurer's Warrant # 15 in the amount of \$321,133.63. Selectman Bickford seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

11. COMMENTS / QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS NOT RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. (Board Rules of Procedure – Limit 15 minutes)

12. ADJOURN – 9:32 pm Selectman Irving moved to adjourn. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Earla J. Haggerty

Town Manager/Deputy Town Clerk