TOWN OF CLINTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Selectmen's Room, Town Office Building
27 Baker Street, Clinton, Maine 04927

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 pm –** Chairman Towne opened the meeting.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chairman Towne led the meeting with 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 present.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:**

a. **Approval of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2020**

Selectman Irving motioned to approve the February 11th minutes as presented. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Passes.

b. **Authorize Fire Dept. Application in Regional Grant – Upgrading Radios –** Chief Travis Leary advised the Board that Clinton Fire & Rescue had an opportunity to participate in the 2019 Fire Act Grant – Regional Communications Equipment. He explained this regional grant's purpose was for updating and replacing radio equipment and for a small match of $8,365 the department had an opportunity to acquire $83,646 worth of radio's and pagers. Further, he advised that just one radio could cost as much as $4,000 because the presence of federal money required the replacements be digital. Chief Leary stated that he would be grateful to replace several current radios that were 8 or 10 years old. Chief Leary advised that firefighter safety was soon to be in question without a complete address of the department's communication system made up of 21 radios necessary to communicate during a fire event. He advised 25 pagers was also part of that system.

TM Haggerty advised the match amount of $8,365 was included in the Reserve Transfer Budget that would be reviewed later in the agenda. Chief Leary advised the grant application had a deadline of March 13th but the match would be needed until after July 1st. After discussion Selectman Irving motion to approve the Fire & Rescue Department's participation in the regional grant for the purpose of upgrading and replacing radios and pagers. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Motion Carries.

c. **Assessor's Report & Recommendations for FY 2020-2021- Garnett Robinson**
Garnett explained the impact of the recent state evaluation audit which narrowly allowed Clinton to remain at 80% tax rate. Garnett expressed his concern for next year if the state valuation drops to 75% or lower. He said the lack of a revaluation is causing the town to lose money in all its state

formula's for reimbursement and it is costing Homestead and Veteran exempted residents to lose 20% of their state given tax relief benefit. Garnett and TM Haggerty committed to a plan to develop a letter to be mailed to residents explaining the many ways the lack of a reval is harming the town. TM Haggerty asked Garnett if $200,000 was still a good number to be using for the cost of a Revaluation given the town had been using that number for three years. Garnett said in his opinion $200,000 would be sufficient for 2,200 parcels.

d. **Review Proposed Reserve Account Transfers for FY 2020-2021** – TM Haggerty provided the Board with a Reserve Account Spreadsheet which shows current reserve account balances and proposed transfers for FY 2020-2021. The Board discussed each of the accounts as follows:

- Fire/Rescue Truck or Ambulance Reserve - $10,000 transfer was acceptable
- Fire & Rescue Small Equipment Reserve - $7,865 transfer was acceptable which created a balance of $8,365 for the matching funds for the Regional grant for radio replacement.
- Police Equipment Reserve – $38,000 transfer was acceptable on condition the Police 5 Yr. CIP Account be held to $15,000 this year (Year 2 of CIP Plan) and combined with another $15,000 in FY 2021-2022 (Year 3 of CIP Plan) and another cruiser would not be purchased until FY 2022-2023.
- Transfer Station Equipment Reserve – $70,186.99 transfer was put on hold. (This account was moved out of the 5 Yr. CIP Plan where TM Haggerty had put it in error.) The proposed transfer of $70,187 would create a July 1 balance of $85,000 for the purpose of purchasing a used backhoe. It was also acknowledged that per Benton's contract they would contribute 50% for the capital purchase if their Board preapproved the acquisition. Selectman Irving suggested the Board authorize him to research the idea of purchasing a lease return as opposed to leasing a new backhoe. TM Haggerty said a purchase could be paid from th reserve account but a monthly lease payment would be an operating expense in the Transfer Station Budget. It was agreed the Transfer Station Equipment Reserve would have more discussion on the March 10 agenda.
- Parks & Recreation Reserve - $3,000 transfer was acceptable for the PAL care and maintenance of the ballfields.
- Town Facility Maintenance Reserve - $15,0000 transfer was acceptable because the care and maintenance of 27 Baker Street was continuing (Banquet Room/LED Conversion, and the Fire Station ceiling in the bay was needing repair and/or replacement.
- True Road Reserve – $25,000 transfer was acceptable. TM Haggerty advised the True Road was deteriorating at an alarming rate and she stated the DEP Stream Crossing Grant application of April 2020 for $65,000 probably wasn't sufficient when added to the current balance of $15,000.
- Assessor's Mapping - $1,255.50 transfer was acceptable to bring the account balance to $10,000 for use after the revaluation is completed.
- LED Streetlight Conversion Project – $50,000 transfer was acceptable however the Board asked TM Haggerty to verify there was not to be a hidden risk to the Affinity units because of moisture and condensation. The Board is ready to review a contract with Affinity for the hardware and Wiswell Electric for the installation in the new fiscal year.
- Horseback Road Guardrail Project - $11,000 transfer was acceptable for the verbal estimate from Tim Gerow, Highway Maintenance Contractor, for hiring a company to provide guardrail and installation. TM Haggerty advised she would have something in writing for the March 10th agenda.
- Revaluation - $200,000 transfer was acceptable. Selectman Irving asked how the Board was going to treat the question of Revaluation. Would there be a article on the Town

Meeting Warrant again? The consensus of the Board was to keep it on the Town Meeting Warrant for June 9th. If the question fails to pass the Board will need to take action that will be determined at a later date.

The total transfer amount of $431,307.49 for the Reserve Account Transfers for FY 2020-2021 was not approved by the Selectman and will be on the March 10th agenda for further discussion.

e. **Resolution to Combine Cemetery & Veteran Memorial Reserves** – Fred Lunt requested the Board combine the reserve accounts for cemeteries and veteran memorials into the Cemetery Capital Reserve (2-500-10) so it would not be so confusing for planning and operations. After a brief discussion Selectman motioned to authorized Resolution 20-001 to combine cemetery and veteran memorial reserve accounts with a beginning combined balance of $23,368.66. Selectman Irving seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion Carries.

f. **Review Proposed 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2020-2021** - TM Haggerty provided the Board with a 5 Year CIP Reserve Account Spreadsheet which shows current CIP account balances and proposed transfers for FY 2020-2021. The Board discussed each of the accounts as follows:

- Replacement – Engine 3- $50,000 transfer was not acceptable. The Board reduced the transfer to $25,000.
- Police Cruiser Reserve - $20,000 transfer was not acceptable. The Board reduced the transfer to $15,000.
- Town Hall Reserve - $5,000 transfer was acceptable for long term care and maintenance for 27 Baker Street

The Board did not move to approve the 5 Year CIP Reserve Transfers in the amount of $45,000 so the item will be on the March 10 agenda.

g. Review Proposed Municipal Revenue Budget – FY 2020-2021 – TM Haggerty provided a spreadsheet reflecting the proposed revenues as $1,737,260 but per Garnett's conversation earlier in the meeting more research was needed to determine the correct amount to propose for Homestead Reimbursement. The Revenue Budget will be on the March 10th agenda once Garnett has verified the Homestead revenue.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Transfer Station – DEP Update
   - Ground Water Test: TM Haggerty advised that CEO Gioffre had arranged for a site evaluator and Tim Gerow to dig a test pit for the ground water test required by DEP and all parties were satisfied.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- TM Haggerty advised that CEO Gioffre's decision not to sign the CMP document that would allow electricity to the McIntyre property on Main Street was a decision she supported and believed to be in sound judgement both as the CEO and the Health Officer. In the event Selectmen were to receive calls from McIntyre or his attorney they should not comment.
- Trash & Recycling Report by Arthur Glickman – Arthur and the Board discussed his observations at each facility he visited – Fiberight, EcoMaine and Waste Management regarding their recycling activity. Arthur traveled more than 300 miles to visit these facilities as a volunteer in support of the on-going research into recycling for Clinton. The Board and the town manager expressed their gratitude and appreciation for committing so much time and effort into the report which will ultimately be valuable in future decisions.

8. 8. SUPPLEMENTS AND ABATEMENTS - None

9. NEXT AGENDA ITEMS – Tuesday, March 10, 2020

- Open Bids – Tax Acquired Property Sale
- Open Bids – Road Paving Plan – Spring 2020

10. TREASURER'S WARRANT: February 25, 2020 - Treasurer's Warrant
Selectman Blanchard moved to approve Treasurer's Warrant # 16 in the amount of $40,552.16. 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. (Rules of Procedure – 15 Minute limit)

12. ADJOURN – 9:15 pm Selectman Irving motioned to adjourn. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Earla J. Haggerty

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Town Manager/Deputy Town Clerk