



**TOWN OF CLINTON
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.**

**This meeting is being held via ZOOM video conferencing with
Selectmen, department heads, budget committee members and the town
manager participating from remote locations.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 6:39 p.m.** Chairman Towne called the meeting to order.
2. **SELECTMEN PRESENT/QUORUM:** Jeffrey Towne, Chairman took an audio rollcall of Selectmen to determine A quorum: Stephen Hatch, Vice Chairman – Present; Ronnie Irving- Present; Edward Blanchard – Present; and Brian Bickford – Present.

3. **ACTION ITEMS:**

a. Approval of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2020

Selectman Irving moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2020 as presented. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Chairman Towne called for an audio vote – Hatch/Yes; Blanchard/Yes; Bickford/Yes; Irving/Yes; Towne/Yes. Vote: 5-0 Motion Carries.

b. Town of Benton – Contract Extension to June 30, 2021 – Selectman Bickford asked TM Haggerty if Benton had discussed with her their reason for not doing a three or five year contract as they had in the past. TM Haggerty replied there had been no reason given. She offered that Chairman Robin Cyr had expressed reluctance on Benton's part to participate in the purchase of a backhoe in the new year but did not have a problem with the \$26K increase in the new Transfer Station budget. TM Haggerty stated that she would talk with Robin more about the necessity of replacing the backhoe and that capital purchase was a part of the Benton contract.

Selectman Irving moved to approve the Addendum to Extend the Term of Benton's Solid Waste Transfer & Recycling Facility Agreement to June 30, 2021. Selectman Bickford seconded the motion. Chairman Towne called an audio vote - Hatch/Yes; Blanchard/Yes; Bickford/Yes; Irving/Yes; Towne/Yes. Vote: 5-0 Motion Carries.

There was a discussion regarding how the Selectmen would physically sign the documents they approve in a video meeting. TM Haggerty stated that she would affix electronic facsimile signatures to documents Selectmen vote to approve thereby eliminating the need to meet in person. Selectmen agreed to this method for the duration of the current statewide emergency. TM Haggerty added she would make a notation on the documents of the date of the meeting minutes which could be provided as verification of the vote.

c. Spring 2020 Paving Program Contract Award – Jamie Ward of Maine-ly Paving was present at the meeting because Selectmen had recognized Main-ly Paving as the low bid in their bid opening on March 24th. Since that time Jamie had raised the issue that bonding had not been part of the original RFP therefore, it was his decision to withdraw his bid for Maine-ly Paving in the amount of \$152,756.20 if the town would not buy the bond.

TM Haggerty stated that it was an industry standard to bond for projects in excess of \$100,000 and it seemed redundant to include it in the RFP. Selectman Irving and Hatch both stated that the state requires bonding as an industry standard so bidders should know to bid accordingly. Further, neither Selectman was in favor of the town buying a bond. Selectman Bickford asked if we could waive

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - TM Haggerty asked the Board for direction regarding the Governor's order to move the State election from June 9th to July 14th. She advised that she had been told by the Secretary of State's Election Division that their office has absolutely no jurisdiction over municipal elections. TMH advised she had contacted MMA's legal division regarding the advisability of Clinton keeping the June 9th date as the Town Meeting Election and holding an absentee ballot election. MMA's response was not favorable to such an outside the box decision and thought it likely that Clinton could unintentionally get into a legal quagmire.

Chairman Towne agreed that Clinton should follow the legal guidance of MMA and asked for a motion to move the Town Meeting Election to July 14th. Selectman Irving motioned to move Clinton's annual Town Meeting Election scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020 to Tuesday, July 16, 2020 per Governor Mills Executive Order for the State election. Selectman Hatch seconded the motion. Chairman Towne called for an audio vote - Hatch/Yes; Blanchard/Yes; Bickford/Yes; Irving/Yes; Towne/Yes. Vote: 5-0 Motion Carries.

Chairman Towne advised that all Selectmen's terms would be extended to the organizational date soon after the July 14th town meeting election. TM Haggerty said she would revise the Town Meeting Election timeline and have it available for April 28th.

TM Haggerty asked the Board if the April 15th Public Hearing should be cancelled since it was no longer relevant to the Charter requirement of 55 days to town meeting. Chairman Towne did not agree the meeting should be cancelled because the town had spent a lot of time and money getting public notices and budget information disbursed, etc. He agreed the town had in good faith invested heavily in noticing the public of the meeting so the Public Hearing would take place as scheduled.

PERC - TM Haggerty advised the Transfer Station was now sending material ordinarily sent to the landfill in Norridgewock to PERC in Orrington for incineration per Governor Mills' Executive Order.

Rent, Food and Tax Grants – TM Haggerty advised she had made grants for Workforce Casualties in Clinton – two property tax grants, one for rent April rent, and was disbursing for the Clinton Food Bank fifty \$25 gift certificates.

7. NEXT AGENDA ITEMS – Tuesday, April 28, 2020

- 2020 Paving Program Award
- Selectman Blanchard requested a discussion regarding Hazard Pay for Fire and Police departments

8. TREASURER'S WARRANT: Selectman Blanchard moved to approve Treasurer's Warrant # 19 in the amount of \$297,717.12. Selectman Bickford seconded the motion. Chairman Towne called for an audio vote - Hatch/Yes; Blanchard/Yes; Bickford/Yes; Irving/Yes; Towne/Yes. Vote: 5-0 Motion Carries.

9. WRITTEN COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – TM Haggerty stated she had not received email comments or questions from the public for the Board to address in the meeting.

Chairman Towne asked Chief Leary if his department was having a problem purchasing PPE for his department. Chief Leary said they ordered items as they could find them for future use, but their inventory was holding for the moment.

Chairman Towne asked Health Officer Frank Gioffre if there were any health issues in town related to the Covid-19 virus. Frank stated that Clinton is very fortunate not to have been touch by the virus to date. H thought the public was being responsible for the most part.