



Town of Clinton Selectmen's Meeting Minutes February 10, 2026

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Towne called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Towne opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.
- 3. Selectmen Present/Quorum:** Chairman Jeffrey Towne, Vice Chairman Stephen Hatch, Ronnie Irving, Brian Bickford and Michael Hachey.
- 4. Action Items:**
 - Approve minutes from January 27, 2026
 - Motion to approve by Selectman Hachey
 - Seconded by Selectman Hatch
 - Carried 4-0, Selectman Bickford was absent from that meeting.

Next Item- Clinton Variety Liquor License renewal
Motion to approve by Selectman Irving
Seconded by Selectman Hachey
Carried 5-0

Next Item- Traffic Control, Parking and Pedestrian Safety Ordinance

Motion to adopt the Traffic Control, Parking and Pedestrian Safety Ordinance by
Selectman Irving
Seconded by Selectman Hatch
Carried 5-0

Next Item- School Board Resignation
Melissa Michaud has written a letter of resignation from the school board.
Motion to accept resignation by Selectman Hachey
Seconded by Selectman Bickford
Carried 5-0

Town Clerk Jessica Harriman spoke with Neal Caverly, he agreed to serve on the school board for the remainder of Melissa's Term which expires June 30, 2027.

Motion to approve Neal Caverly by Selectman Hatch
Seconded by Selectman Hachey
Carried 5-0

5. Discussion Items:

FY 2026/2027 Budget

Selectman Bickford asked about the \$50,000 for P&R.

TM said they are trying to anticipate all the scenarios if the town votes to keep the school building, we will need extra funds. This money was actually moved to the town facilities line.

Selectman Irving is concerned that the money will just be sitting there if we don't end up needing it.

Terry Knowles said the school board voted recently to shut down the Clinton school earlier than June.

The town will still most likely not own it until after June of this year.

Selectman Bickford asked about the \$2,000 taken away in OT for the transfer station. He said they are allowing the police department \$40,000 in OT and the fire department \$50,000 in OT.

TM said the transfer station doesn't usually use OT, and the public safety departments use it quite a bit.

Selectman Bickford said the fire department said hiring a 4th full-time employee was going to cut back on OT, now its costing us \$150,000 a year.

TM said we were not budgeting correctly in previous years, so this budget will fix that.

Chairman Towne said each year the Board has to make a resolution to transfer money from other departments to cover overages, the last two years have been the fire department and the police department.

Selectman Bickford said TM told the Board that Grass Eaters was ok with not renewing their contract, he said he spoke with Bruce Salsbury from Grass Eaters, and he said he did not say that.

TM said he had a conversation with him a year or so ago.

Next Item- Highway Budget

TM Swain said the current contractor, Tim Gerow, has decided not to renew his contract. TM has created a budget to hire an employee to do highway work, instead of contracting it out. There will be a lot of things that will still have to be contracted out, bigger jobs.

This employee or the facilities person would do the town plowing, town office, fire department, transfer station, sidewalks etc. We would purchase a pickup truck, and rent the other equipment needed.

Ditching, culverts, shoulder work, we would rent some equipment, and this employee would do the work. He said we would rent a truck and operator to haul material.

Gravel Roads, currently the contractor does the grading and puts calcium down. He feels this could be done by the hired employee with rented equipment.

Sand removal, each spring the contractor removes excess sand on the sides of the roads and sweeps, this would be done by the hired employee.
Replacement of road signs, this can be done by the hired employee.
Paving of roads is the Road Commissioner's responsibility, so that will be between them and the hired employee.

Selectman Bickford said he doesn't have anything in here about truck insurance. He asked if this was a 40 hour/week job.
TM Swain said no, this is a part-time job, 30 hour/week, \$50.00/hour.

Selectman Irving said it'll be roughly \$9,200 per week to hire a dump truck and excavator. It takes Tim 2-3 weeks to do the ditching, so where will that amount of money come from.

TM said we can rent the excavator from somewhere like Eagle Rental, which should be \$12,000-\$13,000 for the week.

Selectman Irving and Selectman Bickford said there are a lot of things that are not in TM's budget.

Selectman Irving said it's a safety issue too, they did not want one person out there by themselves doing the work.

Chairman Towne said he would like to go with a contractor, he does not want to go back to the situation they were in before with a hired employee.

Selectman Bickford said they would be looking at buying a lot of equipment if we went that way.

TM Swain said Tim Gerow has offered to do it for one more year for \$180,000.

Selectman Irving said he would like to see the Charter change, he thinks the town should elect a road commissioner instead of appointing one.

The Board decided to go with a contract instead of hiring an employee. They would like TM Swain to change the budget and write up an RFP for the next meeting.

Next Item- Fire Station Update

Chief Barton and TM Swain had a meeting next door, they are getting ready to pour the mezzanine floor.

Change order- The water district is requiring the meter on the truck fill. \$13,000 change order.

6. Unfinished Business:

7. Town Manager's Report:

Karl Roy is back as a Reserve Officer.

Tobey Blodgett is going to be the new Cemetery Sexton.

8. Supplements and Abatements: None

9. Next Meeting: February 24, 2026
Highway Contract RFP
Change orders for the new Fire Station

10. Treasurer's Warrant:

Treasurer's Warrant #22 \$985,267.55
Includes MSAD 49 payment, Blane Casey payment, and the new ambulance payment.
Motion to approve by Selectman Bickford
Seconded by Selectman Irving
Carried 5-0

11. Questions & Comments:

Rick Barton said the new ambulance will be here Friday.
He said they will be testing towers this week to hopefully improve radio communication.
They believe the interruption is coming from the surrounding solar farms.
\$15,000 EMS Grant is complete for the trailer. They were awarded the \$2,930 Maine Municipal Risk Reduction Grant for a backup camera on the rescue. They got a Forestry Grant, it's 50/50, their portion is \$4,927. He got permission from the town to use Capital money to pay our share. They are going to put a skid unit in the side by side for forestry season. They are writing another one, MMA Ed McDonald Safety Grant, \$3,000 for a rescue boat.
They have been awarded \$24,000 in grant money since May.

Coleen Bean spoke about the "Friends of the Library".
She brought up some concerns about the money that they received from Blynn Galusha years ago.
The "Friends of the Library" is currently a dissolved establishment, so she is not sure what is going on with their money.

Chairman Towne said the Town has never accepted a gift like that from Blynn Galusha.
The Board suggested that TM Swain talks to the Library Trustees to see how they would like to proceed.

12. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Hachey
Seconded by Selectman Hatch
Carried 5-0

Adjourned at 8:12pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Harriman

Jessica Harriman
Town Clerk