



Town of Clinton Special Selectmen's Meeting Minutes March 31, 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:**
2026 Town Meeting Warrant

Selectman Bickford asked why we were adding funds for the renovation of the old fire station for the police department. He said Chief Bell said they would not need any money for renovations when they move over there, and now they are adding \$40,000 to the fund.

TM said they are only getting \$15,000-\$20,000, the officers are going to do most of the work, they will only have to contract some of it out.

Selectman Irving said he does not want to put \$40,000 in that fund for the renovations.

Selectman Irving moved to go with the Budget Committee's police department budget, \$610,438.00

No second

Motion folded

Selectman Hatch made a motion to go with the TM's budget on full-time and the Budget Committee's budget on part-time and overtime, \$708,028.00

Seconded by Selectman Hachey

Carried 3-2, Selectman Irving and Selectman Bickford voted no.

2025-2026 \$584,999

2026-2027 \$708,028

Selectman Bickford asked why the Winter Road budget used calcium, he thought we did away with that.

Selectman Irving said with the salt shortage, they used some calcium.

Chairman Towne asked about the rise in diesel costs.

TM Swain said the contract says if the price goes over \$4.50/gallon, the Town reimburses Nitram, if it goes under \$3.50/gallon, Nitram reimburses the Town.

Selectman Irving said they went up quite a bit on the Code Enforcement budget. TM Swain said there are new laws coming that will change things for Code Enforcement. They changed the Code Enforcement work week from 32 hours to 34 hours.

Selectman Irving asked Chief Barton if they really needed all that OT money for the fire department.

Chief Barton said the Board of Selectmen approved a contract a few years ago that made it difficult to budget for the OT, and it is hard to take something like that back after it is given to them. The full-time employees get first refusal if there is a shift open, which then creates more OT.

Budget Committee's OT budget- \$45,000

TM Swain's OT budget- \$60,000

The Fire Department budget is \$829,511, that includes \$45,000 in OT.

Chairman Towne asked if the Town of Benton moved forward with curbside pickup. TM Swain said they did not receive any bids, so they will still be using our transfer station.

Our revenue budget includes the money from Burnham for EMS services. Almost a 4% increase in anticipated revenue.

Total anticipated revenue \$1,666,736.00.

Total Municipal Budget- increased by 12,419.00 due to the First Park assessment.

Selectman Bickford asked what the total increase is right now.

TM Swain said the debt service went up by \$90,000 to pay for the first payment of the fire station bond.

He said the interest rate for the bond bank is not going to be as high as they expected.

The road bond will be paid off June 2027.

Articles of Authorization

Overlay Article- Authorizing the Selectboard to approve payments from the overlay fund for general account transfers under the Town Charter.

Interest rate of 7% on unpaid taxes.

Interest rate of 3% on abated taxes for overpayments.

Land Use Ordinance to be enacted.

Clinton Site Plan Review Ordinance

To accept the Clinton Elementary School building from MSAD 49 for no money.
Changed the wording so that it doesn't sound like it will for sure be the community center.

To allocate up to \$155,300 to maintain the Clinton Elementary School building.

TM Swain said the undesignated fund balance took a hit from the uncollected ambulance revenue.

We are hoping to at least take ownership of the school so we can keep the land around it that gives us access to the ballfields. If we end up selling the building, we will keep the land and the right of way to the ballfields.

Selectman Bickford asked how we are going to make sure we stay in the budget of \$155,300.

TM Swain said it would have to be included in a resolution to pay for overspent budgets. He said he will have to create a new department for it.

Chairman Towne asked if the Board wishes to adopt what the School Advisory Committee has calculated for FY expenses to operate the school facility.

Chairman Towne said if Article 36 passes, but Article 37 doesn't, then we will have no money to maintain it.

Motion by Selectman Irving to adopt the draft budget with the changes made to Articles 36, 37, and 8 during this meeting.

Seconded by Selectman Hachey

Carried 4-1, Selectman Bickford voted no.

5. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Hachey

Seconded by Selectman Hatch

Carried 5-0

Adjourned at 8:23pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Harriman

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Town Clerk