

**Selectmen Meeting
Minute
January 19, 2022**

Chairman Kerrigan, Selectman Kobus, Selectman Devault, Selectman Boisoneau and Selectman Perusse were in attendance. Attendees were Town Administrator Ward and Solicitor Gibbons. Chairman Kerrigan opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Public Comment

Bigelow Library Board of Trustees Vacancy

Library Director Marie Latier was before the board to explain there is no interest at this time to fill the vacancy on the library board. The current members have discussed leaving the post open until the next election. She indicated they will try to recruit a member and find someone to serve. She will keep the board posted.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from December 15, 2021 Selectmen's meeting for review and approval. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

National Grid Pole Petition: 55 Sterling Street

Chairman Kerrigan opened the hearing inviting the representative from National Grid for review of the petition and discussion. Mr. Javier Morales of National Grid was before the board. Mr. Morales explained the request is to provide needed resources for power to 55 Sterling Street, the existing building converted to housing. Chairman Kerrigan asked if it is for the new condos on Sterling Street, the former market place close to the rail road. Mr. Morales explained yes. Selectman Devault asked if the DPW had any concerns with the project. It was explained Superintendent Chris McGown was involved. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve the petition as presented for 55 Sterling Street. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. Chairman Kerrigan suspended the vote opening the hearing for Public Comment recognizing Attorney William O'Neil. Attorney O'Neil was before the board representing Peter & Tamar Kuipers, District 9 Properties of 10 Parker Street. This pole would be placed right in front of their businesses front door. They are supportive of an electric upgrade to the area, they are overburdened with poles near their business and cannot afford another one right in front. The upgrade is needed but the petition as presented is in question, they do not support another pole in front of their business as presented. At this time there are about 3 to 4 poles in the front of the building, along with a fire hydrant and a double pole at the corner of Maple Street, the two poles are together. This is the front entrance, handicapped parking and a loading dock

are part of the front of the building where the new pole is proposed. They feel with the proper engineering this can be put on the existing poles and trench over Sterling Street providing the needed power to the Cunningham building. Nation Grid has not done their due diligence to review this project, the double pole isn't the right solution, and it is only a band aid solution. They ask for National Grid to create the right solution, they are in favor of improvement to the service for the area but it shouldn't be at the expense of another property owner. Mr. Kuipers of 10 Parker Street and District 9 Properties explained he wants to work with National Grid to provide the upgrade and repair illegal wires that are too close to the building. This is a band aid to the already problem area. There are underground utilities that could be used, he is aware from the restroom renovation he just completed. The new pole will be approximately 13 feet 10 inches to the curb and it would be squeezed in too close to the building. Atty. O'Neil asked the board to deny this petition and have National Grid look into the 3 existing poles that are within 100 feet to the proposal. There has to be a better plan, you cannot expect the business owner to have to dodge the pole. This is a poor attempt of improving the area, it is a band aid. Chairman Kerrigan asked for additional public comment for or against the proposed petition. Discussion continued regarding the petition. Selectman Devault made a motion to table the petition proposal presented by National Grid and have the owner of 10 Parker Street, DPW Superintendent and National Grid work together on alternate solution. Selectman Kobus seconded the motion. Mr. James Cunningham owner of 55 Sterling Street approached the board to speak under Public Comment. He explained he had been working with National Grid for over a year, and the motion made is ambiguous, not providing a final solution or timeline. The plan presented has taken one year to design, he cannot wait on National Grid to research and underground solution. A survey has been completed of underground work and Superintendent McGown has been working with National Grid on this solution. He is aware of what has been presented. There are 39 residential units waiting on owner for far too long. The motion will keep dragging this out, he like to make a motion to support the plan. Perhaps put the pole past the area in question and keep within 20 feet to Maple Street. Selectman Devault stated he would amend the motion. Chairman Kerrigan explained Mr. Cunningham has to be elected before he can make a motion. Selectman Devault made a motion to amend the motion to be a reasonable time frame to present plan, he does share the concern. There should be a fair amount of time there is a need, he would aim for 30 days. So an alternate solution to accommodate the concern of the owner of 10 Parker Street should be proposed within 30 days. Mr. Morales of National Grid explained he will support this request to have approval tonight, he has reviewed every solution. There are a lot of factors impacting this, the train tracks limit how you can run the power. This is the least cost solution to the property owner, falls within the safety standards and all the issues have been addressed. He is gone to great lengths not to interfere with 10 Parker Street, and the public way. Mr. Cunningham supports this proposal. Selectman Devault made

a motion to amend the motion to allow a 30 day review period and then schedule this back on the agenda for discussion. Selectman Kobus seconded the amended motion. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Kerrigan explained it should be scheduled for the March 2, 2022. Selectman Devault made a motion to table the hearing until the March 2, 2022 Selectmen Meeting, with an alternate solution to be presented. Selectman Kobus seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Liquor License Change of Manager- 27 High Street The Greek Fish, LLC d/b/a Clintons Bar and Grille Proposed Manager Chiara Annette Campenella

Chairman Kerrigan opened the hearing inviting the applicant before the board for discussion. Ms. Elizabeth Stano of Upton, Connell & Devlin of 112 Water Street Boston Counsel representing the applicant and Chiara Campenella of 27 High Street Clinton, MA. Ms. Stano explained Ms. Campenella is requesting the change of manger for Clinton Bar & Grille she has been employed as the Assistant Manager for the last 7 years and is now being promoted to General Manager. She is familiar with all of the rules and regulations around serving alcohol and is TIPS certified. She is a US citizen and a Massachusetts resident. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve the request as presented for the Change of Manager to Chiara Campenella at Clintons Bar & Grille. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Downtown Renovation Project & Holiday Lighting Recognition

Chairman Kerrigan reviewed over the last few years the town has been rebuilding the downtown, we were fortunate enough to have several people participate as members of a steering committee including Select Board members along with members of the Holiday Lighting Committee which transformed to the Down Town Decor Committee. It is appropriate to recognize those who have served in various capacity and acknowledge it looks better than it has in my lifetime. Selectman Devault agreed, he wanted to recognize those who participated in the project and feels this should be done more often. The project was a huge success, he has heard nothing but praise and appreciation regarding the updates and décor. He couldn't take the credit for this project it had already been started when he joined the board and a lot of hard work had been done. He wanted to thank all who were involved, and credit the people that made it happen. Chairman Kerrigan reviewed the list of names of members of the most recent Holiday Lighting Committee Mike Dziokonski, Joyce Corbosiero, Dale DiMeco, Matt Kobus, Rob Nierintz, Brian Farragher and Chris McGown including past lighting committee members Dave Sargent, Tony Zahariadas, Cheryl Hughes, and Emily Easterling. Downtown Steering Committee Members Mike Ward, Chris McGown, Mike Dziokonski, Dave Sargent, Dale DiMeco, Bob Paulhus, Peter Wong, Cathy Livingstone and Rob Nierintz and himself. He recognized each member with a certificate of appreciation and invited former Selectman Dziokonski who spear headed the campaign forward for discussion of the project. Mr. Dziokonski explained he never expected the project to evolve as it did, he was spearheading the holiday decoration for downtown. He shared former Selectman Connolly would joke you ask Mike to work on holiday decorations for downtown and \$4.2

million dollars later you have Christmas lights in the down town. He explained it has been a hands on project, it began with a campaign about 10 years ago to bring back lighting and decorating to the downtown. He recalled working in the basement of the town hall with former Selectman Dave Sargent, his wife Jean, Mike and Joyce to string LED lights on the wreaths to be used for solar power lighting. They were not that successful. So we decided to keep trying on different things, like peeling an onion back, we discovered the many layers involved in the completion of having Christmas lights, at the time the current poles could not be used, they weren't safe. When replacing the lamppost it was discovered infrastructure work was needed, which required the removal and replacement of sidewalks. The next thing you know it is a full rehab of the downtown and ten years later start to finish this is what happened. He thanked the former boards of Selectmen for support of the project, the Finance Committee for their efforts along with the town meeting approval of the project. The downtown is an important part of the community. He can remember as a kid driving with his family to see the Christmas lights downtown, Clinton has always loved Christmas, he expressed he is happy it turned out so well and people are happy with it. Administrator Ward thanked all those involved with the project. He thanked Department heads Phil Duffy and Superintendent McGown for all of their hard work. Explaining Facilities Director Brian Farragher came on to the project later but has worked very hard towards its completion as well. The project received a lot of support.

Frannie Hodge-Mass Central Rail Trail Grant Application

Ms. Frannie Hodge and Christine Ebstein were before the board on behalf of Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust to address the gate repairs needed and the Mass Central Rail Trail Grant application. She presented the board with a few options on repairs to the breached gates. She described the options to be used for the closure of the gates explaining she hoped to have them installed for the Spring. Chairman Kerrigan referred this discussion to the Police and Fire Chiefs for review, he asked for them to be aware of the type of closure to be used. Selectman Devault explained if the closure meets all the safety requirements he would go forward with the cheapest one. Selectman Devault made a motion to authorize Town Counsel and Town Administrator Ward to make sure the options chosen are a legal obligation and the safety officials approve, he would suggest option one be used. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Hodge explained she will try to get the feedback by the February 1, 2022 grant application deadline, there is a line item in the grant where this information is included. Ms. Hodge reviewed with the board she was applying for the Mass Central Rail Trail grant and would like a letter of support from the board. It will be a matching funds grant if received, town meeting approval would be required for funding as in the past. The total dollar amount to be awarded is up to \$300,000 so it would be a \$150,000 match amount. This will include the remediation of the tunnel. Selectman Kobus made a motion to authorize a letter of support for the grant application as requested. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Honor Scholar Productions Film Permit Request

Chairman Kerrigan invited representatives of Honor Scholar Productions forward for Discussion on the request for upcoming filming in town. Mr. Patrick Brazille of 9 Suburban Road, Worcester and Mr. Josh Snyder of 16 Old Boston Road, Groton were before the board. Mr. Brazille explained there are two locations to be used in town for filming in February. Scenes will be filmed at Clinton Hospital and 35 Vineyard Avenue, between the dates of Wednesday, February, 2 and Saturday, February 12. A total of 4 days will be active with filming, they have made arrangements to have support areas in town using the St. John's Gym parking area and the Veterans Athletic Complex. We have informed the town departments including Police and Fire, we will have details from the departments on site. Possibly on Saturday, February 12, they may have a driving scene thru part of town, as it gets closer they will provide the information to the Police Department and town for approval. They are not sure of the route yet. Chairman Kerrigan reviewed as part of the process we did have a meeting with all the department heads including public safety to review the request. Selectman Devault asked if the representative had been working with Mr. Duffy, from the Community & Economic Development office as a point of contact. He reviewed the town had recently adopted a new policy regarding filming requests, there should be one point of contact for the town and one for the filming company. Mr. Snyder explained he has been coordinating with Mr. Duffy every step of the way, he has enjoyed working with the town. Selectman Devault made a motion to approve the filming request for the two locations as presented. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Administrative Business

There was none.

Old & New Business

Sterling Street Brewery 5K Charity Run for March 12, 2022

Chairman Kerrigan explained he was contacted by the owners of Sterling Street Brewery who are unable to make the meeting but explained the request. It is an annual run following the similar route used for the Reindeer Run by WHEAT but it will begin and end at the Sterling Street Brewery. The race will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022 and is to support a charitable organization. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to approve the request as presented by Sterling Street Brewery to host the upcoming 5K as presented, with the request also being made to the Public Safety officials as well. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Water/Sewer Abatement for 73 Prospect Street

Town Administrator Ward explained he has spoken with Superintendent McGown regarding the board has received a request from a senior citizen who in the past had received an abatement for a small leak, therefor any other requests for the same property require board approval. He explained the toilet was leaking which was unknown to the property owner, she wasn't able to hear it. It was brought to her attention when she received her bill with a high use amount, the use was higher than the average, normal use. Selectman Kobus made a motion to grant an abatement based on the amount presented and the acknowledgment of repair of the issue. Selectman Boisoeneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Fiscal Year 2023 Town Budget Process

Chairman Kerrigan explained the budget process will begin soon, he is aware there is a new member on the board and new members on the Finance Committee. He would like to outline the schedule. Selectman Kobus explained basically this is his first year on the board throughout the whole budget process, he is not familiar with each step, from the initial presentation to the scrutiny of the process. He is aware of the process outline and expectation but thought it would be a help to have it documented. He asked about the budget process information to have the ability to formulate questions and make the most of the time and be efficient. Chairman Kerrigan explained they start and have department heads present budgets. Administrator Ward agreed explaining they will begin the second meeting in February. In the boards packet will be the budget submitted to the Finance and Selectmen, they will meet concurrently with each board. In the past it has been just the larger departments not all the small departments' present budgets. Once the budgets are presented the board prioritizes the budget needs and Selectman Subcommittee meet with the Finance Subcommittee to put forward the budget recommendations and work together to get on the same page. The Selectmen create a budget and work together with the Finance Committee to put forward one budget at the town meeting. Selectman Kobus stated he has been wondering if the funding proposed for positions is overseen by the Finance Committee on what that number should be. Isn't it the responsibility to present balanced budget and not on what a number should be and not question the board or not fund a position if funded by the Selectmen? He is just curious. The Finance Committee has the ability to not fund a position and go through and fund other items. Chairman Kerrigan explained the statute is followed, prior one budget was presented by the Selectman and one by the Finance Committee. The subcommittee process was established and that is where the Selectmen talk out the priorities, not sure what happened. During the committee discussions the key priorities are clear and put back in. The process is done as a united front and priorities are encouraged when meeting with the Finance Committee. Selectman Kobus asked if department budget presentations can be made together to both boards and questions can be asked of the Finance Committee

and Selectmen as a united front. Administrator Ward explained legally terms of information gathering as you see fit, the logistics are both boards gather information, it can be done at the same time. This may be helpful to explore the idea. COVID had derailed a lot of the budget presentation process, the board does meeting jointly with the Finance Committee for the School Committee presentation. For large departments this is preferred, this hasn't happened with small departments. Chairman Kerrigan explained perhaps the public safety and public works departments can be held with special joint meetings. Selectman Devault asked if the Finance Committee vets each department and approves budgets, do they comment on where funding should be used, for example for two school teachers versus two custodians, this is the department's budget. If the amount is asked for like last year we went through the whole process for the budget and the funding was questioned, who has the authority to fund. Administrator Ward reviewed the budget is so strictly comprised of individual line items, the school by statute cannot be changed, due to the education reform act but the town can. There has been past discussion of collapsing the line items and only have one or two per department. This would only allow for spending within that scope to be spent from the line item with the Town Accountants approval. Selectman Devault stated that is crazy. Selectman Kobus explained if there is a priority to buy a dump truck, and the board of Selectmen have approved for the DPW budget, it can be cut to make up for A/B or C. Administrator Ward explained at the end of the day, the Finance Committees budget goes forward to town meeting. The final say is a collaboration of all working together. Selectman Devault stated he is 3 years into this and the appointed boards have more authority then the elected board that is a crazy process and it is broken. Solicitor Gibbons reviewed the whole point of the subcommittee is for the Selectmen and Finance Committee to work together and get to town meeting with one budget, not have two budgets. Administrator Ward explained that is not allowed anymore by statute at town meeting it is the Finance Committee budget on the warrant. Selectman Devault understands it is well intended to come to a compromise, and he gets the set up but it doesn't make sense for the departments who know their own needs to be told by the Finance Committee where to budget. If it is an issue at town meeting then an amendment is needed to seriously take a look at it because it is not appropriate. Administrator Ward reviewed they have started the discussion to collapse line items with the Finance Committee, which a few have been done the budget used to be a lot bigger and it has been made narrower, this can be discussed further with the Finance Committee. Selectman Devault stated his focus is on continuous improvement and he can see a better way to propose.

Annual Town Report Discussion

Selectman Kobus explained he has brought this up 4 to 6 weeks ago, the Annual Town Report information isn't current. He is working with the by-law review committee to redesign and propose a change in the by-law to get the reports in advance and that they

have current information. The information isn't relevant at town meeting to give any ideas for the budget and spending. Administrator Ward reviewed the Town Accountant can track monthly expenditures and publish budgets updates on the website. This would allow some information on revenue and department expenses. Selectman Kobus stated that would be a great start. Chairman Kerrigan explained the budget subcommittee can review this information as well, the subcommittee for the board is himself and Selectman Kobus.

Maintenance of the Railroad Bridges

Chairman Kerrigan explained Selectman Kobus was interested in an update on the request for bridge maintenance. Administrator Ward explained the merger hasn't taken place yet, he had spoken with the representative who took some photos to share with the engineering department to inform them of the request by the town. He is waiting on a response from the Government Affairs Manager of the Northeast to set up a meeting. He explained members of the board are welcome to join in on call. Selectman Devault and Selectman Kobus expressed interest to join the meeting discussion.

Chairman Kerrigan explained additional items under Old & New Business recommended after the agenda had been posted.

Liquor License Renewal Process

Chairman Kerrigan explained the board has been notified by the Building Inspector and Fire Chief about a few establishments who haven't met the requirements for the inspections certificates and will need an additional 30 day extension. The establishments are Clinton Gourmet, Wrong Way Café, Simpleman Saloon, P&S Pizza and T's Liberty Tavern. Selectman Boisoeneau made a motion to approve an additional 30 day extension, for the listed establishments. Selectman Kobus seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Assistant Town Administrator Position

Chairman Kerrigan explained the Personnel Board met to review the proposed draft job description created by the board and forward on, it still under review with the Town Solicitor. Selectman Devault explained he and Selectman Perusse attended the Personnel Board meeting held on Monday evening, there was a review of line by line and some feedback given and updates to be made, he will incorporate them and send out draft to the board members. He agreed the board is still waiting on the feedback from the Solicitors firm. It is close to being complete, a quick meeting may be needed to get approval prior to the next board meeting, within the next two weeks. The Personnel Board agreed to meet out of cycle to review for approval. Selectman Devault indicated in theory

yes the draft can be sent with updates earlier for review, the only other thing is the pay scale. He doesn't think the job description reflects the minimum on the pay scale, he has reached out to the Chairman of the Personnel Board to inquire. He hasn't received a response. Selectman Kobus asked for the request to be submitted again and if the board can counter to the Board of Selectmen and provide their reasoning. Selectman Devault explained he received a lot of feedback out of left field, but progressively they are getting more productive. Selectman Kobus asked for the itemized request from the Personnel Board. Selectman Devault explained he has revised and will provide the track changes. Chairman Kerrigan explained to be continued.

Committee Reports

Cable Committee

Chairman Kerrigan explained a meeting was schedule for the next day, he wanted to express he is proud of the Cable Committee and the current Director for collaborating with Green Light Studios. A new guideline had been established only immediate family members can attend games, therefor the other may watch on broad cast. We have the best coverage in the region. He is proud of the production and encouraged all to watch the events on Green Light Studios.

The next meeting is February 2, 2022.

Selectman Devault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM. Selectman Boisoeneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant to the Clinton Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator