

**Selectmen Meeting  
Minutes  
May 6, 2020**

Chairman Connolly, Selectman Boissoneau, and Selectman Devault were present. Selectmen Kerrigan and Selectman Devault conferenced in with Zoom meeting. Town Administrator Ward and Solicitor Gibbons were attendees. Chairman Connolly opened the meeting at 7:15PM.

**Public Comment**

Chairman Connolly reviewed the board received public comment by email, he reviewed all.

Mr. Paul Silvester Jr. of Skyline Drive sent notice he reviewed the agenda and saw the Cable & Internet Service for Skyline Drive discussion. He recently became aware of other issues regarding Skyline Drive which need to be resolved prior to this discussion. Please call to work together to resolve.

Mr. William Grady of Skyline Drive sent notice he is 84 years old and doesn't want the anxiety and stress regarding this issue. He has been a resident of Skyline Drive for 47 years. The street and lawns became marked for some unknown reason, then a Comcast representative explained they plan to open for utility. There are outstanding issues to be resolved prior to this happening. He isn't opposed to having the utility, but is totally against a disruption to his lawn and driveway.

Mr. Jim Evergates of Skyline Drive sent in notice he is a 47 year resident of Skyline Drive. He recalls attending a meeting at the town hall 35 years ago where the outcome was the refusal of cable utility on the street. There are other issues to be resolved prior to this issue being reviewed. He explained he is against having his lawn dug up and disruption to his sprinkler system. He understands it is under the board's supervision and is ready to help out in any manner he can.

Ms. Kerrie Carnes-Salwa of Skyline Drive sent notice with three attached proposed plans from Comcast on the installation of the utility lines. She explained she moved into the area 1 year ago and didn't receive notice there was no cable service until the day before the closing. She is requesting the service due to the most recent pandemic and stay at home order she is unable to conduct her work obligations, her children's school and the operation of her husband's small business from the internet dial up service she has. They love this town and community, she is a longtime resident, an active volunteer, board member to Discover Clinton and mother. She asked for consideration to approve the installation proposals as presented to provide the option of a cable connection to the street.

**Review of Minutes**

The board received minutes from April 22, 2020 Selectmen's meeting for review and approval. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Boissoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **FY2021 Draft Town Budget**

Chairman Connolly explained he received an e-mail this morning with a development plan from the Finance Committee the plan contains two budgets. One uses the recommended Governors number for state aid and the other plan uses the state aid number from last year. Both are level funding departments, there are no major differences, except no additional funding to the school funding making the increase 3%. He explained after the review he would like to continue working with the subcommittee on the final budget. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve the Selectman Budget subcommittee start meeting with the Finance Committee subcommittee to finalize a FY21 budget. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Chairman Connolly asked for board members to highlight any issues in the budget for discussion and review. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Connolly asked if the board had any specific requests to be addressed. Selectman Dziokonski reviewed in the news hard times and revenue short falls are what cities and towns will be facing, he would like to review the capital projects proposed, the main focus should be retaining staff and services. Selectman Kerrigan explained the subcommittee has spoken about this and are planning review. The board reviewed the Paramedic study implementation, it will be done in phases. Selectman Dziokonski asked about existing EMT's pursuing becoming paramedics, he suggested structuring a program that would do that. Chairman Connolly reviewed the proposed recommendation is to hire 4 paramedics at the same time 4 existing EMT's would enter a program to become a paramedic. The discussion continued with review this may help with the decrease to the overtime budget at the Fire Department, removing the town from Civil Service may help with overtime funding in the department, as well. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to have the Budget Subcommittee negotiate with the Finance Subcommittee to implement the phases of the paramedic study. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Discussion continued with review of the Capital Project Plan submitted by the Facilities Director. The projects should be submitted as separate articles on the warrant. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to have the Capital Project proposed be submitted for funding as warrant articles. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Devault asked if the proposed capital plan was going to be proposed as an article. Chairman Connolly reviewed the projects should be separate in a prioritized order instead of one large article. Selectman Devault agreed they should be prioritized for town meeting approval. Selectman Boisoneau explained the Facility Director should have input on the priorities. Selectman Devault agreed there will be a benefit to separate, if there are 10 projects proposed there will be the option to vote on each project. Selectman Kerrigan explained this is an extraordinary year, the department is just trying to get caught up to speed. He hopes that going forward the department and the projects can be made a priority, he would prefer to stay away from a la carte government. The Facility Director should prioritize the projects. Chairman Connolly explained this is a new department

and the projects have been deferred for many years, we need to start to get them done. The vote was unanimous.

### **2020 Draft Town Meeting Warrant Review**

Chairman Connolly explained the board received a draft town meeting warrant for review. He began the review of each article.

Articles 1 is the acceptance of the town reports.

Article 2 is the appropriation of town employee salaries.

Article 3 is the approval to raise the funds for the Finance Committee recommended operating budget.

Article 4 is to authorize the Town Treasurer and Town Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement with a banking institution for FY 21.

Article 5 is the appropriation of \$4,800.00 to be used for social services in accordance with programs as approved by the board of Selectmen.

Article 6 is the appropriation of funds the sum of \$20,000.00 to be expended by the town to WHEAT, Inc. a delegate agency of the United Way Tri- County.

Article 7 is the approval to set limits on the total amounts that may be expended from the revolving accounts.

Article 8 is the approval of \$30,000.00 to be used by the Senior Tax Rebate Program.

Article 9 is the approval of \$150,000.00 to the Health Insurance Trust Fund.

Article 10 is the approval of \$150,000.00 to the stabilization fund.

Article 11 is the approval of the transfer of \$1.5 million from the Landfill Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Capital Projects & Infrastructure Improvements Stabilization Fund.

Article 12 the approval of the appropriation of \$150,000.00 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for support of cable access related services, programming and equipment.

Article 13 vote to appropriate the transfer of the sum of \$4.2 million to be used for Phase I & Phase II Landfill Closure and South Meadow Pond Dredging Project and all related work.

Article 14 the approval of the appropriation of \$1 million to be expended by the DPW for road resurfacing and infrastructure improvements as approved by the board of Selectmen. Selectman Dziokonski reviewed this is the first time the town has used funds for the roads apart from Chapter 90.

Article 15 the approval to appropriate \$250,000.00 from the Water Sewer Enterprise Fund to be expended by the DPW for water system improvements.

Article 16 vote to amend the appropriation authorization under Article 25 from the 2019 Annual Town Meeting to allow funds to be used for water & sewer system improvements and equipment for the painting and disinfectant of the Burditt Hill Water Tank.

Article 17 to see if the town will vote to rescind the borrowing authorization from the Rubbish Enterprise under Article 18.

Article 18 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$180,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities for the replacement of the Splash Pad at Philbin Memorial Park.

Article 19 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,500.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities for re-roofing of the Field House at Fuller Field.

Article 20 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities for repair of the chimney at the Bigelow Public Library.

Article 21 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities replacement of the water fountains in the Clinton Public Schools.

Article 22 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities for the installation of a shade device at the Clinton Elementary School Pre-School Playground.

Article 23 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities replacement of sidewalks at the Clinton Public Schools.

Article 24 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities relative to repair and construction of relocation of town offices in the town hall.

Article 25 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities to replace doors in the Clinton Public Schools.

Article 26 vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000.00 to be expended by the Department of Facilities for replacement flooring at Clinton High School.

Article 27 is the authorization for the town to request for the filling of special legislation to allow the board of Selectmen to issues 6 additional Chapter 138 Section 12, all alcohol pouring liquor licenses for the town, notwithstanding the limitation on the number of such licenses which may be granted. Chairman Connolly reviewed 3 of the licenses as part of the request already exist, 2 are over the limit of the quota, and one is restricted to the property address. The request is for an additional 3 to improve the economic development of the community. Selectman Kerrigan it is his understanding from the MMA Conference this is how a lot of communities have increased their licenses, Hudson did the same process.

Article 28 is the vote to rescind the acceptance of Chapter 31 to remove the Clinton Fire Department from the provisions of Civil Service. Selectman Dziokonski explained years ago there was research conducted on when the board of Selectmen changed with political affiliation the hiring was affected, so Civil Service was adopted, which was a good thing and provides great protections to the union. The hiring process is extended when following the Civil Service process, it can take up to 18 months to complete, then the candidate has to go on to the academy. If the town were to hire without civil service they could possibly get an academy trained candidate, some leave the department shortly after being hired and trained by the town. He explained the article will allow the town more flexibility. Chairman Connolly explained for clarification the Chief is the appointing authority for the Fire Department, this is also something the board is trying to accomplish through impact bargaining to address the union concerns if it goes forward.

Article 29 is to authorize the town to file special legislation for the town to amend Chapter 375 of the Acts of 1945 to authorize the Park & Recreation Commission to act as Fuller Field Commission as provided under said statue. Chairman Connolly asked

for the boards support to attend a Park & Recreation meeting to address with the Commission. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to authorize Chairman Connolly to attend the Park & Recreation meeting to discuss the article as presented. Selectman Kerrigan seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dziokonski explained he hoped the Park & Recreation Commission is in favor, the Fuller Field is located next to the office. He explained he appreciates all that the volunteers have done but is hopeful the Park & Recreation can straighten out some of the difficulties the Fuller Field Commission has encountered. The vote was unanimous.

Article 30 Citizen Petition requesting the authorization for the town to borrow or fund from free cash the sum of \$260,000 to be expended by the Facility Department for the design, purchase & installation of a lighting system for the Little League Field at Savage Field. Selectman Kerrigan explained he is supportive of the citizen petition being added but questioned the amount of the project, he reviewed the Park & Recreation Commission presented an amount of \$510,000 as an estimate for the project. The Park & Recreation doesn't support half the amount to complete the project. Chairman Connolly explained no action has been taken by the Park & Recreation on this project request. The amount is to cover just the lighting at the Little League Field. Selectman Devault explained it had been explained there is a structural integrity issue with all the lights, why would the town invest to repair half of the lights. He explained he is in favor of replacing the lights at Savage Field, and disappointed the Parks & Recreation didn't consider this a priority. He would like to see all the lights replaced as one project not half now. Chairman Connolly explained a Citizens Petition goes on the warrant as presented. There is a group advocating for the field who can explain. It is within the boards' purview to add another Capitol Project Improvements Article for a larger project but the Park & Recreation Commission provided feedback not to proceed. Selectman Devault asked about moving the Facility Department articles up on the warrant, explaining they are all needed. Chairman Connolly reviewed the list of articles are presented as general business for the town conducting the basic business first with the lower level priority to follow. He explained the Capitol Project articles can be reviewed again for consolidation.

Selectman Kerrigan asked about the article approving the name change for the board, voted back in February. Chairman Connolly explained he was aware a vote was taken to pursue a name change but wasn't sure of it to be presented as an article for the warrant. Selectman Kerrigan explained it was the intent for it to be included to proceed with petitioning the legislature. Chairman Connolly explained this will be included at the next meeting. Selectman Devault asked if the board should consider postponing some articles to keep the meeting as short as possible, he asked if only the articles to keep the government functioning should be included, so the meeting can go quickly. Chairman Connolly explained he understands the concerns and the quorum requirement, it is a lower quorum for Annual Town Meeting versus Special Town Meeting. It is not in the best interest of the town. There are a lot of factors and to defer making judgments, he would include all articles and they can be tabled at the meeting.

Selectman Dziokonski asked about the Article for the Rail Trail that had been previously agreed to be included. Town Administrator Ward explained he did receive the detailed information submitted and will include.

### **Administrative Business**

There was none.

### **Old & New Business**

#### *Cable & Internet Service for Skyline Drive*

Chairman Connolly reviewed the board received some comments on this issue as part of the public comment discussion. He asked Town Administrator Ward for a review of the request before the board. Administrator Ward explained the development on Skyline Drive does not have cable to allow the residents to receive television and internet service through Comcast. During the recent pandemic a new resident to the neighborhood pursued the installation of Comcast to assist her family's needs for internet. She was presented with two proposals which she then presented to the DPW Superintendent because the road had recently been resurfaced and cannot be interrupted for 5 years. One proposal is no disruption to the road, it would allow the installation in a trench on the side of the road and under the road. Superintendent McGown approved and Comcast agreed to waive the installation costs due to the Covid. Chairman Connolly reviewed with some research it was discovered the road is owned by the developer not the town, now the developer's estate. Town services can cease and desist to the road if not owned by the town. He explained the proposed plan by Comcast to install under driveways and the road using a process called "jacking" and will create no disruption to the road or driveway perhaps reseeding to grass area. Chairman Connolly explained it is the recommended by the Superintendent to approve the installation. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to authorize the cable installation to Skyline Drive. Selectman Kerrigan seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Devault explained this would be no cost to the town, he also is interested if other areas of town are lacking or is this the only neighborhood. Chairman Connolly explained the town had no knowledge, at the time the neighborhood was built the utility were being installed underground. Selectman Devault asked about the neighbors' concerns over the property disruption and who owns the road. Chairman Connolly explained if determined it is not a town road, the town cannot provide services. The vote was unanimous.

#### *Public Works & Facilities Department Schedule*

Chairman Connolly reviewed in working through the pandemic the departments were working on an amended schedule, half on half off. At this time the Facilities Department employees are back to full time schedule and as of Monday the Public Works will return to full time. Selectman Devault asked if the employees are working on a phased schedule or staggered hours to adhere to social distancing requirements. Chairman Connolly reviewed the departments are back to full staffing, and making

accommodations to follow social distancing requirements along with the other proposed requirements.

### *Wekepeke Property*

Chairman Connolly reviewed the board has received a letter from the town of Sterling regarding the Wekepeke property, he asked for the board's approval to authorize he and Town Administrator Ward to caucus with the town of Sterling officials to discuss ways to accommodate the maintenance and good communication regarding the area. The Wekepeke property is owned by the town of Clinton, there is no ownership by the town of Sterling. It is private property paid for by the taxpayers of the town of Clinton with a conservation restriction approved for it 10 years ago to prevent development. He reviewed the letter received demands the residents who abut the property receive written notice by the town of Clinton of the forestry plan, it is prudent both boards need to discuss. He explained the Conservation Commission in Sterling was notified of the plan. The town will fulfill the dam maintenance plan with grant funding and move forward with removing the dam from the property. Selectman Devault made a motion to approve Town Administrator Ward and Chairman Connolly request a meeting with town officials in Sterling to address the concerns presented. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Dziokonski explained there is a long history regarding the Wekepeke property, there was some discussion of legislation that allowed the town to get land by eminent domain with the stipulation to use water supply. The town did not it bought the land. If the town of Sterling wants to consider buying the land, there is no objection from him. The Sterling board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission have expressed that want to have input on taking down the dams. He wonders if they want to help with the cost or just share their thoughts on what to do and the town pay. He stated he is happy to sell the area to them, it is open to everybody not a private walkway for the abutters. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Blaine Burshad was in attendance of meeting through Zoom and wanted to comment. Chairman Connolly explained there is no public comment at this point in the meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Cable Commission

Selectman Kerrigan explained the committee conducted a zoom meeting last Friday. They were able to meet with Clinton High School Principle Scott Czermak regarding a request for financial support to conduct a virtual graduation ceremony for the CHS Class of 2020, this will be prerecorded and played on the local channel on Graduation June 6. They commission was happy to support this endeavor. They have also sent an e-mail request for support of a parade to commemorate the day as well. Lt. Coyne was working with the Administration on the details.

#### Annual Town Meeting

Selectman Dziokonski asked board members if they would consider holding the Annual Town Meeting at Fuller Field or the Veterans Memorial Field and possibly having it a

Saturday. He is aware Mr. Vanasse has an outdoor sound system that is used for the Veterans Memorial Day events that could be used. He remembers a prior town meeting held on a Saturday and was very well attended. Town Solicitor Gibbons explained that would only be feasible weather permitting. Selectman Dziokonski explained he wanted the board to review other possibilities. Chairman Connolly explained there are town buildings that could be considered as well. He remembers one town meeting being so large the Strand Theater was used for overflow. The town hall and school auditoriums should be considered. Selectman Kerrigan shared he knows the town can get creative to get the people to come out. In Southwick they held their meeting in late February in a parking lot. He explained he works with the Town Moderator on the Marketing Communications subcommittee, he would like to work with this issue to review some ideas. Selectman Devault agreed, he and Selectman Kerrigan can meet with the Town Moderator to review a strategy and bring back to the board some recommendations. Chairman Connolly stated that the exploration of alternatives for town meeting is needed, it can be reviewed in two weeks at the next meeting.

#### Veterans Day Committee

Selectman Dziokonski explained he has spoken with Veterans Agent Mr. Bailey to discuss the recommendation he had brought before the board a few weeks ago. The Memorial Day Program will be held here in the Chamber and broadcasted live to the community, the program will include the same participants including, Clinton High School Valedictorian. He understands the Governor will release more relaxed guidelines on May 18<sup>th</sup> but will plan with caution not to create a large crowd the next week. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to host an alternate to the Memorial Day Parade with a Memorial Day Program in the Chamber with a live broadcast to the community. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Devault explained the Cable Commission can hold a meeting if anything is needed from them. The vote was unanimous.

#### Government Affairs Subcommittee

Chairman Connolly explained the committee met and reviewed articles for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Warrant, regarding the request for additional Liquor Licenses, rescinding Civil Service, Park & Recreation Commission taking over the oversight of Fuller Field, the appropriation of Landfill Enterprise Fund for capital infrastructure repairs. There was review of the reappointments of Board & Commissions.

Chairman Connolly explained will enter into Executive Session under Article 3 for Fire Union Negotiation Discussion and will not return to open meeting. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Boisoneau "aye", Selectman Devault "aye", Selectman Dziokonski "aye", Selectman Kerrigan "aye", Chairman Connolly "aye".

**Executive Session Article 3    Fire Union Negotiations    8:41PM -9:12 PM**

Chairman Connolly explained the board will no return to open session.

Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13PM. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant to the Clinton Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator