

**Selectmen Meeting
Minutes
May 20, 2020**

Chairman Connolly, Selectman Boisoneau, and Selectman Devault, Selectman Dziokonski were present. Selectmen Kerrigan conferenced in with Zoom. Town Administrator Ward and Solicitor Gibbons were attendees. Chairman Connolly opened the meeting at 7:03PM.

Public Comment

Chairman Connolly asked for public comment.

Ms. Allison Mack of 76 Wanut Street was conferenced into meeting using Zoom. She explained she represents the Walnut Street residents. She explained she has e-mailed in a list of questions but hasn't received any response. She is aware the town received a grant for the Walnut Street Improvement project. She asked which department is responsible to administer the grant. Chairman Connolly explained public comment is not a question and answer discussion or debate it is an opportunity for information to be presented. He explained an e-mail has been received and the Town Administrator will answer the questions she e-mailed to the board.

Review of Minutes

The board received minutes from May 6, 2020 Selectmen's meeting for review and approval. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Community & Economic Development Director- Phil Duffy

Discover Clinton Business Awareness Update

Mr. Duffy explained members of Discover Clinton were in attendance via Zoom to review with the board the business assistance being offered during the corona pandemic. The audio was inaudible so Selectmen Devault asked that the update be held until the next meeting. Chairman Connolly and the board agreed.

Wekepeke Dam Removal Grant Update

Chairman Connolly asked Mr. Duffy for an update on the dam removal grant. Mr. Duffy explained to the board last July the grant was awarded in the amount of \$176,000, the next step is to get a completed design and then go out to bid to advertise the RFP. The RFP should be completed before the end of June. The project may take up to 15 months to complete the curating and get the permitting completed. The first phase will be to remove the liabilities of the Wekepeke. Chairman Connolly asked if they are grants available for the work. Mr. Duffy responded yes it can be compared to climbing a ladder once one area is complete you can move to the next. The Wekepeke is a cold water fish habitat so there are some environmental restrictions. Chairman Connolly

asked about the study completed by Nestle and if it is available. Mr. Duffy explained the results of the study are available online. The board thanked Mr. Duffy for the update.

2020 Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Chairman Connolly asked if the board would prefer to review all of the articles or just the new ones added from the last review. Selectman Dziokonski explained to save time and due to the feedback from the audio the review should be of just the new article added since the last review. Chairman Connolly explained as part of the discussion from the last review with the board, the subcommittee spoke to the Finance Committee subcommittee regarding the Capital Improvement project articles the Finance Committee agreed to add a Capital Improvements line item in the Facility Department Budget, in the amount of \$250,000. Questions remained regarding the roof for the field house at Fuller Field and the flooring for the High School. Finance Committee Chairman Tomolo explained he has a meeting scheduled with the Facility Director and he will review. Chairman Connolly explained he will start with the new articles proposed from the last review.

Article 27 to support the implementation process of the paramedic study if funding available.

Article 28 is the approval to the purchase of land from the rail road to continue bike path on the Rail Trail. Selectman Dziokonski explained the purchase is over a mile of land adjacent to the railroad bed near the Rauscher Farm property and Mahefka Conservation property. The rail trail runs from Boston to North Hampton. The purchase will be made by the Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust and the town will be reimbursed the funding once the trust receives a grant to cover the purchase, the only cost may possibly be interest for the interim borrowing to cover the purchase.

Article 29 is the approval of petitioning for additional liquor licenses.

Article 30 is to rescind the acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 31 to remove Clinton Fire Department from the provisions of Civil Service. Selectman Devault asked what will be replacing Civil Service a merit based system. Chairman Connolly reviewed there will be the same screening system used as the Civil Service promotion process now.

Selectman Devault mentioned he is in favor but is reluctant to approve this at town meeting until a policy is ready to be adopted in its place. Town Administrator Ward explained this is part of the impact bargaining currently to mitigate concerns and issues from the union. Selectman Devault asked why this is being negotiated and isn't prepared to replace if rescinded. Chairman Connolly explained he is supportive of the article and the vote is to seek authorization. There is a tremendous amount of work to postpone another year, it is proposed to move forward and develop a plan with the union, this will allow the hiring process to move more quickly. Selectman Devault asked if the vote has to be at town meeting. Chairman Connolly reviewed yes the article will be seeking town meeting authorization. Selectman Kerrigan explained he understands what Selectman Devault is saying to tell people what will happen if remove from Civil Service. This will take a year to implement and some members are going to be grandfathered under Civil Service. What is the next plan, if out of Civil Service what

Personnel Policy will the union fall under. Chairman Connolly explained this is part of the process, it cannot be implemented until approved. Administrator Ward reviewed there are a lot of models out there the town can review and make modifications to before used by the town. The union contract outlines the grievance process, this will only apply to the promotion and hiring process. If there is a lay off the current members will be grandfathered and added to the Civil Service rehire list.

Article 31 is the authorization of special legislation to amend Chapter 375 of the Acts of 1945 to authorize the Parks & Recreation Commission to act as the Fuller Field Commission. Selectman Devault explained he would like to discuss before the board finalizes the appointments. Chairman Connolly reviewed the proposal to appoint the Commission is on the agenda late in the meeting, there would be one commission made up of the Park & Recreation members, instead of two commissions. Selectman Devault explained the current members of the Fuller Field Commission will be shut out. He explained he is in favor of taking two members of the Park & Recreation and appointing them to the Fuller Field Commission. Chairman Connolly explained Selectman Devault is entitled to his opinion but the proposal is going forward. The Parks & Recreation schedule all non-related school events and activities, and the maintenance of the field can be monitored. Selectman Dziokonski reviewed the management has been disastrous, the Fuller Field house building is run down. He reviewed in his 15 years on the board the budget has been level funded and they have allowed everything to fall apart. It has been run like a private fiefdom and the results have been disastrous, this is in the best interest of the town. The bleachers were a fiasco, a subcommittee was formed to review the project and the members would not attend. That project was a complete failure. He is supportive of the article. Chairman Connolly explained he will review the articles at the next meeting to finalize the warrant. Selectman Devault asked is the warrant approved at once or is each article approved. Article 32 & 33 is the authorization to change the name of the board.

Article 34 is the authorization to the extension of the Police Chiefs employment. Article 35 is the vote to amend the by-laws to eliminate or reduce the numerical requirement of the quorum to conduct any legal town meeting. Chairman Connolly reviewed he proposed this article there is also legislation filed to reduce quorum to 10% or 20% of the current quorum. Administrator Ward reviewed there has been some discussion but the final version of legislation hasn't passed yet. Selectman Devault asked what the number is for the proposed reduction. Chairman Connolly explained there isn't one proposed, it is to just eliminate. Solicitor Gibbons explained the Article can be amended to include the number.

FY 2021 Town Budget Review

Chairman Connolly reviewed the subcommittee met with the Finance Committee subcommittee to review, at this time the state local aid numbers are still unknown. He reviewed the Finance Committee has prepared two budgets, one using the government and school department increases of state aid, and the addition of a new position Assistant Town Administrator position funded. The other is level funded. Chairman

Connolly reviewed two draft budgets have been prepared and the position is included in one and not the other. An outstanding question is where the capital project funding will come from.

Administrative Business

Water/Sewer & Trash Abatements Request

Superintendent of Public Work McGown submitted a list of water/sewer and trash abatements in the amount of \$30,752.21 from the last billing cycle for action by the board. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to accept the abatements as presented. Selectman Devault seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Administrator Ward reviewed this is a large amount due to a wrong read, and the amount for the prior abatement request for 325 High Street was included. The vote was unanimous.

2020 Junk Dealers License

Chairman Connolly explained there is a request for annual renewal of the Junk Dealers License as presented. Selectman Boisoneau made a motion to renew the Junk Dealers License as presented. Selectman Dzioknoski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Old & New Business

Town Hall Use Request

The board received a request from Superintendent Dr. Meyers for use of the auditorium for the Cheerleading practices to take place at the end of November through the New Year. Currently the venue being used will not be available to the Cheerleaders so the auditorium was reviewed and the ceiling height makes it an option. They will bring in their own practice mats that will be stored throughout the time period in auditorium. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve the request as presented for use of the auditorium by the school department for the Cheerleaders. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. Under Discussion: Selectman Kerrigan asked if use will be after hours, who will be responsible for the cleaning and care after use. Selectman Devault explained this will be reviewed by the town hall use committee and the details of schedule worked out. The vote was unanimous.

Banners on High Street

Administrator Ward reviewed the School Department is requesting permission to hang commemorative banners of the 2020 graduates on High Street, he reviewed there is \$1000.00 available in the Civic Fund to support the request. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve the request to hang the banners on High Street and approve the \$1000.00 donation to be made from the Civic Fund. Selectman Boisoneau seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Town Meeting Location

Chairman Connolly reviewed board members met with the Town Moderator to review alternate locations to hold Town Meeting, the Moderator has the authority to make a change if necessary, if the meeting is opened it can be postponed for safety reasons. The Selectmen set the date, time and place, the Moderator could make change if determined public health safety is in jeopardy. Selectman Kerrigan explained he and Selectman Devault held a meeting with Town Moderator, it was reviewed there are some logistical challenges to this meeting that haven't been encountered before. It is unknown where things will be in a month, safety precautions were discussed along with two locations. The town hall or an outdoor venue, the Veterans Athletic Complex. There will be a screening process on the street and a process to follow to get in and out of the venue, there will be a check in protocol and seating to follow the guidelines of social distancing. An estimation of 20% of the seating can be used if practicing social distancing standards. It has been proposed that every third seat be used and a row is skipped in between. All of this information has been informally sent to the Board of Health for review. It was discussed to try to lower the quorum number to expose the fewest amount of people as possible. Chairman Connolly explained the focus of the discussion is what site to utilize, the decision is between the town hall and the athletics field. If the town hall is used there should also be a backup location if additional seating is needed. If the Veterans Athletic Complex is used there are factors to consider are rains or warm in the sun. Seating will be a problem along with check in. The Town Clerk has to certify individuals and all this information to do so is located in the office. If at the field it eliminates access to the Clerk's office. He explained the town hall with use of the balcony and Selectmen's Chamber would be a viable option. If an overflow room is used an Assistant to the Moderator would be needed. His recommendation is to keep efforts focused on keeping the town meeting in the town hall. It may be difficult to motivate people to come out. Selectman Devault explained he understands Chairman Connolly's perspective but the Veterans Field should be kept as a viable option, the decision should be made at the next Selectmen's meeting. He understands the logistics and concerns to both sites. He explained he wasn't ready to give up on the field as an outdoor site, he feels it warrants more exploration. Chairman Connolly asked how the board feels, should there be a vote to limit discussion to the town hall building as location. Selectman Dziokonski explained he agrees with the possibility of holding the meeting outside, people will feel safer outside. Chairman Connolly stated both options can be explored but he encouraged the exploration to make it work in the town hall and to consult with the Town Clerk. Selectman Devault agreed explaining the Board of Health should be part of the discussion as well. Chairman Connolly agreed the discussions should continue until the next meeting, where something should be finalized. Any requirements for safety should be set by the Board of Health. These regulations will be enforced by the Board of Health. Discussion continued regarding screening for entry to the meeting, it is being reviewed with the Board of Health if temperature screening will be mandated prior to entry into the building or complex for

the town meeting. The board reviewed this is something to be mandated by the Board of Health.

Appointments to Boards & Committees

Chairman Connolly asked the board if they are prepared to vote all in mass or one at a time. Selectman Devault made a motion to proceed to approve all in mass with the exception of Fuller Field. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Dziokonski made a motion to approve the Fuller Field Commission as listed in the schedule. Selectman Kerrigan seconded the motion. The vote was 4/1 Selectman Devault opposed. Chairman Connolly asked the Town Administrator to forward this information to the members informing them of the terms to the boards and committees. Selectman Devault asked if any contact has been made with the Parks & Recreation Commission. Chairman Connolly stated he wasn't aware of any discussion, he will attend the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting.

Town Hall Office Space

Chairman Connolly reviewed the board is supportive of the warrant article to appropriate \$100,000.00 to make space here in the building for existing personnel and new hires. The funding will address the needed remodeling to accommodate the Facility Director proposed changes. Selectman Devault explained he is aware of space available at the School Department Central Office. Discussion continued around the Human Resource Department office the board will be located at the town hall working closely with Administrator Ward. Selectman Devault explained there is space needed for the Community Television Department. The board agreed to support warrant article to fund the plan put forward from the Facility Director.

Consolidated IT Support

Selectman Devault reviewed there are two full time IT guys at the school department, it has been suggested by Dr. Meyers instead of adding resources, the available resources should be shared town wide. If the town were able to get out of the contract they are currently in, the head of IT support for the school department can become head of IT support town wide. The person would be on call to assist with issues immediately. It would streamline all sources and makes sense to pursue. Chairman Connolly reviewed he has discussed this with Town Administrator Ward, who is satisfied with the current company the town is working with. He was also advised by a town employee not to consider this recommendation. Chairman Connolly explained based on this advice he isn't prepared to make a jump. Selectman Devault recommended surveying all town employees to receive feedback from all municipal employees. Chairman Connolly agreed to have the Cable Committee review and survey employees, also to evaluate the amount spent for service and determine what the school department would be able to provide.

Human Resource Manager Search

Administrator Ward explained he and Superintendent Dr. Meyers will be conducting virtual interviews next week, from there they will schedule second interviews in person. He intends to reach out to the committee to see if any members are interested and available to participate.

Committee Reports

Memorial Day Parade Committee

Selectman Dziokonski updated the board on the upcoming Memorial Day program which is planned to take place in the Selectmen's Chamber. He reviewed the program will include participation from Clinton High School Valedictorian Aine' Frisch, Clinton Middle School student Grace Alvarado, Father James Mazzone and State Representative Harold Naughton. The wreaths will be laid at the war memorial monuments along with the fire detail in Central Park, Depot Square, Woodlawn Cemetery and St. John's Cemetery. The program will be filmed and can be viewed on the local cable channel. This is the best thing to do regarding the current situation.

Selectman Devault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48PM. Selectman Dziokonski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned,

Joyce A. Corbosiero

Executive Assistant to the Clinton Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator