

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
MARCH 22, 2017
MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Bruce Farmer; Selectmen, Carol Walter and Lynn Pinder

Absent: William W. Fritz and John Giannotti

Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

VISITORS

John Allen spoke in support of the BPAC Greenway Proposal.

Phil Sengle acknowledged Police Officer Adrian Santiago as person of the week in the Harbor News.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2017 AND MARCH 13, 2017

Pinder made a motion, seconded by Walter and unanimously approved the minutes from March 8, 2017. Pinder made a motion, seconded by Walter and unanimously approved the minutes from March 13, 2017.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Walter made a motion, seconded by Walter and unanimously accepted the resignation of Michael Knudsen from the Economic Development Commission.

Walter made a motion, seconded by Pinder and unanimously appointed Brian Roccapiore (D) to the Conservation Commission for a term until June 30, 2018.

Pinder made a motion, seconded by Walter and unanimously appointed Jane Barnett (D) to the Tree Committee for a term until June 30, 2017.

Pinder made a motion, seconded by Walter and unanimously appointed Bethany Knight (D) to the Fair Rent Commission for a term until June 30, 2017.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ALLIANCE OF CLINTON (BPAC) GREENWAY PROPOSAL

Carrie Allen and Debbie Lundgren reviewed the BPAC Greenway Proposal with the board. They have gathered several letters of support from various town organizations and a petition signed by 300 residents. Farmer thanked everyone for their support and interest in the project. Allen and Lundgren presented Phase 1 of the project. Phase 1 begins at the Hammonasset River Bridge, down Maple Ave., cross an old trolley line and down Grove Street to the town docks. A Blue way will be setup at the town dock. After that you travel up Commerce street, cross RT1 near Post Office Square and travel behind those buildings on town property, cross RT1 at the cross walk and go behind Town Hall. After town hall you travel along RT 1, down Waterside Lane to the town beach and that will complete phase 1. Allen and Lundgren are asking the board for permission to move forward with the project and to begin fundraising. They will need money to purchase signs. The town will need to get permission from the state to put any signs along RT 1. The board recommended having them meet with Eric Knapp, Zoning Enforcement Officer and address any concerns he might have and then present a formal plan to the board. The board was in favor of them proceeding with their Greenway Proposal.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT CANINE PROGRAM & LINE ITEM TRANSFER REQUEST

Chief DeMaio and Police Commission Chairman Peter Niles discussed reestablishing the Canine Program. Chief DeMaio raised \$15,174.15 towards the program. Officer Jason Frey has been selected to be the new handler and Sergeant Gerry Dunn will be the canine unit supervisor. A dog has already been chosen and the department would like to start the program in April. The board reviewed the policy and the following were questions/answered that were discussed.

- The policy states that the Canine Unit may be called out at the request of a shift commander to assist any police function or assignment, or called out to provide mutual aid at the request of a supervisor from an outside law enforcement agency. The board asked how the handler was going to be compensated for being on call 24/7? Chief DeMaio said that there is no call out or stand by pay. If the handler is called out, then he will be compensated. The union contract allows the handler to be compensated for a minimum of 2 hours but he has the option to stay for 4 hours.
- The policy states that the canine handler's responsibilities include providing timely back up and assistance to other police units. The board asked what is considered timely? Chief DeMaio said if the handler is on shift, then it won't be a problem. He will not be called in for any routine matters but only if it's a big issue.
- The policy states the minimum requirements of the Fair Labor and Standards Act concerning the canine handler's compensation will be met. The board asked how he would be compensated and what the cost was to the town. DeMaio said under this act the handler is paid an extra hour per day for handling the dog. If they are heavy on a shift, then they will let him go train the dog for an hour. If he needs to stay over for an hour after his shift, then he will be compensated. He can also receive comp time for that hour. It will be up to the chief to determine.
- The policy states that the Canine Unit may provide public demonstrations with the approval of the chief or canine unit supervisor. Canine supervisor Gerry Dunn explained that this dog is a different breed than the previous dog. The dog is a certified service dog and not a pet.
- The board asked how the handler's leave time would be handled. The dog is a certified service dog and is eligible to go with the handler on vacation if he so chooses otherwise the dog will be boarded. The department already has a dedicated car for the program. The department is working with the Clinton Veterinary Hospital to help provide the best care for the dog. Training records will be kept weekly. The handler will be required to go to 12 weeks of training on a state and national level.

The board reiterated to Chief DeMaio and Peter Niles that any purchase or disposal of an asset requires the approval of the Board of Selectmen as does any contracts. Pinder made a motion, seconded by Walter to approve the Police Canine Program. After some discussion, Farmer called the motion to a vote. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 in favor (Pinder, Farmer and Walter).

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LINE ITEM TRANSFER

Pinder made a motion, seconded by Walter to decrease communication account #54300 repair/maintenance by \$25,000 and increase communication account #51330 overtime by \$25,000 and send to the Board of Finance and a town meeting for approval. The motion was unanimously approved.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Pinder and Walter had nothing new to report.

Reported by Farmer

- Farmer received a letter from the CT Port Authority announcing they have created a fund that will allow various towns to apply for funding to improve the harbor district. Farmer said the town will apply for a grant to dredge the harbor and for repairs on the boat launch.
- Building Inspector Ed Smith is drafting an update to the permit fees. Once Smith has it finalized it will come to the board for approval.
- The BPAC submitted a letter of support for the STEAP grant application to extend sidewalks from the end of Waterside Lane to the Town Beach.
- Bonding Project – Farmer informed the board that the Rocky Ledge Project will be pulled out of the bonding project since there are still too many unanswered questions. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance will have to reapprove new resolutions. This means that the bonding question will now be included with the budget referendum.
- The board received a letter from Planning & Zoning Chairman Michael Knudsen. Pinder read the letter and a copy will be attached to the minutes. Members of board/commissions are urged to attend Freedom of Information training.

ADJOURN

Pinder made a motion, seconded by Walter and unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino



Town of Clinton
Planning and Zoning Commission
54 East Main Street
Clinton, Connecticut 06413
ZoningWetlands@ClintonCT.Org

March 13, 2017

Board of Selectmen
Town of Clinton
54 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06416

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you are aware, there have been allegations regarding an unnoticed meeting in December 2016 of a quorum of the members the Clinton Planning and Zoning Commission (the "Commission"). The Commission acknowledges that an email was sent on December 8, 2016 by one member of the Commission to six other members of the Commission suggesting that they meet on December 11, 2016. Such a meeting was held on December 11, 2016 at the home of Commissioner Kravitz, with a quorum of the Commission being present.

The Commission acknowledges that the unnoticed meeting of a quorum of the Commission to discuss Commission business for any reason was in violation of the Freedom of Information Act. The Commission further acknowledges that, at various times, it was advised by its counsel, the former Chairman, town staff and/or representatives of the Freedom of Information Commission of its duties and obligations under the Freedom of Information Act with respect to meetings and correspondence.

In an effort to avoid any future violations of the Freedom of Information Act, the Commission agrees that it shall undertake to schedule an additional session regarding the Freedom of Information Act in the near future. While some members may be fully conversant with the requirements of that law, having the opportunity to receive the same guidance and explanations at the same time as their fellow commissioners will allow the Commission to move forward in a manner that complies with the Freedom of Information Act, avoids confusion or ambiguity and will reduce the risk of inadvertent violations in the future.

Please be assured that each and every member of the Commission takes his or her legal, regulatory and ethical obligations seriously and will strive to represent the interests of the citizens of the Town of Clinton to the best of their ability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Knudsen".

Michael Knudsen, Chairman

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