

Town of Clinton
54 East Main Street
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

**Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 05, 2023
Town Hall Green Room**

In Attendance: Chairman Chris Aniskovich (left the meeting at 8:30 AM), Carol Walter (arrived at 8:12 AM), Dennis Donovan, Tom Hollinger, Hank Teskey, Carrie Allen and Chris Passante

Also participated: Karl Kilduff, Town Manager

C. Aniskovich called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. The council stood for the pledge of allegiance. The meeting can be viewed in its entirety online at

<http://reflect-vsctv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/gallery/3?channel=1>

VISITORS

No visitors wished to speak at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2023

D. Donovan made a motion seconded by C. Allen to approve the minutes from March 15, 2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

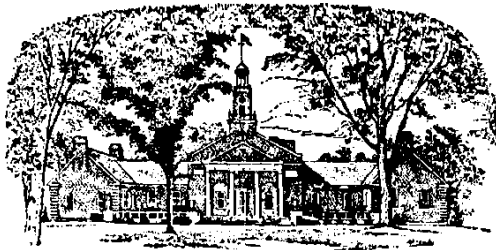
The council received appointment recommendations for the Coastal Resiliency Task Force from the Conservation Commission, Harbor Management Commission and representatives from the Beach Association. C. Allen offered to serve as the council representative. C. Allen made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan to appoint Nick Webb, Martin Jaffe, Kate Zadek and Robin Kohnke to the Coastal Resiliency Task Force. The motion was unanimously approved. The council received a request from Tom Welch to serve as a member of the general public. At the next meeting the council will appoint members from the general public and the council representative.

C. Allen made a motion, seconded by T. Hollinger to appoint Abby Piersall as a representative to the Regional Housing Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Allen made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan to add to the agenda the appointment of Joan Vlate (U) to the Conservation Commission. The motion was unanimously approved. Joan Vlate was in attendance for the meeting. H. Teskey made a motion, seconded by C. Passante to appoint Joan Vlate to the Conservation Commission for a term until June 30, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

POET LAUREATE QUARTERLY REPORT

Cathy Weiss gave a quarterly update to the council.



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CLINTON ART FESTIVAL REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO ORDINANCE 194-4A AND 194-5A REGARDING THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON TOWN PROPERTY

Clinton Arts Festival is holding their second annual event on June 24th at Pierson School. C. Passante made a motion, seconded by C. Allen to approve an exception to ordinance 194-4A and 194-5A regarding the consumption of alcoholic beverages on town property. The motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – ACCEPTANCE OF HOMETOWN FOUNDATION GRANT AND UPDATE ON THE JUSTICE NAVIGATOR REPORT

Chief DeMaio updated the council on the Hometown Foundation Grant. Hometown Foundation has offered the town a donation of a fully equipped Police K-9 to the Police Department as part of the Hometown Foundation's Police K-9 Awareness Program. The grant will fully fund the cost for the Police K-9. The department receives donations for food and other expenses. D. Donovan made a motion, seconded by T. Hollinger to accept the Hometown Foundation Grant in the amount of \$10,100. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chief DeMaio updated the council on the outcome of the Justice Navigator Report. The commission will be doing a public rollout of the report during the first week of June. The Town Council will receive a copy of the report before it goes public.

PUBLIC WORKS LINE ITEM TRANSFER REQUEST

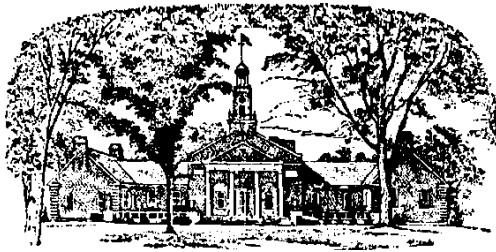
C. Walter made a motion, seconded by T. Hollinger to approve the Public Works line item transfer request to increase PD duck cleaning by \$7,947.45 and decrease PD cell paint by \$4,557.98, PD door project by \$2,593.16, Dump truck plow by \$527.74 and WSAM Land Use by \$268.57. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Donovan made a motion, seconded by T. Hollinger to approve the line item transfer request to increase Beach Erosion Study by \$11,000 and decrease contingency by \$11,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony is scheduled for April 28th at Peter's Complex, Swan Pavilion at 10:00 AM.

Chairman Aniskovich spoke about emails that were received by the council regarding the budget. All emails sent to the entire council are considered correspondences and are public information.



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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

K. Kilduff reviewed his written report dated April 05, 2023.

- WPCC is moving forward with the hydraulic testing of soils behind the Chips Plaza and Shore Appliance. This project was previously funding in the first round of ARPA funds.
- RiverCOG – Additional state funds were approved to pay for the previously approved sidewalk on East Main Street. The project costs have grown over time due to inflation.
- The town issued a request for proposal for a Town Engineer. After the review process was complete, the town awarded the bid to CHA. The cost is the same.
- GoNetspeed Fiber has been installing fiber to parts of Clinton. They will be the third provider in town for high speed internet.
- Commerce Street/Leffingwell as a National Registered District – The consultant is moving forward with just Commerce Street.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

C. Allen asked for an update on the pickle ball study report. Maps were given to Abby Piersall for review. The final phase will be a cost estimate. Park and Recreation is asking the consultant to deliver the final report by the next meeting.

The council discussed the proposed budget and process for tonight's public hearing on the budget. The meeting was moved to the Auditorium due to size capacity of the Green Room.

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

The council had no reports to give at this time.

ADJOURN

T. Hollinger made a motion, seconded by D. Donovan and unanimously adjourned the meeting 9:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino,
Executive Assistant
Town Manager

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: April 5, 2023

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- Congressionally Directed Spending – As approved by the Town Council, a Congressionally Directed Spending request was submitted jointly to our two Senators for funding to purchase the hand-held radio equipment used by the Clinton Police Department. With the deadline past, submitted projects are being reviewed before submission to appropriation committees. As noted previously, the terms of each program determines the extent of eligibility, requirements and local match requirements. The intent is for projects to be “shovel ready” if funding is approved as part of the federal budget process.
- WPCC Hydraulic Load Testing – The WPCC is moving forward with hydraulic testing of the soils behind the Chips Plaza and Shore Appliance. These test pits area meant to support the design of a community sewer system that would eventually address parts of the downtown. Funding for the work was previously approved with first round of ARPA funding. All work will take place on private property by a contractor. Access agreements were previously approved by the Town Attorney. The available funding will also restore the disturbance to the parking lot pavement.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments held a special meeting on March 29, 2023. Highlights of the meeting of relevance to Clinton included:

- Early Voting Report – The Regional Election Monitor reported on discussions around early voting. Small towns have raised a lot of concerns over how early voting will be implemented and the labor needed as poll workers are in short supply. It is also expected that the State will pay for the implementation costs associated with early voting.
- Sidewalk Funding – Approved was given for additional State funds to pay for a planned sidewalk on East Main Street. This project was previously approved but costs have grown over time due to inflation, right-of-way acquisition and DOT design requirements.
- Regional Waste Program Grant – All of the COG town endorsed a COG grant application to the DEEP for funding to support the steps needed to evaluate and structure a regional waste authority as a replacement to MIRA and respond to the current resources in the area (Essex Transfer Station). The structure could be a new entity or partnership with an existing entity. The grant would fund a study to evaluate those options and a possible path forward.

3. River Valley Transit

The transit district is officially launching its new brand in April. The service area will be expanded to cover 17 towns and member towns will grow from 9 to 12. A new website will be launched reflecting the new branding. Over time buses will be wrapped to reflect the new brand instead of “9 Town Transit” or “Middletown Area Transit”. Combined fares for the service area will also be launched in April as fare will be charged again.

A special legislative meeting was held on March 29 to brief area legislators and local town leaders to discuss district initiative and areas of legislative concern that could have a negative impact on transit services.

4. Miscellaneous:

- Union Contract Negotiation – The Town is now fully engaged in negotiations with most unions as we trade proposals. There will be more to come as we move forward to the end of the fiscal year. Ultimately, tentative agreements will have to come to the Council for approval.
- Manufacturers Meeting – The Clinton Manufactures Coalition held its most recent meeting at Town Hall to discuss their issues and interface better with the Town. We discussed a wide range of issues. Again, it was stated that assistance to manufacturers would be helpful to buy down the cost of offering internships to local high school or returning college students to get work experience.

As was noted during prior ARPA workshops, this need could be filled with already approved ARPA funding that was dedicated for small business assistance. I prepared application materials and grant agreements to support this funding request. The first application came in very quickly to line up intern assignments with returning local students. This is a good opportunity to support the workforce needs of local manufacturers and to introduce local student with careers in modern manufacturing which can keep them employed in the area.

- Regional Waste Authority – The CEOs from the region participated in a discussion about the viability of a regional waste authority to help manage municipal solid waste given the anticipated end of MIRA and the need for a solution given the lack of State policy. A number of issues need to be addressed to resolve operational issues and the structure of any such authority. Potential DEEP funding was also discussed as a way to study the issues to be resolved. The path forward is further complicated by pending legislation that would re-shape MIRA and give DEEP the responsibility for contracting and coordination in the State.
- GoNetspeed Fiber Internet Provider – Clinton is due to welcome a third provider for high speed internet. The Town already has Frontier and cable. Frontier installed their fiber network last year. GoNetspeed is another provider who will install fiber to parts of Clinton this year. Coverage will not be 100% in their initial build but could expand as demand grows. The installation will not include any pole attachments as was the case with Frontier. Additionally, they will not be excavating to underground any of their fiber network with this installation.

- Town Engineer – In prior reports, I noted that the Town had issued a Request for Proposals for consulting engineers that would serve as the Town Engineer. For many years, this service was provided by DTC. Following a review process, interviews and contract negotiations, we have come to terms with Clough Harbour & Associates (CHA). CHA will assume Town Engineer duties for new work effective April 1, 2023. DTC will continue to wrap up certain projects and others will transition to CHA.