



TOWN OF CLINTON Selectmen's Meeting Minutes January 13th, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:31 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **SELECTMENT PRESENT/QUORUM:** Jeffrey Towne, Chairperson, Stephen Hatch, Vice Chairperson, Ronnie Irving, Brian Bickford, Michael Hachey
4. **ACTION ITEMS:**
 1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 23, 2025:**

So moved by Selectmen Irving
Seconded by Selectmen Bickford
Motion carries 5-0
 2. **Recreation Board Appointment Proposal – Brant Winsor**

Term Expires 6/30/2026
Motion to nominate Brant Winsor to Recreation Board by Selectmen Hachey:
Seconded by Selectmen Hatch
Motion carries 5-0
 3. **Special Town Meeting for CDBG Application Warrant**

Proposed warrant for a Special Town Meeting Tuesday, January 27th, 2026 at 6:30 PM at Town of Clinton – Selectboard Meeting Room for: “To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard the authority to apply for federal, state, local, and private grants, fund, or donations where an application is required.”

Chairman Towne believes the Selectboard presently has the authority to apply for grants; however, the keyword is “private grants,” the Town has been in the previous years. TM says it is on the current warrant; for example, accepting a grant from the Stephen King Foundation, because it is not from Federal or State.

Motion to approve having a Special Town Meeting with this Warrant as the business to be act upon at the Special Town Meeting by Selectmen Hachey:
Seconded by Selectmen Irving
Motion Carries 5-0
 4. **Town Meeting RFP**

Proposed three-year contract (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029)

Selectmen Bickford asks if Grass Eaters has the option of the 5%; TM explains this will be put out to bid since there is a lot of local interest. As of last summer [2025], per the conversation with the TM, Grass Eaters were okay with not having a contract. TM says the Selectboard could approve it on contingent of looking at the contract and having a conversation with Grass Eaters.

TM says he will send requests for bid proposals to the local contractors who have asked and post on the MMA website.

Motion to approve Mowing RFP to be due on Thursday, March 5, 2026 and the Selectboard review bids at the March 10, 2026 meeting:

So moved by Selectmen Irving

Seconded by Selectmen Bickford

Motion Carries 5-0

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Ambulance Deliveries

TM spoke with someone from Autotronics, it will be here by the first of next month [February].

2. YTD Budget Update

Chairman Towne had sent an email to the TM on a couple items: Fire Department Line 3 and Police Department line 3 – budgeted overtime and is not realistic and it needs to be worked on this year for this budget. Fire Department is budgeted to \$20,000 and YTD is over \$25,000; Police Department is \$30,000 and YTD is \$22,000.

Chairman Towne is noting the Transfer Station fees for Perc:

Hauling is budgeted at \$13,500 and Tipping fees are budgeted at \$36,120.

Perc is no longer around, those [line] items are going to Waste Management.

TM corrected the Ballpark Maintenance and Repair line; \$100 is no longer there.

Chairman Towne had a question about the Overlay; it has been credited with the Tax Commitment amount.

3. Nuisance Properties

774 Main Street, Elizabeth Simonson

CEO Timothy Dow Sr. – a letter was drawn up for the lawyer. TM says all the tenants have been given an eviction notice except for Bob and Ken. There is a pulp truck there to remove stuff that has fallen. Chairman Towne says the less information the Selectboard knows, the better since they will be sitting as the adjudicator.

658 Mutton Lane, Gerald Ryder

Brought to the CEO's attention that there was a mobile home illegally placed on the property; CEO investigated and served a "Notice of Violation" and deemed it unlivable, while someone was living in it. The CEO gave until May 12, 2026 to remove the mobile home or make it livable.

4. Fire Station Update

TM and Chief Barton had a meeting with the [contractor]; are on track to be completed in mid-June 2026. There is another change order – the majority of it

is \$20,000 for modifications the Water District is asking for, including a separate meter for the building from the fill meter where they fill their tanks up.

Selectmen Irving asks if there is extra money towards the change orders; TM says we are currently \$10,000 over, but there is the \$90,000 fund that the Town has already voted on, therefore we are under. Selectman Irving says this should have been between Blane Casey Builders and the Water District, not the Town's responsibility. TM explains that in order for them both to have known what was needed, they would've had to tear into the road and more, which was not included in the bidding process. This process is something that could not be anticipated in the bidding process. Selectmen Bickford asks: during the plans, they must have opened the manhole to see if it was a positive drain; TM cannot speak for what they did or did not do.

Selectmen Bickford notes the bid came in under \$200,000 total estimate and now we are having to use the extra \$90,000; TM explains that it was the building itself that was under, but there were fees for other stuff. Selectmen Bickford asks which meter would be free; Chief Barton believes it would be the one where they fill their tanks.

5. Chief Barton – Request for Approval for Pumper Truck Bid

Chief Barton is asking for permission to bid \$100,000. James and Andrew Gerow test drove it; all it needs is minor repairs including four tires and ball valves.

Motion to approve Town of Clinton bidding for a Pumper truck from the Town of Skowhegan:

So moved by Selectmen Irving

Seconded by Selectmen Hachey

Motion Carries 5-0

6. Chief Barton – Issues with Equipment Communications

Beginning back in [September 2025], communications are not working properly; cannot talk to comm. center from Thayer Hospital; there is a section on Hill Rd. with trouble opening pagers, portables are scratchy.

After working with Yankee Communications, Chief Barton brought up the idea of solar array. Yankee Communications came up with a study; the solar array allowable interference is 3-5 and Clinton's interference is 40; he is 99% sure this is where the communication issues are coming from.

Selectmen Bickford asks how much it would be to set it up to test it; Chief Barton says he would have to look into it.

He has to study some more; but it is something we are going to have to look into and fix. TM says it is something we are going to look at to get money from the solar company, too; solar companies have a history of paying towns when [emergency communication equipment] are not working.

Chairman Towne ask if this is in the budget for this year; TM says no, he learned about this issue a few hours prior. Chairman Towne says the Overlay account could authorize to cover this unanticipated expense for emergency services. We will wait to hear more about this.

7. Victoria Winsor River Access Update – Brant Winsor

The project is complete.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing

7. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

1. United Methodist Church Check – raised \$687.00 for fuel assistance

Motion to accept:

So moved by Selectmen Hatch

Seconded by Selectmen Irving

Motion Carries 5-0

2. DEP Grant Check: Awarded a DEP Grant for the composting site at the Transfer Station check came last week.

3. Paving RFP: will be going tomorrow [January 14, 2026].

4. Bond Paperwork:

TM is working on the Fire Station bond paperwork, because it is due by February 4, [2026]. TM is to apply for it to be 20-year bond; ran the estimated numbers on 10, 15, and 20 years – 10-year bond, first payment would be \$64,000, after that it would be \$236,000 on average/year; for 20-year, first payment would be \$20,000, after it would be \$175,000/year.

Chairman Towne asks what we pay annually on the road bond; TM says \$175,000; last payment on that is F.Y. 2027; the same year we would have full payment due for the Fire Station. TM says it’s better to pay a flat amount each year, because of paying less interest.

5. 2023 Foreclosures

There are five properties, all but two located on McNally Rd. TM suggest working with Listings Direct again. Will wait on motion to approve hiring Listings Direct, because the former property owners still have 90 days.

8. SUPPLEMENTS AND ABATEMENTS: Nothing

9. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Road Committee will be presenting a consolidated revamp to parking ordinances.

10. TREASURER’S WARRANT:

Motion to accept Treasurer’s Warrant #19 in the amount of \$562,763.84 by Selectmen Bickford:

Seconded by Selectmen Irving

Motion Carries 5-0

11. COMMENTS / QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: Facebook comment: “How is long term better?” TM says for 20-year bond, we would pay \$900,000 with no pre-payment on a municipal bond.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Labor Negotiations 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(D) at 7:41 PM

Motion to move into executive session:

So moved by Selectmen Hachey

Seconded by Selectmen Hatch

Motion Carries 5-0

13. Adjourn: 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Koller