DRAFT 17 November 2021 Town of Clifton Maine TIF Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the town office building. Present were Vice Chairperson John Williams II who chaired the meeting, Secretary David Cogdell, and members Nancy Hatch and Steve Armenia. Not present was Chairperson Linda Graban who had a family commitment and member Jeffrey Achorn.

Upon a motion by Nancy/Steve and unanimous vote, the minutes of the October 20, 2021, committee meeting were approved.

John reported that the guest speaker he had invited to this meeting was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict. Efforts will be made to reschedule the speaker who is responsible for economic development in Belfast.

The 2019 town survey was discussed, noting that the committee was unable to have a revised/updated survey available for the public to complete in time for the 2 November elections. The Chairperson of the Select Board, who was in the audience, commented that the Select Board should be given an opportunity to look at the updated survey questions before it is released to the public.

It was reported that broadband for the town is in the works with a grant to be awarded as early as sometime in November with work commencing in as little as eight months.

A need for an attendance policy was discussed in light of the continued absence of a TIF committee member at meetings. It was reported that the matter has been added to the upcoming Select Board meeting agenda and may result in the committee member’s removal with the committee membership being set at five rather than six members.

The Chairperson of the Select Board told the committee that a spreadsheet is being prepared that will provide a comprehensive status of TIF monies the town has received and expended.

The committee informed the Select Board Chair that the committee was not yet able to make any recommendations regarding TIF-funded projects. During the dialog, the benefits and disadvantages of possible TIF-funded projects were discussed including improvements to snow mobile trails and paving of the Eagle Bluff parking lots. It was mentioned that the state currently provides reimbursements to snow mobile clubs and towns for maintenance work performed on existing snow mobile trails.

John mentioned that, regardless of projects funded with TIF money such as loans or grants, the town needed to have a process in place for clubs or other organizations to request TIF funding.

It was noted that the lot where the Chemo Pond boat ramp is located is for sale. There followed a brief discussion of whether TIF money could be used to purchase the land. Additionally, the use of TIF money for educational loans was also briefly discussed.

Upon a motion by Nancy/John and unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Committee Secretary David Cogdell.