DRAFT 16 March 2022 Town of Clifton TIF Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the town office building. Present were Committee Chairperson Linda Graban, Vice Chairperson John Williams II and Secretary David Cogdell. Member Nancy Hatch was not present.

Upon a motion by John/David and a 3/0 vote, the minutes of the 16 February 2022 Committee meeting were approved.

The Committee discussed the proposed town survey and made some suggested edits. Later, during the public comment portion of the meeting, it was suggested that questions related to encouraging solar and wind energy development be dropped from the survey. Reasons cited included the lack of any additional areas to develop wind farms given current Clifton Land Use Ordinance requirements, and the fact that solar farms have a preferential tax status in Maine that essentially prevents a TIF. As a result, it could be argued that portions of the survey fell outside what the Committee was created to do. The Committee members will take the suggestion under consideration.

There was a brief discussion on where one could view a map showing the town’s Growth Management Areas.

Linda reported that the Selectmen did not appoint Cindy Grant to be a member of the Committee to replace Steve Armenia. The cited reason was not clear. The Committee will try to get further clarification.

John suggested that the Committee recommend that the Selectmen establish a moratorium on any new appropriations involving TIF revenue until a framework is in place on how TIF revenues in general are to be spent. During the discussion, it was noted that there needed to be provisions in which TIF money could be appropriated in an emergency. Upon a motion by John/David and a 3/0 vote, it was agreed that the Committee will formally ask the Selectmen to consider this request with John taking the action to draft the necessary letter.

John reported that the Belfast economic development manager would try to attend our April meeting to discuss economic development. John also reported that he had earlier met with the Director of the Eastern Maine Development Corporation. As a result of that meeting, John recommended that the Committee would benefit from meeting with this individual as well. The Committee agreed and John will contact him to extend an invitation.

Upon a motion from Linda/John and a 3/0 vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Committee Secretary David Cogdell.