

Town of Colrain  
Select Board Meeting  
55 Main Road/Town Office Building  
7:00 P.M.  
**MINUTES OF November 9, 2015**

Present: Mark Thibodeau and Jack Cavolick

Absent Eileen Sauvageau

Others present

Kevin Fox - Town Coordinator, Colleen Worden - Office Clerk, Pat Smith - FRCOG, Scott Sullivan - Highway Superintendent, Holleran Greenburger, Diane Brocaccio - The Recorder, Belden Merims, Jim Slowinski, Robert Slowinski, Matthew Slowinski, David Nims, Joan McQuade, David Greenberg, Joe Kurland, Carolyn Hillman and Joe Hillman

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mark Thibodeau at 7:00 PM

Appointments

**Regional Shelter Agreement**

Pat Smith from the FRCOG attended to discuss the possibility of the Town entering into a Regional Sheltering Agreement in the event of a disaster. Pat Smith, Jack Cavolick and Kevin met on this issue in the past. One of the biggest problems that they have come across is that the Colrain Central School has been identified as one of the potential shelters and the school is a Town owned building but it is leased to the School District. There is also the concern of a lack of a generator which limits the capability of the school to be an adequate shelter. Mark Thibodeau thought it would be a good idea to have other Boards within the Town weigh in on this before any decisions were made. Kevin Fox agreed to set up a meeting with the Fire, Board of Health, EMD, Police, and Ambulance, Highway, Electrical, and Plumbing inspectors.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to accept meeting minutes for 10/28/15, 10/10/15, and 10/8/15. Mark Thibodeau seconded. Voted unanimous.**

**Holleran Greenburger – Wired West**

Holleran Greenburger asked for a slot on the agenda to present a presentation he has put together regarding the Wired West proposal.

Holleran showed the Board his presentation and after the presentation was over there were several questions brought up by the Board, several of which went unanswered.

Kevin Fox states that he has spoken to man named Gorden from the USDA in Pennsylvania and he assured him that the Town is eligible for a USDA grant, but the Town must maintain ownership of the infrastructure. Holleran claimed that he has never heard of him.

Holleran and David deny knowing anything about this, but told the Board they would look into it.

### **Stone Wall Concerns**

Joan McQuade requested to speak on behalf of the Historical Commission to the Board concerning the destruction on stone walls.

Carolyn Hillman has drafted a letter and has taken some pictures that she would like to present to the Board regarding the destruction of stonewalls on Wilson Hill Road, upper Thompson Road and Hillman Road. She believes that over the last few years the stone walls and stone retaining walls along those roads have been heavily damaged by the Town Highway Departments plowing and bulldozing of those roads. She also stated that gravel is being pushed up against the walls and some of the trees, which she believes will definitely kill the trees.

After a discussion with the Town Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan it was decided that Scott would reiterate to his employees that they need to be extremely careful while they are doing any kind of plowing next to any stone wall or retaining walls. Mrs. Hillman was satisfied with the solution.

### **Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Committee**

Scott Sylvester the Towns representative to the Mohawk Trail Partnership Committee attended to give an update on his work as a representative.

In 2012 there was some talk about expanding the Green Mountain National Forest and incorporating some of the land in North West Massachusetts and Colrain would be a part of that. The State of Massachusetts is the only state in the country that does not have a national forest according to Mr. Sylvester and as a result of that the state is losing out on a lot of Federal funds that could help out with economic development and improvement of forest resources

There were a series of meetings in 2013 to explore the idea of creating a National Forest or some sort of entity that would be designated a Federal entity to assist in creating some funds for economic development and improvement of forest resources.

This committee was formed out of the 21 towns involved to explore avenues and some ideas on how this could come about. The committee was put together by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and Franklin Land Trust in partnership with the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and representatives from each one of the twenty one towns in the Northwestern part of the state of which Colrain is one. This committee developed a plan which is in the final draft that contains quite a lot of good information for forest based economic development including incentives for private land owners to improve forests and forest based economic development in the region.

Scott brought a summary of the report and a copy to the select Board members. He would like the Board to read over the summary and attend the informational session that will be held on November 18, 2015 at the Shelburne Buckland Community Center where the report will be delivered and discussed in its entirety. There will be a lot more information available at that time. In addition

there is a plan throughout the winter and early spring to meet with Town Select Board in each of the 21 towns involved to give further input and to make a more detailed presentation of the report. If it goes through with the approval of most of the 21 towns and with the state and federal legislation. This could be a fortunate thing for everybody involved.

#### **Accept Bid for Surplus Equipment**

There was a total of 21 bids for the Tahoe with the winning bid coming from Dorchester Motors for the sum of \$1,800.00.

**MOVED:** Jack Cavolick moved to accept the bid for the amount \$1,800.00 from Dorchester Motors. Mark Thibodeau seconded voted unanimous.

#### **Wired West Municipal Light Plant Cooperative Agreement Legal Review and Use of MBI Planning Grant Funding**

Kevin believes that this may have to go to a Town Meeting due to the fact that it is a ten year agreement.

#### **Select Designer for Highway Garage Project**

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to rank the following designers. 1- Weston Sampson, 2- Greenburg, 3- Galante

#### **Appointment to the Council on Aging**

Robert Marcher has asked to be appointed to Council on The Aging. Kevin has initiated a CORI check with the anticipation of your approval. You could appoint him on the contingent on a positive CORI check.

**MOVED:** Jack Cavolick moved to approve Robert Marcher to the Council on Aging contingent on a clean CORI check. Mark Thibodeau seconded. Voted unanimous.

#### **Approval of Town Office Sign**

Kevin has been working with a couple of companies over the summer to obtain quotes and designs for a new sign. The prices were pretty high but he was able to get the price down to what he believes is reasonable. This project could be paid for from the funds approved at the Town Meeting for Town Office Repairs.

**MOVED:** Jack Cavolick moved to accept the design and proposal for the Town sign. Mark Thibodeau seconded. Voted unanimous.

#### **Letter to Representative Kocot re: Wired West Legislation Support**

The Board does not feel that it would be a good idea to send a letter at this time.

#### **Solarized Mass Program**

Continued until next meeting.

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to accept the RDP and small initiative scale fund. Jack Cavolick seconded. Voted unanimous.

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to close the meeting. Jack Cavolick seconded.  
Voted unanimous. Meeting closed at 11:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Worden  
Office Clerk

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen Sauvageau - Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Thibodeau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Cavolick

## Documents

- Letter to the Board from Carolyn Hillman ( Historical Commission)
- FRCOG Regional Shelter Agreement
- Colrain Designer Selection ( Highway Garage)
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership