

Town of Colrain  
Select Board Meeting  
55 Main Road/Town Office Building  
7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF May 5, 2014**

Present: Eileen Sauvageau, Mark Thibodeau, Jack Cavolick,

Others Present Joan McQuade, Kathy Phelps, Valeda Peters, Ellen Weeks, Charlotte Mckee, Chris Lannon, Colleen Worden, Leslie Frasier, Kevin Worden I, Josh Lemay, Matthew Melcher, Jason Haskins, Nicholas Anzuoni, David Adams, Tyler Worden, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator, Paula Harrison – Office Clerk.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eileen Sauvageau at 7:00 PM and moved to the Fire Department located at 51 Main Road, Colrain, MA due to Elections and the need for a larger meeting room.

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Minutes**

There were no minutes ready at this time. No Action Taken.

Appointments None

New Business **Reconsideration of Police Chief/Acting Police Chief Appointment Actions**  
Eileen informed the meeting attendees that this piece of business is to discuss the re-consideration of the Police Chief and Acting Police Chief appointments. She will not entertain discussion regarding the Police Chief performance. With this in mind Eileen read four option the Board will be considering regarding these appointment actions.

1. To rescind the Board's previous vote to not re-appoint and re-appoint, effective May 1, 2014 without any conditions.
2. To rescind the Board's previous vote and vote to re-appoint with discussion of a plan to address any concerns with the Chief's performance.
3. To rescind the Board's previous vote and vote to re-appoint as well as vote to give the Chief one year written notice of it's intention to not re-appoint for the next appointment period commencing May 1, 2015.
4. The Chief may decide he no longer wants to serve as Chief and may tender his resignation.

Eileen asked if there is any discussion from the floor? Ellen Weeks, as Chair of the Personnel Committee would like the Board to consider taking options 1 or 2. Ellen was appalled at the way this has been handled and asked if there was any consideration regarding how the department has been run. She noted that there seems to be a large lack of communication between the Police Department and the Board. There should be an effort to creating open communication to resolve these issues at the time they occur. Ellen points out that this action has had

colateral damage. After speaking to others town employees there is a concense that their jobs could be terminated at any time. This is not good for the town. Kevin Worden I would like the Board to consider opening communications between the Selectmen and the Police Department as a priority. He pointed out that the Fire Department and the current Police Department have worked well together. He would like to see Jason Haskins reinstated and the Board should move forward in a positive manner. Jason Haskins informed the Board that the fault for this communication breakdown is the fault of both parties. Jason informed the Board that at the time he took the Police Chief position he was a brand new officer and did not have chief experience. He has dedicated himself to this town and in the last two years has recommended a full time chief and he most likely would not be able to take himself. He read a letter he submitted at the time of his interview. Jason commented that it was stated at the time he was hired that the Chief should be available for calls and administrative duties. Jason believes that training is imperative in a small town situation. He believes that his mission was to make the department into a professional police department. He has done this to the best of his ability. He stated that was his mission five years ago and still feels this is very important today. He informed the Board that he has never done anything that has been malicious and is not sure how this has come to this point. He loves this job and would like to remain here and would like the board to consider this as they make their decision tonight. Josh Lemay stated he has been an officer for four year in Colrain and has observed a lot of good done for this town. He stated that not re-appointing someone due to communication breakdown was not fair. Josh stated working for Jason has been a good experience.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to rescind our previous vote to not re-appoint Jason Haskins as Police Chief and vote to re-appoint Jason Haskins as Police Chief with discussion of a plan to address any concerns with the Chief's performance, Eileen Savaugeau seconded.** Discussion followed.

Jack stated he is the Police Liaison for the Board. He explained the events that led to this evenings meeting and his role in that process. Jack thinks that the motion on the table is the wisest choice and will allow the town to move forward to achieve open communication. Jack would like to step down as the Police Liaison and feels he has not been successful in this role.

**Eileen called all in favor: Voted unanimously.**

Eileen stated that Jason Haskins has now been re-appointed as Police Chief.

**MOVED: Eileen Savaugeau moved to become the liaison for the Police Department, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it is voted unanimously.**

Discussion on how to move forward to enhance open communication with the Police Department and the Select Board.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to rescind the previous vote to appoint Chris Lannon as Acting Police Chief, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Chapter 90 Project Requests – Pothole Grant Funds**

Kevin explained that the State has issued supplemental funding for pothole repair. There was discussion on the roads that will be repaired. Kevin said this is for new work and has to be completed by September 2014.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to sign the Chapter 90 project requests for Pothole Grant Funds, Eileen Savaugau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Declaration of Surplus Property**

Kevin informed the Board that the Highway Superintendent would like the 1992 Mack truck and Torwell 11 foot Stainless Steel Hydraulic Sander declared as surplus property so it can be sold on Municibid.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to declare the 1992 Mack model 6 speed transmission truck and the Torwell, 11 foot stainless steel sander surplus property, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Old Business

**Blue Block 3 Main Road**

Kevin informed the Board that Steve Andrews is interested in the Blue Block. Discussion on the price of the property.

**USDA Sewer Study – Next Steps**

Kevin informed the Board that he has invited Dan Lawrence of Weston & Sampson to the next Selectmen’s meeting to discuss the next steps on the USDA Sewer study project.

Not anticipated

**USDA Sewer Study Reimbursement**

Kevin reviewed the Request for Advance or Reimbursement for the USDA Sewer Study of \$30,000.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to approve the USDA Sewer Study Request for Reimbursement, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was unanimous.**

**TIP Route 112/Jacksonville Road/Greenfield Road Intersection Engineering – Next Steps**

Kevin informed the Board that Colrain was not on the proposed 2018 project list for the TIP project. The Town will not be funded in the next round and has been placed on the waiting list for potential projects. Kevin has a call to the FRCOG to see what happened and confirm that the next round is in 2019.

**Heath Road Bridge Update**

Kevin does not have any additional information on the Heath Road Bridge.

**1 Greenfield Road**

Jack informed the Board that the Board of Health has condemned 1 Greenfield Road and the signs were ripped off the building. Jason Fenenc said will be repost the condemnation signs. There has been two citations issued to Mr. Mattson, one for tearing the condemnation signs down and another for occupying the building after it has been condemned. Discussion on the situation of the owners of that property. Jack advised Jason to request a police escort when reposting the signs on the building. Jack will be an independent witness. Jack informed the Board that the State Police checked the Heath police cruiser that has been parked at 1 Greenfield Road and found it unlocked. They contacted the Town of Heath and relayed this information.

Not anticipated

**Letter to remove shrubs on the Town Common**

Kevin presented a letter from Muriel Russell asking to remove a shrub on the Town Common.

**MOVED: Eileen Savaugau moved to allow Muriel Russell to remove the scrub in the town common, Jack Cavolick seconded it was voted unanimously.**

Discussion on the intersection project and that this will remove the Town Common and that the Veterans Memorial could be relocated to the proposed Memorial Hall Park. Kevin informed the Board that the Memorial Hall Park grant did not get approved.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

Paula Harrison  
Office Clerk

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Eileen Sauvageau - Chairman

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Mark Thibodeau

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Jack Cavolick

## Documents

- Email of Support for Chief Haskins from Roger Williams
- Email of Support for Chief Haskins from Dawn Haskins
- Letter to Sergeant Lannon to inform of appointment as Acting Police Chief
- Letter to Chief Haskins regarding vote to not reappoint
- MGL Chapter 41, Section 21A
- MGL Chapter 41, Section 1080
- Winter Rapid Road Recovery Program Project Request – Jacksonville Road Pothole repair
- Request to declare equipment surplus
- TIP request for reimbursement
- Letter from Muriel Russell regarding town common