

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

**MINUTES OF June 30, 2014**

Present: Eileen Sauvageau, Mark Thibodeau, Jack Cavolick,

Others Present Anne Yeomans, Liz Sonnenberg, Phil Sherburne, Marybeth Chichester, Nina Martin Anzuoni, Charles Lappen, Joe Kurland – School Committee, Diane Broncoccio – The Recorder, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator, Paula Harrison – Office Clerk.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eileen Sauvageau at 7:00 PM.

**Minutes of June 24, 2014**

The Board reviewed the minutes from June 24, 2014.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to approve the minutes from June 24, 2014, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

Appointments

**Brick Meeting House Interested Parties**

Ann Yeoman introduced the members who are interested in the Brick Meeting House. She stated they have been meeting since February and would like to see if there is a way to preserve the building to meet the community needs. She explained how the group has come together and the vision they have for the Brick Meeting House. They would like to see a food or vendor area and then make an office area that would provide high speed internet for businesses. She has spoken to George Dole, contractor and he informed them that for \$5,000 he could come in and update the Margo Jones report. Liz Sonnenberg informed the Board that the work they would do on the building would be in the context of the Village Center Master plan. The Board reviewed the current projects the Town is working toward Village Center Improvement, sewer system and River Street. Phil Sherburne reviewed the condition of the Brick Meeting House. There was discussion on the potential cost for a group to develop the building. Mark encourages the group to see if there is any funding out there for a project like this one. Ann asked if the Town would write letters of support for any funding. The Board agreed a letter of support could happen but they would have to provide their own grant writer. Jack asked if we could legally write a grant for a private entity? Kevin said he may be able to help them write a grant. Ann asked if there was any other support the Town could provide. Eileen would need to know what they will be doing in order to know what kind of support to provide. No Action Taken.

**School Committee Rep's**

Nina informed the Board that the High School Capital Plan was voted down. She is on the building subcommittee and they will begin a review of the plan and setting goals for the future. Joe stated he reviewed the plan and thinks there could be places that could be cut. They school committee informed the Board that the arts program has been very successful and the first foreign exchange students will be coming in soon. Discussion on how to get our young people more involved in government and how to get the Finance Committee more involved in the Schools budget process. Joe explained that the school budget process will be done earlier this coming year so it can be available to the towns for review. Jack asked how the ordinary person could have an effect on the school budget. Joe said to go to the budget hearings. Discussion on how the budget process works when presented to the School Committee. The school committee begins with the teachers which produces a bottom up budget. At that point it is up to the Superintendent to then work out a budget from what was presented to him. Discussion on the assessment formula from the State. Kevin informed the Board and School Committee that 80 % of the Budget is personnel, so the increasing costs can be predicted because they are in a contractual form. The School Committee encouraged the Board to participate in the budget subcommittee meetings. Mark asked if there have been any results from the subcommittee meeting regarding alternative uses of the school. Nina and Joe will look into that. The Board would like to continue quarterly meetings with the School Committee.

#### **Finance Committee Year End Transfer**

Kevin informed the Board of the costs for the Giard Bankruptcy case and that the Attorney Expenses has gone over by \$11,000. The recommendation is to pay \$5,000 to the firm and ask for the rest at Annual Town meeting (\$6,000). Kevin has spoken to Jason Ferenc who represented the Town in this case and he will talk to the company regarding the charges. Discussion on the Giard case and how the bill became so high. Kevin informed the Board that this has resulted in a request for a year end transfers in the amount for \$5,000 to Attorney Expenses account. Kevin explained which accounts the money will be transferred from.

#### **Finance Committee Motion**

**Moved: Marybeth Chichester moved to approve the year end transfers of \$1,998 from Election Workers, \$2,000 from Gas, Diesel and Oil and \$1,002 from Tuition/Transportation Smith Vocational, Phil Sherburne seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

#### **Select Board Motion**

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to transfer under Chapter 44 section 33B the sums of \$1,998 from Election Workers, \$2,000 gas, diesel and oil, and \$1,002 from tuition/transportation smith vocational, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Marybeth spoke to the board that one of the things the finance committee would like to see changed is increased discussion on the school budget before the finance committee voted on them. The other item that at the end of the budget process some things were put in at the very last minute such as the new highway

worker and the Town Coordinators salary, Otherwise Marybeth thought the budget process went very smoothly. Mark thought that it was either the truck or the highway worker and Scott chose the truck so he was surprised that a new highway position was added. There was discussion on how both the truck and the new highway worker both remained in the budget. Phil commented that the process did work smoothly and comments that the open communication with the town coordinator and board has made the process easier. The finance committee thinks that the information is being presented at town meeting well. Discussion on how the tax rate is determined and that we are still waiting to see what the state aid numbers are going to be. Discussion on where Colrain's tax rate sits among the hill town communities.

#### New Business

#### **Chapter 90 Project Request – FY 15 Paving Projects**

Kevin informed the Board of the Chapter 90 project request. A list for FY 15 have been put together. There was discussion on the average spent from year to year on road work. Kevin informed the board that there is usually not a lot of road work after the fall. There was discussion on the possible uses of Chapter 90 funding. Kevin explained the process of the Chapter 90 request and reimbursements.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to accept the Chapter 90 project request from Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

#### **Year End Transfers**

See Finance Committee Above.

#### **Wired West Support Letter**

Kevin explained that Wired West is asking for a letter of support to pass bill H. 3770 bill for funding to get broadband the last mile in the community.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved sign the letter for Wired West, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

#### **Pitt House Drainage**

Kevin informed the Board that the drainage at the Pitt House is not repairable and a new culvert is needed. He has been in contact with DOT to see if they can repair the culvert. At this time there is no further information available and he will bring any updates to the next meeting. Discussion on where the culvert is located of the culvert is located. Discussion on what the next steps maybe depending on the response from the State.

#### Not anticipated

#### **Chandler's property**

Jack proposed the possibility of purchasing Chandler's property to the Board and integrating it into the Town Garage project. Mark supported that idea, there could be additional bays at that site. Eileen supported the idea also. There was discussion on the pros and cons of purchasing this property soon. Kevin informed the Board that there would have to be a special town meeting in order to purchase the property and recommended the Board wait on this idea until the engineering

report for the highway project is received. Kevin would like to contact Town Council to review the procurement laws. The Board would like to investigate this as a possibility. Jack will contact Dave Nims, owner of Chandler's.

**Engineering for the Center Improvement Project.**

Kevin informed the Board that there needs to be an additional signature on engineering agreement for the Center Improvement Project.

**Annual Memorandum of Understanding with the FSWD**

Scott reviewed this contract with the Board and recommended it as the Highway Superintendent.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to sign the FCSWMD contract, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to dissolve the meeting at 9:07 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

Minutes of June 24, 2014  
Colrain Chapter 90 spreadsheet  
Chapter 90 – Project Request  
FY 14 Transfer Requests Under Ch. 44, S 33B spreadsheet  
Letter WiredWest – letter of request  
Letter – Phil Holahan, MBI  
FCSWMD – MOU for Hauling Services.