

Town of Colrain
Selectboard Meeting
55 Main Road/Town Office Building
6:30 P.M.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 09, 2012

- Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton.
- Others Present: Diane Broncaccio, The Recorder; Karen Clough, Greenfield Resident; Doug MacLeay, Charles Lappen and Tom Pariseau, Colrain Finance Committee; Jason Haskins, Colrain Police Chief; Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent; and Tracey Baronas, Colrain Town Accountant.
- Call to Order: Chairman Mark Thibodeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He announced two tape recorders in use by the Selectboard (the Board).
- Minutes: **MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the minutes of 12/28/11. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Highway Dep't. Updates: New County Road Condition
Karen Clough of Greenfield indicated that on 9/30/11 she was traveling from Greenfield to Halifax, utilizing New County Road. She hit a wash out that was not marked, just prior to a "road closed" sign, and sustained damage to her vehicle. She indicated that she kept going on the road and spoke with a highway worker, who asked her to wait a few minutes for repairs being done so she could continue to her destination. Her insurance company charged her a deductible and assessed a surcharge. She did not file an accident report. Ms. Clough asked the Board to write a letter for her insurance company that states there was a wash out on the road on that date. Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan has reviewed the logs kept by highway department employees and there was no mention of anyone working on that road on that day. The FEMA project specialist evaluated that road and determined that there was less than the minimum \$1000 damage to it, and the Town could not file for reimbursement. The Selectboard agreed to have a letter drafted indicating that there was a wash out on New County Road on 9/30/11.
- MA Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA) Road Defect Tracking Form
Discussion was held regarding the proposed use of the MIIA Pothole/Road Defect Reporting Form. The Board and Mr. Sullivan have been discussing the use of this form to assist in obtaining a reduction on Colrain's insurance premium, as well as to provide a way to track repairs. Under MA General Law Chapter 84, S 15, a town is required to repair a road defect within a "reasonable" period of time following notification, although the word "reasonable" has not defined. The Board wondered if Mr. Sullivan could keep some cold patch on hand for use during the winter months. Following discussion, it was determined that the paper reporting process will be utilized and the process itself will be revisited in one month.
- MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to utilize the Pothole/Road Defect Reporting form, and re-evaluate it in one month. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Landfill Post Closure Monitoring
Mr. Sullivan gave the Board a contract from Mark W. Popham, R.S., Solid Waste Management Consultant, for the next two years of landfill monitoring. The Board asked

Mr. Sullivan to ascertain how long this testing on the old landfill will be required and at what frequency. Mr. Sullivan will follow up.

Route 112 Bridge over the East Branch of the North River

The Board reviewed correspondence regarding attempts to obtain permission to dredge in the area of the bridge near the highway garage, dated prior to Tropical Storm Irene. Generally it was agreed that routine dredging would alleviate the type of damage sustained during the recent tropical storm. Correspondence will be drafted.

Special Town Meeting
Articles:

Highway Articles

In preparation for the upcoming Special Town Meeting (STM), members of the Colrain Finance Committee discussed prospective articles with the Selectboard. Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan indicated that he'd like to transfer \$7000 from transfer station expenses to the machinery maintenance line, which is running low. There are ample funds to accommodate the transfer.

Additionally, he would like to purchase a cab and chassis to replace the F550 truck. He requested \$40,635 from the highway stabilization account for this purchase. He estimated another \$30,000 would be necessary to fully equip the vehicle. He was asked to get an estimate for the parts necessary to have a complete vehicle and return that information no later than 1/18/12.

Police Department Articles

Chief Jason Haskins met with the group regarding his requests for the upcoming STM. He explained that due to increasing gas prices, call volume, and repairs, the cruiser expense line is in need of a \$4000 transfer. He would like to take \$2000 each from Police Protection and Police Equipment.

Discussion was had regarding the replacement of one or both cruisers. They are ten and eleven years old, and taking increasing amounts of funds to keep roadworthy. Recently, some funds have become available due to the sale of real estate (the closing will be on or before the end of February), and MA General Laws indicate that an acceptable use of these funds is for items normally financed for five or more years, such as vehicles. Chief Haskins indicated that there might be some grant funding available through the US Department of Agriculture's Community Facility Loan/Grant Program. Further research will be conducted. He gave an overview of the types of cruisers available and the pros/cons of each. Following results of the research into the grant program, Chief Haskins will formalize his request.

Other Items

The Finance Committee and Selectboard reviewed additional proposed articles for inclusion on the warrant. Increased fuel use and costs, advertising, and unanticipated payments of veteran's benefits accounted for several articles. The final ballot vote for the Wired West membership will be taken. A vote will be necessary to transfer \$25,000 from insurance proceeds from highway garage damage to purchase a new furnace for the highway garage.

Since more information is needed on a couple of these articles, it was determined to reschedule the STM. The Board will revisit the date at their next meeting.

Board of Health
Update:

Community Challenge Grant Opportunity

Mike Friedlander, Colrain Board of Health member, was unable to attend this meeting due to illness. However, he had spoken with Selectperson Sauvageau regarding this topic. Representatives from several local Boards of Health are interested in taking advantage of the Community Challenge Grant Opportunity, which is a grant created to support innovative regionalization and other cost savings initiatives that will change the

way local governments do business to maintain services while stretching taxpayer dollars. The function of this regional group would be to provide health inspection services to member towns in the event the local inspectors are not available in a cost-effective manner. He had explained this concept at a meeting on 10/31/11, when the Board was considering joining the Franklin Regional Council of Government's (FRCOG) Regional Health Program.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to support the Colrain Board of Health in the Community Challenge Grant Opportunity. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Chairman Thibodeau called for a brief recess from 8: 40 PM to 8:50 PM.

Old Business:

Recap of Board of Health Meeting re: Giard Properties

The Board discussed the meeting on 1/5/12 regarding the structural soundness of the three Giard properties: the Tin Shop, so-called Truck Stop, and on Church Street. The recommendation by the Board of Health is to demolish those buildings due to the excessive cost of rehabilitation. Sometime in the near future, the voters will be asked to provide the approximately \$90,000 necessary for these demolitions. Research will be done as to possible funding sources for this work.

FRCOG Local Technical Assistance Funding Priorities

The Board reviewed the list of possible priorities for the recent funding given to the FRCOG and rated them according to Colrain's needs. No further action necessary.

New Business:

Review of Correspondence from Colrain Council on Aging

The Board reviewed an email from Richard and Amy Herzig regarding an issue at the Shelburne Senior Center recently. Further, the group will be attending a budget workshop at the town office on 1/16/12 @ 4:00 PM in anticipation of preparing their first budget. No action necessary.

Review Invoice and Change Order for Heath Road/TS Irene

The Board reviewed the final invoice from C.D. Davenport Trucking for work on Heath Road under the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection program. This program provides a 75% reimbursement for eligible expenses. A change order was included as the amount of material was under estimated.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign the change order for an additional \$6375.00 for material on the Heath Road sites, bringing the total construction costs to \$42,034.50. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Review Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Heating System at Highway Garage

The Board reviewed the IFB for the heating system at the highway garage, damaged during Tropical Storm Irene. The bid opening is 1/25/12 @ 1 PM at the FRCOG offices at 425 Main St., Greenfield. No further action required.

Tropical Storm Irene After-Action Conference

The Board received an invitation to an "After-Action" Conference sponsored by the FRCOG Regional Preparedness Program to be held on 1/31/12 from 6-8 PM at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. The Board requested that Scott Sullivan, Colrain Emergency Manager and/or Nick Anzuoni, Colrain Fire Chief, be asked to attend. No further action necessary.

Handouts For Review

The Board received the following handouts for review: Wellness Initiative; COA Board Meeting Minutes; City and Town; K&P E-Blast; MTRSD Draft minutes of 12/14/11; Dining Out for a Cause; and DEP Response Action Report.

Office Updates:

Sign Liquor Licenses

The Board signed Liquor Licenses.

Town Coordinator Position

Recently, two persons have submitted unsolicited resumes for the position of Town Coordinator. Both of them appear to have qualifications that the Board is seeking. Rather than miss the opportunity, these individuals will be asked to come in and speak with the Board and the Personnel Committee. Appointments will be arranged.

Meeting Schedule

There will be no meeting on 1/16/12 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance. The Board will meet on 1/18/12 instead.

Upcoming Meetings

01/11/12	MTRSD Budget Subcommittee	TBD
01/11/12	MTRSD School Committee	7:00 PM Middle School
01/12/12	MTRSD Policy Subcomm.	5:00 PM Prin. Conf. Rm.
01/17/12	MTRSD Personnel/Negotiations Subcommittee	6:00 PM Prin. Conf. Rm. Mohawk
01/25/12	Heating System Bid Opening	1:00 PM FRCOG
01/27/12	DIAL/Self Youth Svc. Roundtable	3:00 PM Gfld. High
01/31/12	FRCOG Reg. Planning After Action	6:00 PM Mohawk
02/07/12	REPC Hazardous Materials Plan	4:00 PM Montague Safety Complex

The payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to dissolve at 9:30 PM. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey L. Baronas
Town Accountant