

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

MINUTES OF JANUARY 30, 2012

- Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton.
- Others Present: Kate Amaral, Shelburne Falls and West County Independent; Tom Pariseau, Marybeth Chichester and Doug MacLeay, Colrain Finance Committee; Bill Cole, Resident; Kevin Fox, Colrain Town Coordinator; and Tracey Baronas, Town Accountant.
- Call to Order: Chairman Mark Thibodeau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He announced two tape recorders in use by the Selectboard (the Board).
- Minutes: **MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the minutes of 01/23/12. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Introductions: Chairman Thibodeau introduced Kevin Fox as the new Town Coordinator. Mr. Fox has recently retired from the Melanson, Heath firm where he specialized in municipal auditing. He also is a selectman in the neighboring town of Buckland. He will be working Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- Also introduced was Marybeth Chichester, a new member of the Finance Committee.
- Special Town Meeting Warrant: Discussion of Proposed Articles
Doug MacLeay, Marybeth Chichester and Tom Pariseau of the Colrain Finance Committee met with the Board to discuss finalizing the Special Town Meeting warrant and to choose a date.

Discussion was had regarding placing capital purchases on a special town meeting (STM) warrant. Generally, as outlined in the minutes of 1/23/12, the Town has tried to stay away from placing these items on a STM warrant. However, funding has been obtained that was not anticipated at the time of the preparation of the fiscal year 2012 budget, approximately one year ago. Owing to the condition of the vehicles in question and the continual expenditures to keep them on the road, it seems prudent to address these now rather than waiting an additional three months. The finance committee was in support of placing articles for a vehicle or two on this STM in this instance. Selectman Scranton was more in favor of waiting for the annual town meeting in May. The general opinion was to place an article for one cruiser on the upcoming STM.

There was other discussion centering on the estimate obtained by Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan which would replace the F550. Generally, the group would like more information regarding the size of the vehicle, the decision to procure a standard rather than automatic transmission, and whether an existing plow frame could be retrofitted for this newer vehicle. Mr. Fox will obtain this information from Mr. Sullivan, along with an updated list of vehicles, condition, mileage and uses. Possibly Mr. Sullivan will need to come back in before a consensus can be reached on this issue.

Following discussion, and due to some uncertainty in one or two other areas, it was decided to continue to gather information. The STM date has tentatively been rescheduled to 3/12/12. The finance committee was generally in favor of meeting before then to entertain requests for reserve fund transfers as necessary.

Old Business:

Review Furnace Bids and Award Bid

The Selectboard reviewed the results of the Invitation for Bids conducted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to replace the storm damaged furnace at the highway garage. The apparent qualified low bidder was Lahey Plumbing from Adams, MA at \$26,750. Insurance proceeds have been paid to the Town in the amount of \$25,000 for contents insurance already, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will look at any replacement costs over and above what the insurance reimburses.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to award the bid to replace the furnace at the highway garage to Lahey Plumbing in the amount of \$26,750. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Fox will relay this outcome to Andrea Woods, Chief Procurement Officer at the FRCOG. Ms. Woods will prepare a contract.

Regional Dog Kennel Updates

The Board was given a copy of a grant application submitted by the FRCOG for the purpose of assisting with start up and implementation costs of the new Regional Dog Kennel program. This opportunity is through the new Community Innovation Challenge Grant program through the Commonwealth of MA. If awarded this may further reduce costs to the Town for the remainder of fiscal year 2012.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has posted the Dog Kennel position in The Recorder. Applications are due 2/15/12.

Revisit Road Complaint/Review Correspondence

The Board reviewed and discussed a letter they had requested be written to Ms. Karen Clough as a result of their meeting on 1/9/12. The MA Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the towns' insurer, has indicated that the 30 day claim filing period has elapsed and there is no recourse for damages there. Ms. Clough contends that her vehicle sustained damage while traveling on New County Road on 9/30/11 and her insurance company has charged her a deductible and assessed a surcharge for the next several years. She acknowledged that there was a "road closed" sign but she proceeded on until she met with a highway worker. The highway worker told her if she could wait, they'd open up the road for her to pass through. Colrain highway workers' logs do not have them working on that road on that date. No police report was filed, which is mandatory for damages in excess of \$1000.00. Additionally, information has recently come to light that indicated she may actually have been in Halifax, rather than Colrain. The Board discussed revisions to the letter, which Mr. Fox will make. The matter will be revisited next week.

Route 112 Bridge Near Highway Garage/Dredging Follow Up Info

Further research is being done by Bob Dean at the FRCOG to bring funding in for a study of the Deerfield River watershed. The logic behind this is that if there is a complete study, hazard mitigation could be undertaken which would help alleviate damage to the extent suffered from storms such as Tropical Storm Irene. Mr. Fox will be in touch with Mr. Dean regarding progress

Sign Change Orders-Village Center and Thompson Road Projects

The Board reviewed change orders for work done by ET&L on the Tropical Storm Irene damaged sections of the above roads. The net for the two resulted in a decrease of approximately \$12,000 on the projects. The engineer has explained sometimes there is a difference between what is estimated and what actually is needed to complete the work.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign the two change orders as discussed. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

Office and Selectboard Budgets for FY13

The Board was given copies of the FY12 budgets for use in comparing figures for FY13. Staff will begin to put new figures in place.

Quintus Allen Trust Distribution

The annual distribution from the Quintus Allen Trust is \$1788.20 for 2011. This money is used to offset the Franklin County Technical School assessment figure.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign accept the 2011 Quintus Allen distribution in the amount of \$1788.20. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Sign Retroreflectivity Plan

Recently, the Federal Highway Administration has adopted requirements that state that cities and towns must comply with sign retroreflectivity requirements. Retroreflectivity refers to the property of an object to reflect light back to the driver. A significant percentage (45%) of Franklin County drivers are aged 45 or older, when it is found that vision and reaction times generally decrease. Implementing the new signage will aid visibility for drivers. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has received a grant to aid towns in adopting a Sign Retroreflectivity Maintenance Plan. The Board was given a copy of this proposed plan for review, and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Former Brownfields Sites in Colrain

The Board was asked to review some information that seemed incorrect on the Environmental Protection Agency's ACRES (Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange System). Most of the corrections had been made by staff in the office. One other area was discussed, and the correct site and address will be forwarded to Jessica Atwood at the FRCOG for correction. No further action required.

Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) Grant Application

The Colrain Board of Health also is part of an application under the new Community Innovation Challenge Grant. A copy of the application was given to the Board. The purpose of the regional application is to create a new Franklin County Boards of Health Association. The group will focus on training, pooling and sharing public health resources, increasing awareness of public health issues, grant work and networking. No action necessary.

Gravel Pit Annual Permitting

The Board discussed annual permit procedures once a gravel pit has been opened. Further research will be done and the matter was tabled.

Handouts for Review:

The Board received the following: FY13 Local Aid Estimates; Maxam Road Bridge Reinspection Report; and a Year-to-Date Expense Report. The members were invited to review the Regional Housing Authority's 2009 CDBG Report #10.

Office Updates

Additional Liquor License Signatures Required

The Board signed additional paperwork for previously approved licenses. No other action necessary.

Upcoming Meetings

01/31/12	FRCOG Reg. Planning After Action	6:00 PM Mohawk
01/31/12	Colrain Planning Info Session	7:00 PM Selectboard Mtg. Room
02/01/12	MTRSD Budget/Ed. Subcomm.	5:00 PM Supt. Conf. Rm.
02/01/12	MMAC Meeting	6:30 PM Mohawk
02/02/12	MTRSD Policy Subc.	5:00 PM Supt. Conf. Rm.
02/07/12	REPC Hazardous Materials Plan	4:00 PM Montague Safety Complex
02/08/12	MTRSD School Committee	7:00 PM Mohawk Middle School
02/23/12	Colrain Planning Board Public Hearing	7:00 PM Selectboard Mtg. Room

The payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to dissolve at 8:40 PM. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey L. Baronas
Town Accountant