

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

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

- Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton.
- Others Present: Kate Amaral, Shelburne Falls and West County Independent; Scott Sullivan, Colrain Highway Superintendent; Mike Slowinski, Mohawk Trail Regional School Building Subcommittee; Marybeth Chichester, Tom Pariseau, Doug MacLeay and Charles Lappen, Colrain Finance Committee Members; Nick Anzuoni, Colrain Fire Chief and Chairman, Colrain Board of Assessors; Alice Wozniak, Assistant Assessor; Joan Rockwell, Planning Board Chair; Kevin Fox, Colrain Town Coordinator; and Tracey Baronas, 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 2/06/12. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Highway Dept. Updates: Road Sign Retroreflectivity Plan  
Scott Sullivan, Colrain Highway Superintendent, spoke with the Board regarding new signage regulations. Recently, the Federal Highway Administration has adopted requirements that state that cities and towns must comply with sign retroreflectivity standards. 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. Mr. Sullivan asked the Board to adopt this plan as designed by the FRCOG.
- MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to adopt the Sign Retroreflectivity Maintenance Plan as prepared by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Western MA Electric Company Brush Control Program Agreement  
The Board reviewed the contract for participation in the Brush Control Program with WMECO. In exchange for roadside mowing, the five towns that participate (Leyden, Colrain, Bernardston, Shelburne and Montague) each receive use of a mower. The lead town in the program (which changes every five years) gets to keep the mower at the end of the five-year period. This is an ongoing and successful program.
- MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign the WMECO Brush Control Program Agreement. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Trash Bag Switch to Stickers  
Mr. Sullivan confirmed the change from town trash bags to trash bag stickers with the Board. It will be advertised in the papers, and with signage at the town office and at the transfer station. Residents can use any town bags they have before switching over to the stickers.

River Dredging-Route 112 Bridge Near Highway Garage

Brief discussion was had regarding obtaining permission to routinely dredge waterways near the highway garage (as well as other sites in town) to prevent flooding issues such as what occurred during Tropical Storm Irene. It was agreed to begin research with the Colrain Conservation Commission as to the correct avenues for permitting.

Sign Boiler Replacement Contract

The Board reviewed the contract with the qualified low bidder, Lahey Plumbing from Adams, MA at \$26,750 for the furnace at the highway garage. This was damaged during Tropical Storm Irene. Insurance has already covered \$25,000, and the balance will be reviewed by FEMA.

**MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign contract with Lahey Plumbing. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**

Green Grant  
Update:

Bid Opening

Mike Slowinski, Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee Building Sub-Committee member, updated the Board on the bidding process for the Green Grant programs. He indicated that a bid opening was conducted today for the windows at Mohawk and Colrain Central School. It is expected that the bids for the window portion will be awarded this week. Roof bids will be opened shortly.

Mr. Fox had reported his research pertaining to a request from the Building Inspector to waive permitting fees for the repairs to the Colrain Central School. Joanne Blier, MTRSD Business Manager, suggested waiting until after discussion at the School Building Sub-Committee on 2/15/12.

Planning Board  
Update:

Proposed Zoning Changes/Solar Permitting Moratorium

Joan Rockwell, Chair of the Planning Board, spoke with the Board regarding the logistics of getting the proposed changes on the zoning bylaws to the voters in a manner that would allow maximum exposure and opportunity for questions. Due to the complexity of the issues, it was decided to hold a separate special town meeting to address the changes.

The article requesting a moratorium on large solar and wind projects will appear on the next special town meeting, currently scheduled for 3/12/12.

Fiscal Year 2013  
Budget Discussion:

Board of Assessors Proposed Budget

Assistant Assessor Alice Wozniak and Nick Anzuoni, Chairman, presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013. The bottom line figures were the same as in fiscal year 2012.

Discussion was had regarding establishing a stabilization account for consulting fees in order to lessen the spike in cost during revaluation years. Establishing such an account requires a 2/3 vote at town meeting and it would require a 2/3 vote to take it out. The purpose of the fund could also be changed by 2/3 vote at town meeting.

Mrs. Wozniak pointed out that since the Board of Assessors conducts most of their business without the use of outside consultants, the Town realizes a significant savings. The composition of the current Board of Assessors is such that they often take time off from their regular occupations to conduct site visits, and routinely do not claim mileage or other expenses for reimbursement. She is in the process of compiling some hard data to demonstrate the actual savings.

Fire Department Budget

Finance Committee member Charles Lappen, who has been assisting in the office for storm-related paperwork, recognized Lieutenant Kevin Worden II for his assistance in

compiling information for Tropical Storm Irene calls. He remarked how responsive he was when information was requested. Chief Anzuoni thanked him for letting him know.

Chief Anzuoni presented the fiscal year 2013 fire department budget for review. The operating budget asks for an increase of 100 hours due to increasing call volume.

Other requests include an increase in the Volunteer Firefighters grant match to \$2000. The Comm. of MA will reimburse 50% of this if awarded. Typically this is used for the purchase of foam. The department is in need of 1500' feet of large diameter hose. Fifty percent of the hose in service currently is 1998 vintage or older. The older hose is beginning to fail under pressure and is becoming unreliable. The last item on the capital list is replacement of the 1973 Mack tanker, which was taken out of service and sold due to high repair costs and mechanical unreliability. A truck of this size would provide access to narrow driveways, be the first apparatus out on the majority of calls, and provide four wheel drive apparatus. The projected cost of this type of vehicle is \$385,000. Research will be conducted as to financing options for obtaining another vehicle.

Old Business:

Special Town Meeting Warrant Discussion

The Board and Finance Committee met to finalize articles for the special town meeting on 3/12/12. The final copy will be available for signatures on 2/22/12 at the Selectboard meeting. The Finance Committee met following this part of the meeting to reorganize and make recommendations on the articles.

New Business:

Traffic Count Results

Each year, free of charge, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments conducts traffic counts as requested, subject to availability. The Board received a copy of one conducted on Greenfield Road at the Shelburne Town Line. The Board was asked to review the data and make suggestions for counts on other roads in Colrain.

Office Updates

Meeting Schedule

Due to the President's Day holiday, the Board will not meet on 2/20/12. They will, however, meet on 2/22/12 at 6:30 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

2/15/12	MTRSD School Building Sub.	5:00 PM Supt. Conf. Rm./Mohawk
2/15/12	MTRSD FY13 Budget Hearing	7:00 PM Supt. Conf. Rm./ Mohawk
02/22/12	Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing	7:00 PM Selectboard Mtg. Room, 55 Main Road
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 9:30 PM. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey L. Baronas  
Town Accountant