

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

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2012

- Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton.
- Others Present: Kate Amaral, Shelburne Falls and West County Independent; Muriel Russell, Sarah Johnson and Joe Kurland, Colrain residents; Marybeth Chichester and Doug MacLeay, Colrain Finance Committee; Jason Haskins, Colrain Police Chief; Betty Johnson, Griswold Memorial Library Director and Michael Friedlander, Library Trustee; 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 2/22/12. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Catamount Hill Association: Upcoming Celebration
Sarah Johnson of the Catamount Hill Association spoke with the Board regarding upcoming events in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the first flag raising over a public school, which occurred in Colrain. There will be a hike to the memorial on Catamount Hill on May 12th to recognize this date. In October, there will be a day-long conference with speakers and vendors, followed the next day by another hike. She expressed concern over the condition of Stacy Road, particularly since Tropical Storm Irene impacted the area. Stacy Road would likely be the most accessed route to the state forest. Part of the area is maintained by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Selectman Thibodeau suggested that Ms. Johnson contact the DCR to ascertain their level of assistance in repairing the road. Ms. Johnson will follow up and report back.
- Town Meeting Article: Corporate Personhood
Joe Kurland spoke with the Board regarding an article that he is seeking to petition on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. He would like to see if the town would vote “to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the US Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election-related spending.” (Taken directly from the petition). He was not asking the Board to approve the petition for the warrant-he prefers to obtain signatures from registered voters and have it placed on the warrant. No action necessary.
- Police Budget: Proposed FY13 Budget
Police Chief Jason Haskins presented the Board with the police department budget request for FY13. He presented several scenarios for personnel, depending upon the structure of the department. The cruiser expense line was increased, mainly as a result of rising gasoline prices. The department may be in line to receive a used ATV and a small amount of funds were requested for maintenance and also helmets. The police equipment line was reduced as a result of purchases in FY12 that are not required in FY13. The police administrative line, which is 100% reimbursed, was reduced to \$2000 in recognition of less detail work in the future. Chief Haskins was thanked for his submission.

Library Budget:

Proposed FY13 Budget

Library Director Betty Johnson and Trustee Mike Friedlander presented the FY13 proposed budget for the Griswold Memorial Library. While the bottom line has not changed greatly, fuel costs continue to rise. This means that other items within the budget have been reduced. Discussion was had regarding the minimum contribution by the town to keep the library certified. There is a formula that calculates the average of the last three years appropriations and adds 2.5%. If the town contribution dips below that figure, it will affect what services the library can offer. Mrs. Johnson wondered what figure to use for the per gallon price of heating oil. The bid process with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments does not get finalized until later in the spring, usually after the budget has been voted at town meeting. This can make fuel budgeting difficult for all town buildings, especially with the volatility in the market. Typically the same figure per gallon is assigned at some point for all buildings. Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Friedlander were thanked for their presentation.

Old Business:

Trash Sticker Implementation Plan

Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan was able to provide a sample of the proposed stickers that will be used when the current supply of bags runs out. These are to be placed around the neck of the making adhesive to adhesive contact. There are two colors, one for a 13-gallon bag, and one for a 33-gallon bag. The price for the stickers will be \$2.00 for the large stickers and \$1.00 for the small. It was noted that bags larger than 33 gallons will require two stickers.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the switch to trash bag stickers instead of bags, prices at \$2.00 and \$1.00. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Employee Time Keeping

Mr. Fox spoke with Ellen Weeks of the Personnel Committee regarding discontinuing the use of the town time clocks and she concurred with the decision. The Board reviewed a proposed time sheet to be filled out by employees.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to discontinue the use of time clocks in favor of paper time sheets. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Green Community Designation

Mr. Fox is currently researching details regarding the new Green Community Designation and what Colrain might need to do to be designated. He will research and bring this back to a future meeting.

Town Web-Site Discussion

No updates to this topic this evening. Research will continue.

Annual Report Draft

The Board continues to review their annual report for 2011.

New Business:

Appoint Wired West Delegates

David Greenberg and Bill Cole met with Mr. Fox and asked for the following appointments:

Wired West: David Greenberg-Colrain Delegate and Bill Cole as Alternate.

Broadband Committee: David Greenberg, Bill Cole, Leah Coburn, Bill Dornbusch, Maureen Kennedy, Joe Kurland, Betsy Sand, Ed Stamas, Rebecca Tippens, and Claudia Wells.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to appoint David Greenberg as the Colrain Delegate and Bill Cole as Alternate to the Wired West Committee. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to appoint David Greenberg, Bill Cole, Leah Coburn, Bill Dornbusch, Maureen Kennedy, Joe Kurland, Betsy Sand, Ed Stamas, Rebecca Tippens, and Claudia Wells to the Colrain Broadband Committee. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Highway Department Summer Hours

Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan has requested the switch to summer hours as of 3/15/12. Highway Department hours would be from 6:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday. This has been allowed previously from Daylight Savings time to the third week in October

Franklin Regional Retirement System (FRRS) Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Vote

On 4/12/12, the FRRS Advisory Council will meet to consider ratifying a vote taken by the FRRS Board to provide an increase in the COLA base for retirees from \$13,000 to \$14,000. Town Treasurer Leah Coburn will attend on behalf of the Town of Colrain and is asking for input on Colrain's preference.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the vote by the FRRS Board to provide an increase in the COLA for retirees from \$13,000 to \$14,000. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Office Updates:

Upcoming Meetings

02/29/12	MTRSD Building Sub-Committee	5:30 PM Middle School
02/29/12	MTRSD Budget Sub-Committee	5:30 Principal's Conf. Rm./Mohawk
02/29/12	MTRSD School Committee	7:00 PM Supt. Conf.

The payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to dissolve at 9:10 PM. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey L. Baronas
Town Accountant