

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

MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2012

- Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton.
- Others Present: Kate Amaral, Shelburne Falls and West County Independent; Mike Slowinski, Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Building Committee Member; Representative Paul Mark and Mrs. Mark; Richard Herzig, Amy Herzig, Bing Waldsmith, and Joan McQuade, Colrain Council on Aging; Scott Sullivan, Colrain Highway Superintendent; Marybeth Chichester, Charles Lappen and Doug MacLeay, Colrain Finance Committee; 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 a tape recorder in use by the Selectboard (the Board).
- Minutes: **MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the minutes of 2/27/12. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Tropical Storm
Irene State Funding
Update: Update on State Funding Issue
Representative Paul Mark responded to the Board regarding a letter written to him earlier inquiring as to the status of any state funding for the anticipated twenty five percent of the costs attributed to the town. He stated that recently 10 million dollars has been approved to cover 12 ½% of the costs. He anticipates that over time an additional 12.5% will be approved to assist cities and towns in the recovery effort. In theory, this will reduce the towns' liability for the storm to zero. Mr. Mark was thanked for attending.
- Mohawk Trail Reg
Building Sub. Update: Procurement Issue
Mike Slowinski, a member of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Building committee, advised the Board that the bid for windows at the Colrain Central School was \$16,217 less than estimated.
- He also advised that the bids for the roof, which was estimated to cost \$493,000, came in significantly lower as well. The lowest bid was \$319,000, with the next lowest at \$352,000 and several more in the same range. MA procurement regulations stipulate that the bid must be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. While performing due diligence and checking references, the lowest bidder received some negative feedback regarding work quality. Mr. Slowinski inquired as to the preference of the Board.
- MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to discount the lowest bid based on negative feedback. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Council on Aging
Budget Presentation: FY13 Budget Proposal
Joan McQuade, Richard Herzig, Bing Waldsmith and Amy Herzig presented a budget request for Council on Aging for fiscal year 2013. This is the first year of operating totally on a local level, since withdrawing from the four town (Shelburne, Buckland, Ashfield and Colrain) consortium. The group is planning to utilize the Colrain Community Church for functions in the coming year, and is still looking for ideas from citizens for trips and activities. Among the programs that will be routinely run are foot, blood pressure, and glucose check clinics. Meals and programs of interest will be run regularly. The Board thanked them for their submission.

Highway Dept. &
Transfer Station
FY 13 Budget:

Fiscal 2013 Budget Presentations

Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan presented his FY13 budget submissions for both the highway department and the transfer station. He indicated that the transfer station attendants are being compensated on the lower end of the scale for similar jobs across the county and has requested an adjustment in their wages. The Board was generally in agreement that the hourly wage seemed low and should be adjusted. The Board agreed with a rate increase that would bring the attendants in line with other such positions in the area. The Personnel Committee will be apprised of this and asked for their input.

The highway department budget reflects increases for rising diesel fuel costs. Additionally, the machinery maintenance line is increasing due to necessary repairs on aging equipment as well as for gradual replacement of items damaged during Tropical Storm Irene. Discussion was had regarding a plan to replace highway trucks with a combination of funding options including borrowing, use of savings and free cash, and utilizing Chapter 90 funds when applicable. More work will be done on this plan in the future. Following a question and answer period, Mr. Sullivan was thanked for his submission.

Bridge Inspection

Mr. Sullivan indicated that he has been contacted verbally by a MA Highway Bridge inspector who indicated that a bridge on Heath Road near Vicky Sutton's pond has damage to bearing walls. There will be a written report which will require that the bridge be reduced to a one lane road over the bridge until repairs can be made. More information will follow when the written report has been received.

Old Business:

Green Community Designation/Town Web Site

Mr. Fox indicated that both the Green Community Designation and Town Web Site issue are likely to be long term issues, these will be revisited as new information becomes available.

Annual Report Revisions

The revisions to the 2011 Selectboard Annual Report are in and it will be completed this week.

New Business:

Correspondence Regarding Deerfield River Watershed Steering Committee

The Board signed correspondence to local legislators supporting an initiative by the Deerfield River Watershed Steering Committee.

Correspondence re: Motor Vehicle Claim

The Town has received correspondence regarding a motor vehicle accident in town that resulted in damage to a tree which may be in the towns' right of way. The insurance company involved has a question as to whether the tree belongs to the Town or the landowner. At issue is who should get the check for the damage. The insurance policy would like the towns' written policy on trees in the right of way. Mr. Fox will speak with Mike Friedlander, Colrain Tree Warden, and Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent regarding a written determination on ownership.

FY 2013 Community Development Block Grant Application

The Board received correspondence from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority inquiring as to whether the Town would like their assistance in preparation of the new round of Community Development Block Grant applications. In the past, Colrain has taken advantage of this offer. Mr. Fox is acquainted with another grant writer, John Ryan, and asked the Board if they would be interested in meeting with him. Mr. Ryan has extensive experience and has assisted Buckland in the past. The

Board agreed to meet with him before the deadline for replying to the Regional Housing Authority.

Correspondence to Natural Resources Conservation Commission (NRCS)

Chairman Mark Thibodeau signed documents for the NRCS relative to reimbursement for Emergency Watershed Protection projects on Heath Road, Village Center and Thompson Road.

Adamsville Road Change Order

The work on Adamsville Road exceeded the bid by approximately \$8800. Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan and John Bedard of MA Department of Transportation have reviewed the work and agree that the additional cost was necessary.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign the change order from Palmer Paving. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Office Updates:

Upcoming Meetings

03/06/12	MTRSD Education Sub Committee	6:30 PM Supt. Conf. Rm./MTRS
03/07/12	MTRSD Building Sub-Committee	5:30 Supt. Conf. Rm./MRSD
03/14/12	MTRSD Building Sub Committee	5:30 PM Supt. Conf./MTRS

Meeting Schedule

There is a special town meeting on 3/12/12 at the Colrain Central School. The Board will meet after that in the Selectboard Meeting Room at 55 Main Road, Colrain.

Discussion was had regarding adopting a biweekly meeting schedule beginning in July. This would allow Mr. Fox more opportunity to work on projects. This schedule would be flexible and could change to weekly according to need.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to change the meeting schedule to biweekly beginning with the new fiscal year. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

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