

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

MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2012

- Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau and Duane Scranton.
- Others Present: John Ryan, Breezeway Farm Consulting; Doug MacLeay, Marybeth Chichester; Tom Pariseau, and Charles Lappen, Colrain Finance Committee; Kate Amaral, Shelburne Falls and West County Independent; 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 03/15/12. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- CDBG Grant
Writing Assistance: Breezeway Farm Consulting
John Ryan of Breezeway Farm Consulting spoke with the Board regarding providing assistance with the 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. He explained the scoring process for the highly competitive CDBG grant and how his firm could be involved. He stressed that final plans, specifications, and any town contribution should be in place at the time the grants are announced. Discussion was had regarding eligible projects and what steps the Town could take to be prepared for them. The Board thanked him for coming in and will discuss his proposal further.
- Access to Memorial
Hall: Resident Requesting Access
Resident Bill Cole spoke with Town Coordinator Kevin Fox and requested access to Memorial Hall for an inspection by a potential group of purchasers. The building has been closed for several years and access has been limited. Building Inspector Shawn Kimberley indicated he would be available to accompany the group by appointment. The Board agreed with granting access if Shawn Kimberley was available to accompany them.
- Budget Discussion: Highway Capital Requests
Highway Superintendent Scott Sullivan spoke with the Board again regarding capital needs for the highway department. Due to the age and condition of the vehicles, Colrain is faced with replacing several pieces of equipment in a short period of time. Selectperson Sauvageau stressed the need for detailed estimates as well as plans for using Chapter 90 funds to assist in paying for them (Chapter 90 funds can be used for cab and chassis purchases on larger vehicles but not for snow removal equipment).
- Discussion was had regarding capital needs overall for the town. The Board and the finance committee both agreed that while needs exist, there is also a need to be prepared for fiscal year 2014, when the capital assessment for Mohawk Trail Regional School District will increase by \$70,000 for a period of ten years to cover the new roofs and window projects. Additionally, in FY14, any remaining debt from Tropical Storm Irene must be settled. It is unknown at present what the total of that might be, although more information is coming in daily regarding reimbursements. It was generally decided to place a replacement for the F550 on the ATM warrant for fiscal 2013. The finance

committee will meet with the Board to go over the budget in detail next Monday in preparation of the annual town meeting warrant.

Old Business: None this evening.

New Business: Wired West
Now that the final ballot vote for the establishment of the Municipal Lighting Plant (the precedent in the law for this project), the town will need to appoint a manager of the plant. Under MA General Law Ch. 164, S56, this person shall have full charge of the operation and management of the plant. Additionally, the town must officially vote again to join Wired West. This matter was tabled until next week.

Office Updates: Sign FEMA Correspondence Tropical Storm Irene and Natural Resources Conservation Service Reimbursement Requests
The Board was asked to sign paperwork in order to obtain reimbursement for some storm-related projects. More documents will be coming to the Board for signatures over the next few weeks.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign the FEMA/NRCS paperwork. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

The payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to dissolve at 8:50 PM. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey L. Baronas
Town Accountant