

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

MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2012

Present: Mark Thibodeau and Eileen Sauvageau.

Absent: Duane Scranton.

Others Present: Geoff Rogers, Diana Schindler, and Ken Elstein, Hampshire Council of Governments;; Charles Lappen, Colrain Finance Committee; Kate Amaral, Shelburne Falls and West County Independent; Diane Broncaccio, The Recorder, Leah Coburn, Colrain Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector; Karen Devine, Colrain Office Clerk; 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 03/26/12. Seconded by Mark Thibodeau.**

Hampshire Council of Governments Electric Purchasing Program

Geoff Rogers from the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) discussed an electrical purchasing cooperative program with the Board. He spoke about ways in which the HCOG could help the town save money on electricity. They run two programs, one that purchases on “real time” and one that utilizes a fixed price plan over 12, 24 or 36 months. The fixed price plan sets the price the day a contract is signed. He provided a graph showing that either option has shown a savings overall. He indicated that the changeover could take about a month should the Board decide to take advantage of either option.

Residential and Business Opportunity for Electrical Savings

Ken Elstein, also of the Hampshire Council of Governments, spoke with the Board about an opportunity to replace WMECO as the default provider for the supply portion of electrical services on residential and small business billings. This opportunity allows for bidding with suppliers to obtain a better price for the supply portion of the electrical service. The delivery portion (maintenance of poles and power lines) would remain with WMECO. Under MA General Laws, towns are allowed to change suppliers following a town meeting vote. If an article is placed on the annual town meeting warrant and passes, individual businesses and residents would be allowed to opt out by completing a form within the first thirty days. Mr. Elstein provided a sample warrant article for use if so desired.

Planning Board
Updates:

Proposed Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting

Joan Rockwell, Chair of the Planning Board, spoke with the Board regarding changes proposed for approval at the upcoming annual town meeting. She explained that two public hearings have been held and changes have been incorporated including citizen input. The first article will be to accept the new zoning map. The second article will be to accept a revised “Use Table” and site plan review provisions. The third article provides updates to definitions used. She asked the Board for suggestions about presenting this at the annual town meeting, given the length of the document and number of changes. Currently the intent is to have changes highlighted in yellow for easier

viewing. The suggestion was made that perhaps representatives from the zoning board, the building inspector, and the assessors could also be part of the presentation at town meeting. Because these articles will be discussed after the financial articles have been addressed, the Selectboard will be attentive to the hour and continue the meeting if necessary.

Budget Review

Fiscal 2013 Budget Discussions

Kevin Fox, Town Coordinator, presented a budget overview as a result of changes from last week. Discussion was had regarding final revisions to the budget. A final review will take place 4/9/12 with the finance committee.

New Business:

Appoint Council on Aging Members

This will be discussed next meeting.

Sign Small Scale Initiative Grant Document

Chairman Thibodeau signed a Contractor Authorization Signatory Listing for FY2013 regarding the above grant, which was used this year to purchase copy paper. He also signed a request for reimbursement for this years' purchase.

FY13 Chapter 90 Provisional Allotment Announcement

The Board reviewed a document from Governor Patrick indicating the FY13 Chapter 90 allotment is \$327,140 subject to a pending bond bill. No action necessary.

The payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to dissolve at 9:45 PM. Seconded by Mark Thibodeau.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey L. Baronas
Town Accountant