

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

MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2012

- Present: Mark Thibodeau, Duane Scranton, and Eileen Sauvageau.
- Others Present: Kate Amaral, Shelburne Falls and West County Independent; John Thorndike, Resident; Kevin French, Guest; Jack Cavolick, Colrain Dog Officer; Scott Sullivan, Colrain Highway Superintendent; Tracey Baronas, Town Accountant; Kevin Fox, Colrain Town Coordinator.
- 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 05/07/12. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.**
- Resident Concern: River Debris/300 Main Road Area
John Thorndike of 300 Main Road came in to speak with the Board regarding an inordinate amount of debris left on his property as a result of Tropical Storm Irene damage to neighboring properties. He asked if the Town could provide any assistance in getting this debris cleaned up. The Board asked Town Coordinator Kevin Fox to contact Kevin Parsons of Trout Unlimited to ascertain if there is any volunteer labor available and if the dumpster recently utilized in the North River clean up could be used. A follow up call will be made to Mr. Thorndike.
- Dog Officer Update: Shared Dog Officer Proposal
Jack Cavolick, Colrain Dog Officer and Animal Control Officer, spoke with the Board regarding a proposal to appoint an assistant dog officer as a backup when he is unavailable. Although he does not anticipate the need often, it does occur, and the Town should have a back up in place. He would like the Town to enter into a mutual aid type agreement with the towns of Buckland and Shelburne. Further discussion will be had with the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne to determine their interest in this opportunity. The matter was tabled to allow for further investigation.
- Highway Update: Bereavement Request
Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent, requested that the Board review a request by a member of his department for bereavement leave to attend the funeral of his spouse's grandparent.
MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve one-day paid bereavement request as described above. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.
Review Bid Specifications-New Highway Truck
The Board reviewed the proposed specifications for the replacement highway truck as proposed by Mr. Sullivan. There were no amendments.
Arthur A. Smith Bridge Repair Bids
The Selectboard reviewed the bids received for the repair of storm damage at the A.A. Smith Bridge. Originally, FEMA estimated that the repair would cost \$12,500, but the low bid came in at \$41,700. Mr. Fox contacted Lorraine Eddy at MEMA to determine

how to recover the excess. She indicated that all small projects (those less than \$64,000) would be reviewed at the end to determine if more money is owed to the town or if the town was overpaid on other projects. There was extended discussion regarding the wide variances in the bid results, and the overall difference in the estimate by FEMA versus the actual bids.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to reject all the bids for the repair on the A.A. Smith Bridge. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Fox will further investigate the bid specs and contact the MA Historic Commission to see if any relief is available through them.

New Business:

Minuteman Pest Control Contract Renewal

The Board reviewed a renewal contract with Minuteman Pest Control for insect protection on the A.A. Smith Covered Bridge. The annual fee is \$370.00.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the contract with Minuteman Pest Control for services at the A.A. Smith Bridge. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Chapter 90 Project Request Forms

The Board reviewed project request forms for gravel for various town roads. This is in accordance with the recently discussed plan for the Chapter 90 Funds.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the Chapter 90 Project Requests. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Application-Potential Projects

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) recently sent correspondence asking for suggested projects for pre-disaster mitigation projects under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Several ideas were discussed including obtaining generators for town buildings, streambank stabilization in several areas of town, and possible relocation of the highway garage. Applications are due by 6/15/12.

Office Clerk Job Description

The Board reviewed the draft of the Office Clerk position, which is currently being advertised in The Recorder. The Board had no additions or corrections.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to approve the Office Clerk job description. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

MassWorks Infrastructure Program Grant Announcement

The Board was given a copy of the May 8 announcement of the second round of MassWorks Infrastructure Program, which will open in August. Mr. Fox indicated that he is familiar with an engineering firm that might be amenable to coming to a board meeting to discuss projects. That firm will be contacted for an appointment.

Franklin Regional Housing Authority-Housing Rehab. Issue

Mr. Fox conducted some research into a recent complaint by a resident about housing rehabilitation funds through the Franklin Regional Housing Authority. It appears that the necessary work for this one home would exceed \$64,800 and at a Selectboard meeting on 11/15/10 additional estimates were requested. The concern of the Board at that time was that it seemed excessive for one home. Further information will be sought from the Franklin Regional Housing Authority regarding additional resources.

2012 VFA Grant Application

The Board reviewed and signed the contract forms for the 2012 Volunteer Firefighters grant application. The funding for this was approved at the recent annual town meeting and there is a reimbursement of 50% back to the Town. Typically the funds are used for foam and wildfire equipment.

Office Updates:

Memorial Day Meeting

There will be no meeting on May 28th due to the Memorial Day holiday. Next meeting is scheduled for 6/4/12.

Discontinue Log of Phone Calls/Faxes

A request was made by staff to discontinue logging phone calls/faxes by department. Generally no purpose is served. The town accountant monitors the monthly invoices for changes and addresses them with the individual department heads. The Board had no issue with this.

The payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to dissolve at 8:55 PM. Seconded by Duane Scranton. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey L. Baronas
Town Accountant