

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

**MINUTES OF June 16, 2014**

Present: Eileen Sauvageau, Mark Thibodeau, Jack Cavolick,

Others Present Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent, Maryann Foster, Steve Coutu, Billie Coutu, Erika Coutu, Mary Farrell, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator, Paula Harrison – Office Clerk.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eileen Sauvageau at 7:00 PM.

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Minutes**

There were no minutes ready at this time.

New Business

**Consideration of Insurance Proposal for 41 Archambo Road**

Kevin informed the Board that this property is now owned by the Town. He informed the Board that the town is in the process of evicting the resident and that the structure and property should be insured. He has received a quote of \$1,097.36 to insure the property for a year. Discussion on what the process of eviction and securing the property.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to insure the house at 41 Archambo Road, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Board meeting closed by Mark Thibodeau at 7:05 p.m., Jack Cavolick seconded and voted unanimously.**

**Public Hearing regarding Dog Complaint (in accordance with MGL Chapter 140 Section 157)**

Eileen called the public hearing to order at 7:05 pm in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 157. Jack abstained as Selectmen from the hearing. Eileen explained to the people in attendance the order of proceeding for the public hearing.

Present Eileen Sauvageau, Mark Thibodeau

Others present Steve Coutu, Billie Coutu, Erica Coutu, MaryAnne Foster, Mary Farrell, Jack Cavolick – Dog Officer

**Report from the Dog officer Jack Cavolick**

Jack explained the formal complaint that has been submitted. He read the complaint to the Board. Jack gave the Board and residents some background of

this dog issue. There have been 22 general complaints and 7 calls for roaming dogs from this same household. Jack reads his log recorded and reviewed the procedures which were followed as the Dog Officer which lead to the dog hearing this evening. There was discussion on the events that happened on May 27, 2014. Erika said the dogs would not let her out of the house when she was trying to go for a walk with her own dog. The dogs were aggressive enough for her to become very upset. Jack and Steve Coutu presented photographs of the dogs roaming and damage the dogs have done around and in the Coutu's yard. MaryAnne Foster said that the pit bull mix is not a problem dog. Eileen asked Erika when she was trying to get out of the house what were the dogs doing to not letting you out of the house? Erika explained that the dogs came up the ramp and began jumping on her. Eileen asked Jack if he has met the dogs. Jack has and explained that the dogs were not approachable. Billie Coutu has a concern for her elderly mother who will be visiting in the near future. MaryAnn Foster does not dispute what has been said. She has constructed a pen but the dogs get through it or go over it. She explained further that there are plans for the two black dogs to go to new homes. This has been a very stressful situation for MaryAnne. She believes that the two black dogs could be placed to new homes as early as next week. Jack informed Maryanne that the county kennel does not take dangerous dogs. Maryanne informed Jack that the black female dog Lady is not an aggressive dog. She explained further. Coutu and MaryAnn all agree that the dogs do not listen. Jack asked MaryAnn about the recent dog bite report at her residents. Maryanne explained that the male dogs were fighting and the person who tried to separate the dogs was bitten. This was a dog named Finnigan who is not related to this dog hearing. Mark stated this is the second time MaryAnn has been in this situation and has admitted that she does not have enough time to take care of a dogs. Why do you have dogs? MaryAnn explained that there are four other adults in the houseold and they are the ones who bring the dogs home. Jack recommended the Board designate the dogs as a dangerous or nuisance dog, he reads the definition of each. Jack said if declared a nuisance dog the Town can set requirements of fencing, a fine up to \$500 if the dog are found loose. Jack recommended to the Board to declare the dogs nuisance dogs and require the current fenced area to be covered so the dogs cannot get out with a \$350 fine if the dogs are found loose. Discussion on what MaryAnn has for fencing. Mary Farrell, MaryAnn's daughter informed the Board that her younger sister acquired the dogs and have left them for her mother to care for.

**MOVED: Eileen Savaugau moved that based on the following facts that Erika felt threatened and the dogs are constantly roaming, that Rio and Lady are defined as nuisance dogs by the Select Board, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Eileen would like the dogs to be confined and if not confined the dogs should be on a leash when taken for a walk. Jack informed Maryanne that the dogs need to be confined. Discussion on the conditions the selectmen can attach to a motion once the Board has declared the dogs nuisance.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved that if the dogs are not confined to the property and are loose or there are any future complaints that there be a fine**

of \$350 per complaint, Eileen Savaugau seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Jack explained to Maryanne what this motion means legally. Maryanne informed the Board and the Dog Officer that there are other adults in the house who may not follow the rules.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau close the Dog Hearing in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 157 at 7:56 pm, Eileen Savaugau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Eileen Savaugau opened the Select Board meeting at 8:02pm reopen the meeting.

Not Anticipated  
At Time of Posting

**Bid for the All Season Dump Body**

Kevin informed the Board that there were one bid from Zwack Inc. Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent is satisfied with the bid and the bidder.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to buy the All Season Dump Body from Zwack Inc , Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Glider kit**

Kevin informed the Board that the bids are due Monday June 23, 2014. Could the Board set a meeting to review and award the bid so Scott can move forward on ordering the kit. The Board would like to set a meeting up for Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 4 pm.

New Business

**Letter from MA DOT regarding Route 112 Culvert at Pitt House (update)**

Kevin informed that Board that MassDOT has come and tried to aide in the clearing of the culvert by the Pitt House. There was discussion on where the culvert is located. Kevin wanted to inform the Board that the State has been up to look at the culvert and did get it draining a little bit.

**Permission for FRCOG to Contract on Town's Behalf – FY 15 Highway Bids**

Kevin informed the Board that this is a standard contract that occurs every year. Scott reviewed the bids and pick the low bidders with the exception of one. This was for gravel. There was discussion on the reasons why the second bidder was picked. It was explained that the travel distance would deplete any savings from the low bidder. Scott explained the history of the gravel bids.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved that the Town allow the FRCOG to contract on it's behalf for FY 15 for highway products, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Proposal from Weston and Samson for Engineering Services for TIP**

Kevin stated that Weston and Sampson has submitted a revised scope of work for the Intersection Project with a cost of \$55,000. There was discussion that this will allow the town to stay in line to be next in line for funding due to the town being ready.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved that the Town spend the \$55,000 for Weston and Samsom to do the preliminary engineering for the TIP project**

and use Chapter 90 as funding, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

**Proposal from Gill Engineering for Engineering Services Relative to the Heath Road Bridge**

Kevin informed the Board of the meeting for engineering work and design for the Heath Road Bridge. Proposal for engineering came in at \$22,737. Kevin estimated that the construction costs to temporarily repair the bridge would be between \$50,000 to \$100,000. Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent recommended not to move forward with a temporary repair but use the money to repair Maxam Road. Scott informed the Board that this will take ¾ of a mile of road paving out of his road work. Scott would like to pave Maxam Road so it could be a safer road and easier to maintain until the Heath Road Bridge is repaired by MassDOT. No Action Taken

Not Anticipated  
New Business

**Internet and Phone Proposal Crocker Communications**

Kevin informed the Board that the internet will cost more to switch to broadband but the phone will be cheaper. And the savings will pay for the cost of equipment in about one year. There was discussion on our current phone systems and what the new system would allow the town office to do.

**MOVED: Marl Thibodeau moved to accept the internet and phone proposal from Crocker Communication, Eileen Savaugeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Consideration of Letter in Support of Colrain Central School “Safe Routes to School” Grant Application**

Kevin recommended not to sign a letter of support for two reasons: there is a small chance for this grant to be award to the District and if the funding is received, the letter commits the Town to fund the right of way process and property acquisition. Since the project is not defined in the application there are no estimated cost to review. The Board discussed the application. No Action Taken

**Regional Dog Control Services Agreement FY 15**

Kevin explained that this is the contract for the Regional Dog Control Services. Jack only hears good things about this service but informed the Board that they are looking for a new space and are having trouble finding a new space. Jack said they are talking about locating it at the County Jail.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to sign the one year agreement for the Regional Dog Control Services, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Not Anticipated  
At Time of Posting

**Tax Map Approval**

Kevin informed the Board that the Assessors have approved and it is at a cost of \$1,600. This is a service that is provided each year.

**Moved: Jack Cavolick moved to accept the services of CIA Tech for \$1,600 for Tax Mapping, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Cash Reconciliation**

Kevin informed the Board that the variance was reduced slightly this month.

**Moved: Eileen Sauvageau moved to accept the April Cash Reconciliation, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Update Giard Bankruptcy**

Kevin informed the Board that Mr. Giard has withdrawn his bankruptcy case.

**Point Software – Goods and Services Agreement for Software Upgrade**

Kevin informed that Board that this is an agreement to upgrade the Collector’s software. This will be upgraded at the same time as the IT project.

**MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to sign the goods and services agreement for Point Software for \$ 2,604.00 for FY15, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously**

New Business

**Discussions regarding Quarterly Tax Billing and Bi-Weekly Payroll and Vendor Warrants**

Kevin informed the Board that the office has begun talking about quarterly tax billing and have talked about looking at this due to a large school bill that comes in August. The Town commonly borrows to pay this bill. The down side to quarterly billing is additional hours for the Collector and the change to four bills per year. There was discussion on the timing of the bills and how this could increase the Town’s cash flow. Jack asked if Kris Nartowicz – Treasurer has projected any savings if the Town should move to quarterly billing? Kevin informed the Board that the discussion is still in the preliminary stage so projected savings will be something to look into. The Board is in favor of looking into the pros and cons of quarterly billing. Kevin informed the Board that Tracey Baronas – Accountant and Kris are looking at moving the warrants to biweekly which would include payroll. There was discussion on having cross training for payroll. Kevin informed the Board that this would take place with a six month timeframe.

Not Anticipated  
At Time of Posting

**FY 15 Free Cash and Cell Tower Hearing**

Kevin said that the free cash looks good this year and the cell tower hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 2014.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

Paula Harrison  
Office Clerk

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Eileen Sauvageau - Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Thibodeau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Cavolick



## Documents