

Town of Colrain  
Select Board  
Select Board Meeting Room  
Town Offices  
55 Main Road  
7:00 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD**  
**September 22, 2014**

**Present:** Eileen Sauvageau, Chair; Mark Thibodeau; Jack Cavolick

**Others Present:** Mary Jane Bacon, Representative from Stan Rosenberg's Office; Kevin Fox, Town Coordinator; Paula Harrison; Office Clerk; Alice Wozniak; Jason Ferenc

Chair, Eileen Sauvageau called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Minutes April 7, 2014**

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to re-vote to approve the minutes of April 7, 2014, for the correction of articles on the warrant of 48-53.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Minutes June 30, 2014**

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to approve the minutes of June 30, 2014.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Appointments: Mary Jane Bacon – Sen. Rosenberg Aide – Proposed Sewer System Discussion**

Discussion with Mary Jane Bacon on the Griswoldville Sewer District. Mary Jane explained that once the vote was made to make a sewer district, the power of control was given to the district and the town gave up. The question remains that when the town put in the sewer district and then gave the power to the district the district refused to take control. So, the question remains who is liable to the structure of the sewer district. Mary Jane gave the Board some history of the Griswoldville Sewer District and explained to the Board the importance of the license.

**Questions:**

- Jack asked what happens if the sewer system is put in and the center of town ties in to district and Barnhardt goes out. Mary Jane explained that someone will have to move forward with the development of a plant and an operator will need to be hired.
- Jack asked if the cost of the operator would be at the cost of the town. Mary Jane said it would be operating costs of the systems so it would be on the users.

Discussion on what would happen if the district had its own treatment plant was had. Mary Jane informed the Board that the technology has come a long way and systems out there have improved. She informed the Board that there would be quite a few options if Barnhardt closed.

- Jack asked do sewer plants need to be built ever 100% through grants or through towns participation. Mary Jane informed the Board that there has been a case where it has been free. Jack says let's assume that we can get a grant for 75%. Who pays for the remaining 25%. Mary Jane, you would have to choose. She explained further the options for who would pay.

Kevin informed Mary Jane that there has been a meeting with one member of the Griswoldville District. Kevin had suggested that it would be good to expand the current sewer district. Mary Jane suggests that you have to get the sewer district function. So, you may have to get them up to standards in order to work with them in the future. Discussion on the pros of expanding the district. Mary Jane said that the Griswoldville District has to gather members to vote. Mary

Jane informed the Board that originally this district came about because the residents could not sell their property because of the failed septic systems. Jack, where do you see the most focus on this project to keep it going forward. Mary Jane said to get a surveyor to identify to boundaries of the district, so you know who is involved in this district. She informed the Board that the district was made large because a need was seen for the district to grow because of the future need for sewer problems. If you can work with the district then all is good, if not then you may have to release some of the properties from the district to form another district. Jason Ferenc asked how long we have to get all our information together to do this project. Mary Jane, many years, it is in bond and if that is viable you could have 5 to 7 years. Mark stated that we would still have to ask the district to hook up to their pipe to go to Barnhardt. Mary Jane informed the Board that the sewer district refused to accept the pipes so the Town still owns the pipes and would be able to hook up. Mary Jane reminds the Board that if you create another district then you lose control because a district is a separate municipal entity. Mark said that Barnhardt is drawing up a contract to move forward in the future in the district. Mary Jane said that the district needs to begin charging whether it is through the town and the town places in an enterprise fund. She explained that the Town could be the collector of the fees for the district. It gives the town the ability to levy a lien on the property. Kevin informed the Board that the Town had to put an article to ask for legislation to create a district. Discussion on fees. Kevin informed that the BOH has regulations to have people hook up either when you sell your house or after ten years of the system being installed. Jack says that he lives in the system and has just put in a new system. Jack explained that he does not think that there are half the houses to hook up in the new system. Mary Jane said that there are problems; some residents that either do not have the money or does not have the land to put in a septic system. Kevin feels that bringing Griswoldville to this project would be key to increasing users. Jack that we need to focus on Griswoldville participation in this. Kevin has been moving toward talking with Griswoldville and a contract with Barnhardt. Mary Jane suggests looking for a map for the boundaries of the district. Discussion on where to find this information. Once you find out what they need to do to get up to current standards then they need to find out what the costs would be. Mary Jane informed the Board of the history of the district and their actions during the construction of the district. Jason asked if the Griswoldville district proved to be unable to work with what the town does. Mary Jane informed the Board that to do another district it may also have a piece in it the old district to vote to release a piece. Discussion on whether the project is feasible. Kevin informed the Board that it would be \$17,000 per year. Mary Jane said you may want to look at what you would do if you had a standalone system if Barnhardt goes out. Discussion on funding.

Further discussion regarding the sewer district. Mary Jane informed the Board that the bigger the district you can form the better it would be. Jason recaps Colrain Center has 51 houses and Griswoldville district 30 houses. We would need to have an incentive for Griswoldville to join the district. Have the mill begin charging for disposal of waste. Another reason would be due to security. What are the chances that grant monies for the construction of a small plant? Mary Jane thinks that the Griswoldville worry is to operational cost. The one thing they would understand is the increase of residents in the district so the operational costs would be affordable. Mary Jane said you should probably raise the money to build a plant. There was discussion on having the option to hook up Foundry Village to increase district users. She advises the best option is to try to create a large district. The only thing that has changed for this project is the residents have changed in the district. There is a group that works with the USDA that would help with income survey. Jack, what do you think about setting up a meeting with Norm Ward. Kevin would let the Barnhardt issue finish first and then look at working with the Griswoldville district. Mary Jane said that Norm is the point person for the district. Jason said an idea is that there is a new district up and running, would it impact if the district has

saved money. Mary Jane says absolutely. Kevin said that this happens more often than we realize, and the State does not want to give out anymore discharge permits so have encouraged to use through businesses. Discussion on the discharge permit and whether you can obtain a new one. Mary Jane reviewed what happens when BBA needed to renew their permit. Mary Jane encourages Barnhardt to put into the permit the other uses and that there is a future project for a sewer system. Mary Jane encourages the Board to speak to Norm. He probably has already looked at trying to bring in Foundry Village.

Discussion on Foundry Acres and if they would be a possible candidate for being members of the sewer system. Prevention of contamination could be an area to explore as a funding source. This was in the Environmental Bill that just passed. She encouraged the Board to talk to John Ryan on finding income eligible neighborhoods. Discussion on how the project may be worked in phases. Mary Jane, both USDA and block grants are federally funded and you have certain time to spend the money. Kevin explained what the USDA requirements are and that they will want to see the agreement with Barnhardt as a top priority. Lots of talk about things that do not matter at this time. We have to talk to Barnhardt and the Griswoldville District.

#### **Colrain Board of Assessor's – Tax Classification Hearing**

Eileen Sauvageau opened the public hearing at 8:05 pm.

Alice Wozniak explained that the value is not set at this time and suggested postponing the hearing until Monday, September 29, 2014, at 5:00 pm.

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to postpone the hearing until Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 3:00 pm.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

#### **New Business: At Large Appointment to FRPB (Joan Rockwell)**

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to appoint Joan Rockwell to the FRPB as an at-large appointment.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

#### **MOU with FCSWMD – Third Party Inspection of Transfer Station**

Kevin reviewed the MOU with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to use the FCWEMD as a third-party inspection for the Colrain Transfer Station.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

#### **E-mail From Tracey Baronas RE Participation in Community Software Consortium Advisory Group**

Kevin informed the Board that Tracey has been asked to participate in the community software advisory group.

#### **Letter From Hale Johnson RE Potential Zoning Bylaw Violation at 6 Greenfield Road**

Jason Ferenc explained that if the Town wanted to do something about the building, he would recommend the Board not use this bylaw. No matter what bylaw that Hale Johnson sites, the Town has enforcement capabilities in other ways. Jason informed the Board that the owner of the building has put \$70,000 into the building. Discussion on other structures in town. Jack stated that if Hale Johnson writes a letter to the Board of Health (BOH) would the BOH have to take action. Jason informed the Board that it is at the BOH's discretion. Jason suggested a response to Mr. Johnson that this does not fit with the bylaws, it refers to the storage of junk on the property. Discussion on what the owner has done to secure the building and that the building inspector has looked at the building. Jason will draft a letter for the BOH to address the

letter from Hale Johnson. Kevin will also write a letter in response to Hale Johnson's letter. The owner was contacted, and she is trying to sell her house in Greenfield and would like to move back to Colrain and repair the house.

**Letter of Support for Veterans District CIC Grant Application**

The Mayor of Greenfield has made a move to join the Greenfield Veterans District. In order to do this they would like a letter of support to apply for the grant. The main office would be in Greenfield, and they would still have the satellite offices in their current locations.

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to sign the letter of support for the Veterans District CIC Grant application.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Executive Session: "To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the public body" Roll Call Vote Required**

No action taken

**Old Business: None**

**Unanticipated: Kris Nartowicz Resignation**

Kevin informed the Board that Kris submitted a letter of resignation as the Treasurer. Discussion followed.

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to accept Kris Nartowicz's resignation with regret.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Letter from Town of Ashfield RE Excess Transportation Funding**

Kevin explained that this is asking for support to ask for the refund for transportation money. Mark would like to take the line item out of the budget. Kevin will prepare a response to the School Committee.

**Reimbursement for WRAP Program**

Kevin explained that the State released money for the June and July storms, and Colrain is eligible for just over \$30,000. The Board signed the standard authorization forms and the contract.

**MOVED:** Jack Cavolick moved to sign the MassDOT contract for the reimbursement for WRAP program.

Mark Thibodeau seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Cell Tower Update**

Discussion followed.

**Town Administrator Updates: None**

**MOVED:** Mark Thibodeau moved to dissolve the meeting at 9:44 pm.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Harrison  
Office Clerk

Accepted by the Select Board

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Eileen Sauvageau - Chair

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Mark Thibodeau

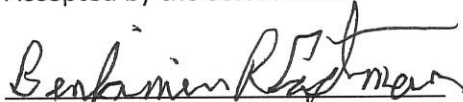
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Cavolick

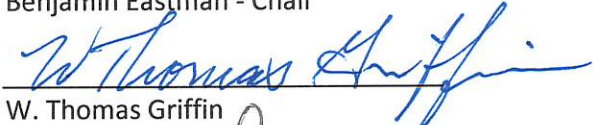
Minutes originally taken by Paula Harrison and typed by Marjorie Smith for approval by the current Select Board members. The current Board members accept the minutes as written on 8/8/2023, for the purpose of putting the minutes on record, as they were not accepted around the time of the original meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith  
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

  
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Benjamin Eastman - Chair

  
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W. Thomas Griffin

  
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Emily Thurber

**Documents:**

Select Board Meeting Notes

Letter from FRCOG dated 8/28/2014 to the Planning Board re: Appointment to the Franklin Regional Planning Board

Memorandum of Understanding from FCSWD re: Third Party Inspection of Transfer Station

Email from Tracey Baronas dated 9/10/2014 re: Participation in Community Software Consortium Advisory Group

Letter from Hale Johnson dated 9/15/2014 re: 6 Greenfield Rd Property

Copy of Town of Colrain Zoning Bylaw Section III-1

Community Innovation Challenge Grant Application

Letter from Town of Ashfield dated 9/16/2014 to MTRSDC Re: Excess Transportation Funding

Email from Kris Nartowicz dated 9/22/2014 re: Resignation as Treasurer