

Town of Colrain  
Select Board Meeting  
55 Main Road/Town Office Building  
7:00 P.M.  
**MINUTES OF March 23, 2015**

Present: Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau, Jack Cavolick

Others Present Rebecca Tippens – Broadband Committee, Colleen Worden – Office Clerk, Paula Harrison – Collector/Treasurer, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator.

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

New Business

**Highway Department Vacation Request**

Kevin explained the vacation issues with the Board. When Lee Wheeler, Don Brown and Scott Sullivan were hired they did not receive any vacation. There was discussion on the length of time that has passed and if it is a reasonable request.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to give a one time adjustment to the following employee's vacation accrual, Scott Sullivan 23.1 hours, Lee Wheeler, 26.4hours and Don Brown 36.3 hours, Jack Cavolick seconded and passed unanimously**

**Appointment Request- Belden Merims-Historic Commission**

Belden Mermins requested to appointed to the Historical Commission

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to appoint Belden Mermins to the Historical Commission, Jack Cavolick seconded vote passed unanimously.**

**FY 16 Budget**

**Ballot questions – Debt Exclusions – votes possible**

Kevin Fox informed the Board of the \$2.4 million figure for the broad band infrastructure ballot question. There is a request to replace the ballot question with new wording to specify Wire West as the provider, there was a discussion between Bill Dornbusch, Marybeth Chichester, Kevin Fox and the Board on the pros and cons of changing the wordage.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to accept the FY 16 ballot questions as read, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**Wages Adjustments – votes possible**

Kevin explained that the wage adjustments are recommendations from the Finance Committee with the exceptions of Assessors Assistant, Police and Library.

There was a discussion on the increase of the legal budget, Mark Thibodeau informed Jason Ferenc that the board would like to bring that back down and wait

on this increase. Jason asked what the budget will be left at. Jack Cavolick asked what is time line to cut our losses is. Jason states that when there are assets that are available to be taken. He brought it to the table because he thought it would be a good idea to continue. Jack asked at what point would you know if things would work. Jason said it would be early on in the process; summary judgement. Discussion on what the cost would be to get to this point. The case would cost upwards to\$ 5,000. Jack asked if it would cost \$5,000 to bring judgement against Mr. Giard. Kevin reminded the Board that recently at the STM you voted to move \$5,000 to legal fees to begin the process. The Board will discuss this with the Finance Committee. The board would like Jason to proceed with the current \$5,000 slated to be used for the Giard property.

**Preschool proposal from Mohawk Regional School District**

Jason Ferenc advised that it may be best for the town not to pay for preschool while there is a question on its legality. Jason explained that there are local contributions for the preschool. This has happened all along. Eileen would like to see changes to the regional agreement. Jason recommended to reduce the amount of the warrant article and fund the district for K-12 and have a separate article for the preschool. The board is concerned with the costs of this program and the uncertainty of how many children come from outside the district. There was a discussion on the preschool issue and discussion on the article to bring Rowe into the Mohawk District.

Not Anticipated  
At time of posting

**Closing Documents to sign for the USDA Loan for Fire Truck**

Kevin informed the board that he has a bond ready to vote on and sign for the fire truck.

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to sign the document for the fire pumper Eileen Sauvageau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign the bond for the Colrain Fire pumper, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved to sign the signature and litigation certificate for the fire truck, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.**

**MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 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

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Mark Thibodeau

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Jack Cavolick

## Documents

- Letter from Scott Sullivan
- Letter from Fred Rees to Nathan Gilbert letter of hire.
- FY 16 Ballot Question