Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

55 Main Road/Town Office Building

6:00 P.M.

# MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2020

**Present** Mark Thibodeau, Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski

**Others Present** Sheryl Stanton, Superintendent; Kate Barrows, School Representative; Katherine Klein, Town Counsel; Michael Shuipis, Broadband Advisory Committee; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Asst., Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Meeting was called to order by Mark Thibodeau, Chair, at 6 p.m.

**Appointments Sheryl Stanton, Superintendent of Schools, MTRSD**

Sheryl Stanton, during her first 60 days as superintendent, is listening to the concerns and hopes of each town in the school district. Regarding the opening of schools this fall, there are work groups consisting of administration, staff, parents, school committee members, parents and community members working on an opening plan. They’ll be sharing their plan tomorrow night that consists of 3 models: all students back in person, a hybrid model, and a full remote model.

Questions: How does a hybrid or remote model work for students and staff who do not have broadband? Superintendent Stanton made note of a matching grant for student access, which will address hot spots, data cap increases, help for students who use satellite internet, investigating opening up Wi-Fi centers where students can get access, and working with Whip City Fiber to identify students and families who don’t have access by putting them at the top of their list.

Kate Barrows relayed the findings of the school survey sent to families this summer. About a third of families are interested in getting their children back in the building, a third are not comfortable sending children to school and a third just don’t know yet.

The Education Commissioner extended the opening of school 10 days (9/16). The State has released a budget for level funding for the municipalities and schools for FY21 funding only through October 2020. The district is still a long way from a final budget. In addition to a later start, there’s a reduction in student instruction to 170 days; not 180. Extra days will be used for training staff re: teaching during a pandemic.

**New Business** **Order of Taking, Temporary and Permanent Easements Related to the Town Center Improvement Project**

**Three Main Road**

Katherine Klein, Town Counsel, sent a deed to Kevin with an acceptance to sign. The title has 2 issues that need to be addressed before the closing. The first issue is the deed to Mr. Bordeaux from CR Homes was signed by another entity and it isn’t clear if that entity had authority to sign the deed to Mr. Bordeaux. Katie does not think the Town should close with this issue unresolved. A second title issue is a foreclosure deed, but because this was signed recently, she feels the issue will be easily resolved. Katie does want a confirmatory deed from Fjord Homes to Mr. Bordeaux, which his attorney is aware of. Katie recommends that the Board sign the acceptance tonight because the Town will not close until these issues are addressed.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to sign the Acceptance of Deed from the Quit Claim for 3 Main Road and the Release of the Statement of Claim for 3 Main Road. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Order of Taking**

By Order of Taking the Town acquires all of the interest (outright ownership), permanent easements, and temporary construction easements that are needed for the town center project. All of the owners are listed on Schedule A. On Schedule B, there are four people listed who did not donate so they each have an amount that will be paid by the Town.

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved to sign the Order of Taking for temporary and permanent easements related to the Town Center Improvement Project, including the takings on Schedule A and the payments for takings on Schedule B. Mike Slowinski seconded.

Roll call**: all ayes.**

**FRCOG Appointments – Alternate Council Representative and Regional Emergency Planning Committee Representative**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinskimoved to appoint Joe Kurland as the Alternate Council Representative. Mark Thibodeau seconded. Roll call: **Mark Thibodeau – aye; Mike Slowinski – aye; Joe recused**.

MOVED: Joe moved to appoint Nick Anzuoni, Fire Chief, as the Emergency Response Coordinator and Jim Lyons as the Emergency Management Director. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes**.

**WG&E Proposed Protocol for Interior Installations**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to accept the Proposed Protocol for Interior Installations for WG&E when installing broadband inside homes. Joe Kurland seconded.Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Old Business Decew Property, Adamsville Road guardrail issue**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to approve $2,000 from a MassWorks grant to pay for the modification of a guardrail at the Decew property, 411 Adamsville Rd. Joe Kurland seconded.Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Broadband Onboarding (pricing, etc.) and Drop/Install Policies**

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved that we approve Exhibit E Customer Onboarding Schedule of Fees and the Drop/Install Policies. Mike Slowinski seconded.Roll call: **all ayes.**

The policies and pricing will be put on the website.

**Unanticipated**

**Business** The Energy Committee would like to appoint Brian Cady as a member of their committee. The Board will wait to appoint when the Energy Committee can introduce Mr. Cady at the next meeting on 8/11/20.

**FRCOG sent the request to make an appointment to the Regional Planning Board.**

The Planning Board nominated Mary Beth Chicester to the Regional Planning Board.

**MOVED**: Mike Slowinski moved to appoint Mary Beth Chicester as our representative to the FRCOG Regional Planning Board. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Town Coordinator**

**Updates** Mark Thibodeau has heard reports of speeding on Call Road where there is no posted speed limit, and he suggested a 25 mph posting. Kevin has spoken with Scott Sullivan already and will talk with Chris Lannon. Kevin will report back to the Board, as well as ask Scott to come to the next meeting with an update.

Mark also requested that Scott give a monthly department update to the Board.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 7:10. Joe seconded. Roll call: **all ayes**.

Respectfully submitted, Accepted by the Select Board

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Betsy Shuipis Mark Thibodeau - Chair

Administrative Assistant

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Joe Kurland

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Mike Slowinski

Documents

Order of Taking - Schedule A – Property Owners; Schedule B – Damages Awards; Exhibit A; Exhibit B, Exhibit C, Map

Descriptions of Takings and Easements in the Town of Colrain, MA

FRCOG Appointment of a FY21 Representative and Alternate Representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Council

FRCOG Appointment of FY21 Representatives to the Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC)

Email to Kevin Fox from Rebekah Boyd Re: Municipal Appointees to FRCOG Boards

WG&E Precaution Protocol for Interior Installations, April 2020

Guardrail Solutions Quote dated 7/14/20

Broadband Advisory Committee Exhibit E Customer Onboarding and Drop/Install Policy

Select Board Meeting Notes