

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
Remote Conference Call-in
4:30 P.M.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Present Mark Thibodeau, Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski

Others Present Mary Aicardi, Collins Center; Scott Sullivan, Chelsea, Nancy, Eileen, Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Asst.; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Mark Thibodeau at 4:30 p.m.

Appointments **Mary Aicardi, Collins Center - Review of Human Resource Review Draft Report**
Mary Aicardi gave an overview summary of the attached report, which includes recommendations and a policy audit table that identifies the policies Colrain has, those that need updating and those that the town does not have and needs.

New Business **FY22 COLA and individual department wage adjustment requests: Library, Highway/Transfer Station, Town Clerk**

Normally the Select Board awards a cost of living increase across the board with a smattering of individual requests.

Scott Sullivan presented the Highway Department's wage proposal for FY22 explaining he is trying to put Colrain on the higher pay scale so attract qualified employees to come work here. Replacing Donnie Brown is more important to Scott than across the board \$1 raises.

Griswold Memorial Library - 2% cost of living plus a 3% for their staff. 5% across the board. The library budget would increase collections "materials budget" the same. Nancy Turkle, Chair of the Library board of Trustees, said the trustees are unanimously in favor of this raise. The Select Board is not read to make a decision tonight

Town Clerk - Eileen Sauvageau would like to speak to the Board about compensation for the Town Clerk position. The Town Clerk has an incredible amount of responsibilities and oversees a vast amount information and Eileen believes that \$25/hr. should be the minimum amount paid. Eileen put in a request of \$22/hr for FY22.

The Select Board is not ready to make any decisions regarding wage adjustments.

Old Business **Colonial Power - Low-Income Community Solar Aggregation**

The Town's attorney needs more time with this; in particular, whether or not the Select Board can legally enter into a 20-year agreement. Our attorney strongly recommends not to sign yet.

Discussion of potential timing of FY22 Annual Town Meeting

A possible date for ATM is Tuesday, June 15, a weekday, at 5:30 p.m. Kevin Fox will talk with Megan McDonough about the date.

**Unanticipated
Business None**

**Town Administrator
Updates**

A summary of where we're at with the budget.

- Kevin received the school district's assessment this weekend with a little over a \$100,000 increase; mostly level-funded including health insurance.
- The missing piece is the salary adjustments because we don't have the effects of the COLA and individual salary adjustment requests. Kevin will do a scenario of 2.5% across the board for the board members to look at before the next meeting.
- The preliminary cherry sheets from the governor show an increase from governor and local receipts are trending well. Tax revenues are no concern as yet.
- We should expect additional capital request from the Mohawk budget for a substantial amount of money. Kevin was forwarded an email from the Buckland Town Administrator from the school committee chairman for a Select Board meeting in Buckland tonight where a member of the Buckland Finance Committee will discuss a memo dated March 3rd outlining future capital planning. What is alarming is that we are not getting information timely or equitably, and Kevin asks that you voice your concern with our school committee members.

Kevin will make up a budget putting in transfer station workers hourly rate to \$16.50/hr, apply a 2 ½ COLA (except the Highway Dept.), Scott's request, the library trustees' request, and increase the town clerk's salary to \$26,000 for the Select Board. The Select Board won't be included in the COLA.

May 3, 2021 is Election Day. The first two people were hooked up to Broadband. Joe Kurland met with Chris Lannon to work on the police policies on February 11 via phone.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Mark Thibodeau - Chair

Joe Kurland

Mike Slowinski

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Collins Center, Human Resources Review, Colrain Ma, January 2021