

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
Remote Conference Call-in
4:30 PM
MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
March 9, 2021

Present: Mark Thibodeau, Chair; Joe Kurland; Mike Slowinski

Others Present: Kate Barrows, MTRSD School Committee; Greg Lilly, Capital Project Working Group Chair; Toby Bassett, MTRSD School Committee; Sheryl Stanton, MTRSD Superintendent; Nicole Slowinski, FCTS Representative; Paula Harrison, Treasurer/Collector; Doug MacLeay, Finance Committee; Rachel Glick, Finance Committee; Thom Griffin; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Mark Thibodeau called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Appointments: **MTRSD School Committee Representatives Kate Barrows and Toby Bassett and MTRSD Supt. Sheryl Stanton RE: FY 22 Assessments and Possible Capital Improvement Projects**

The Board requested the School District meet with the members to go over the capital projects from the 2013 Potomac Capital Advisors assessment and recently presented to the Board for the FY22 through FY28 period. Greg Lilly explained the 2013 Potomac report and that the Capital Project Working Group broke the list down into capital items and maintenance items and ranked by three criteria: Health and Safety, Operational Necessity and Long-Term Costs of Delays and Efficiencies. The goal was to put all the Health and Safety items into the FY2022 budget to present to the towns and prioritize the remaining items by necessity and gauge the towns interest in their recommendations. Colrain would be responsible for 100% of the costs for the Colrain building and approximately 17% for all to the Mohawk building. Discussion on Mohawk's HVAC and boiler repairs/upgrades and CARES Act. Discussion on repairs to Colrain Central School building for FY22. Mike Slowinski requested confirmation that the fire alarm system is compliant. Paula informed the Board that the Town has the broadband project going on and would like the members to consider how much more capital the Town may want to take on this year. Discussion on when the article would need to be put on the warrant.

The members of the Board would like to do a walk-through of the Colrain building and go through each item on the list and look at the cost of each item. Greg will reach out to Dawn Pease regarding a walk-through.

Mark commented on the FY2022 Assessment and does not think the budget is sustainable and needs to think about consolidating schools. Discussion on a 2016 Plan by the BEST Committee to move all sixth grades to the middle school. The Assessment discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Town Counsel Richard Holland – Colonial Power – Low-Income Community Solar Aggregation

Town Counsel, Richard Holland, informed the Board regarding Colonial Power providing the Town with consulting services in connection with the town's municipal aggregation plan. There is a new program in which Colonial Power would administer the program with a contract between the town, Colonial Power and another entity (Master Provider). The initial agreement would outline the services Colonial Power would perform in order to administer the program.

There would be a second agreement MOU/contract, between the town and Master Provider. The Town binds itself to the Master Provider for 20 years and town agrees generally that the electric supplier will participate in the program and pass along the incentives to the low-income customers. Discussion with Town Counsel on the risks of the program and draft documentation provided. The Board would like Town Counsel send the revisions to Colonial Power and see how they respond before spending too much time and money.

New Business: Franklin County Technical School District Enrollment Issue (Heath Students being counted as Colrain Students)

Nicole Slowinski informed the Board that when Whip City was putting in the fiber, they asked FCTS for a list of students who may need high-speed internet. During that time there was one student with a Colrain zip code, however, was a Heath student, so Colrain has been charged for two years for this student. Discussion on assessment per student, possibility of Heath reimbursing Colrain for the student, and having Nicole speak with the Heath School Committee Representative.

Proposed Treasurer/Collector Contract Revision

Kevin prepared an amended contract due to changes made at a prior meeting. The revisions made were to the salary for FY22 and number of hours of work from 35 to 40.

MOVED: Joe Kurland moved to approve the amended contract between the Town of Colrain and the Treasurer/Collector.

Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll Call Vote:	Mark Thibodeau	<u> A </u>
	Joe Kurland	<u> A </u>
	Mike Slowinski	<u> A </u>

Approved unanimously.

Old Business: FY 22 Town Budget –On-Going Discussion

Kevin updated the salary and wage spreadsheet based on the recommendations of the Board and put the figures into the operating budget. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Unanticipated: Regional Animal Control Advisory Committee

Kevin presented a request from the Regional Animal Control Advisory Committee for the Board to appoint a representative and an alternate to the Committee.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to appoint Mark Thibodeau as the representation to the Regional Animal Control Advisory Committee.

Joe Kurland seconded. Roll Call Vote:	Mark Thibodeau	<u> Recused </u>
	Joe Kurland	<u> A </u>
	Mike Slowinski	<u> A </u>

Approved.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to appoint Kevin Fox as the alternate.

Joe Kurland seconded. Roll Call Vote:	Mark Thibodeau	<u> A </u>
	Joe Kurland	<u> A </u>
	Mike Slowinski	<u> A </u>

Approved unanimously.

Town Animal Inspector

Kevin Fox presented a request from MDAR for the annual nomination for the Town Animal Inspector. The position is currently vacant and is important to be filled. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting

Zoning Board of Appeals Reappointment Update

Kevin French will not be seeking reappointment to Zoning Board of Appeals at the end of his term in May.

Telephone Poles – Village Intersection Project

Mike Slowinski informed the Board that the poles are being moved for the intersection project on Thursday and there is one between the library and Gary Root’s that Mr. Root doesn’t give permission to move it back onto his property, so it will be moved into the middle of the sidewalk. The other option is to move it to the north onto the library property, owned by the Town, and the Board could give Eversource and Verizon permission to do so.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to donate an easement on the library property to allow the placement of the pole on Gary Root’s driveway to accommodate the sidewalk for the Village Intersection Project pursuant to any DOT regulations.

Joe Kurland seconded. **Roll Call Vote:** Mark Thibodeau A
Joe Kurland A
Mike Slowinski A

Approved unanimously.

Further discussion on the intersection project.

Town Administrator Updates:

Town Office - Broadband

The Town office is now connected to the town broadband and other facilities will be connected as the FSA's allow. The next step is updating the phone system and there should not be any capital costs involved. Discussion on the FSA's and the hook-up schedule.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:34pm.

Joe Kurland seconded. **Roll Call Vote:** Mark Thibodeau A
Joe Kurland A
Mike Slowinski A

Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

Mark Thibodeau - Chair

Joe Kurland

Mike Slowinski

Minutes originally taken by Betsy Shuipis and typed by Marjorie Smith for approval by the current Select Board members. The current Board members accept the minutes as written on 11/14/2023, 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


Benjamin Eastman - Chair


W. Thomas Griffin


Emily Thurber

Documents:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from The Management Solution dated 3/6/2021 re: MTRSD Assessments

MTRSD Proposed Assessments by Town

Letter from MTRSD Capital Projects Working Group dated 3/3/2021 re: MTRSD Capital Project Planning, FY22-FY28

Email from Richard Holland, KP Law, dated 2/28/2023 re: Proposed Revision to MOU- Low Income Discount Program

Email from Russell Kaubris, FCTS Business Manager, dated 3/2/2021 re: FCTS Correction to Enrollment Numbers
FY2022 FCTS Updated Annual Assessment Spreadsheet

Employment Contract between Town of Colrain and Treasurer/Collector

Town of Colrain Treasurer/Collector Job Description

FY22 Proposed Salaries and Wages Spreadsheet

Email from Kyle Dragon, Animal Control Officer, dated 3/5/2021 re: Regional Animal Control Advisory Committee Representative Appointment

Letter from MDAR dated 3/5/2021 re: Nomination of Inspector of Animals

Spreadsheets re: FY2021 & FY2022 Projected Budgets for Broadband