

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Remote Conference Call-In
4:30 PM
MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
April 13, 2021

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

Others Present: Chris Lannon, Police Chief; Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent; Michael Shuipis, MLP Co-Manager; Rebecca Tippens; David Greenberg; Jonathan Rehmus; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

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

Appointments: **Chief Lannon re: Police Reform Legislation and Impact on Training Requirements and FY2022 Budget**

Training for officers will have the biggest impact. There will be no more half-time. Body cameras will be used, and cruiser cameras installed. The FY21-22 budget can sustain the changes. Discussion on possibility of creating a Citizens Advisory Board and seek out funding from State Legislators. Discussion on types of training being offered, how specific it is to rural communities, and adding information about calls to the website.

Michael Shuipis/Kevin Fox – Proposed FY2022 Broadband Enterprise Fund Budget

A conservative budget was presented to the Board based on certain assumptions. Discussion on the bond and payments.

MOVED: Joe Kurland moved to approve the proposed FY2022 Broadband Enterprise Fund Budget and recommended to the Annual Town meeting as stated.

Mike Slowinski seconded. **Roll Call Vote:**

Mark Thibodeau	<u>A</u>
Joe Kurland	<u>A</u>
Mike Slowinski	<u>A</u>

Approved unanimously.

Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent Update

The Dept has been working on grading roads, however, the grader is now broken. Parts have been ordered for the grader. The sweeper broke yesterday. Lee smoothed Ed Clark and Thompson Road because of mud. Scott made sure that emergency vehicles could get through, although it was one-way on some sections. The new Dodge 5500 is being worked on but waiting for a few parts. Street sweeping the bridges and curbs on the 20th. The damaged truck was fixed by Nate with the cost reimbursed by insurance.

Questions:

- Problem on East Colrain Road with water encroaching on neighbor's property. Scott will let Mr. Walker know the outcome.
- The new driveway on Main Rd, did that get a curb cut? No. Did he get permission from the Conservation Commission? Scott was unsure.
- Update on Jeremy Topinger's curb cut? Mr. Topinger needs to speak to the assessor. Scott will talk with Alice.
- When will potholes start being filled? Unknown at this time, but it is on the list.

Mike Slowinski asked for weekly updates that are more detailed. Scott will work on making them

more detailed.

Discussion on staffing issues and trying to hire a fifth person. The proposed FY22 budget is prepared to fund the position. Discussion on private sector competition and Colrain's wages being at or above the other towns in the area. Kevin and Scott are working on an interview exam with operating machinery included.

New Business: FCTSD Horticulture Program Tree Sale Offer

Decided that there was no town-owned property that needed trees.

Select Board Meeting Platform Possibilities/Options

Joe Kurland offered the suggestion of moving the Board meetings to Zoom or a platform of that nature because it can be easier to facilitate a meeting when there is a larger number of people on the call. The Board would like to continue with calling in until more of the town has broadband and/or can move back to in-person meetings.

Old Business: FY22 Town Budget

The warrant is prepared; however, Kevin is waiting on a citizen's petition. Mike Slowinski proposed raising the wages of the Town Custodian by \$1.00 to \$16.33/hour, which increases the budget by \$365. The other members of the Board agreed. The next step is to have the Finance Committee vote on their recommendations on each warrant article.

Colonial Power – Low-Income Community Solar Aggregation

Kevin has not heard back from Town Council regarding Colonial Power and the Low-Income Community Solar Aggregation program. The members of the Board agreed they would like to not move forward with the program.

Franklin County Tech School District Enrollment Issue (Heath students being counted as Colrain students)

Mike Slowinski and Kevin Fox met with Hilma Sumner, Town Administrator, and Robin Provost, Select Board Chair, of Heath, and they are in agreement with Colrain's request for reimbursement and will be voted on at Heath's town meeting.

Unanticipated: Mosquito Control Program

Joe Kurland emailed Kevin about the State Mosquito Control Program and Kevin reached out to the Board of Health, however, hadn't heard back until after the agenda was posted. The Board of Health is willing to come to a future meeting to discuss the program.

Testing PFAS Levels in Well Water

Dan Hall, Mass DEP, tested the well water at the Town Office and the results came back that the water is potable. He can test for PFAS in a separate test. Kevin will find out how much it costs and contact him. The Select Board also requested Kevin reach out to the Board of Health regarding free testing by the State for PFAS.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Joe Kurland moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2021 as amended.

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

Approved unanimously.

Town Administrator Updates:

Kevin sent the Board members a memo about the capital debt authorization articles. Two of the three capital projects Colrain is not financially responsible for. The project at the high school, Colrain will be partially financially responsible and do the members want a debt exclusion put on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for the Mohawk project. The members agreed a debt exclusion should be on the warrant. The Town will have no capital projects in FY2022.

Kevin received notification from Franklin Land Trust for the Bike Race.

The Town Auditor will come to the next meeting to review the last audit.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:52pm.

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

Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

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,

Accepted by the Select Board

Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Benjamin R Eastman
Benjamin Eastman - Chair

W. Thomas Griffin
W. Thomas Griffin

Emily Thurber
Emily Thurber

Documents:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from Senator Joanne Comerford dated 3/21/2021 re: Updates on Police Reform Law Implementation

Memo dated 3/26/2021 from Commonwealth of MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security re: Implementation of Police Reform Legislation

Colrain Police Protection FY2022 Current Salary Spreadsheet

Colrain Police Protection FY2022 Proposed Salary Spreadsheet

Broadband Projected Income Statement for FY2022

Letter from FCTS Horticulture dated 3/22/2021 re: Tree Sale Offer

Email from Joe Kurland dated 4/8/2021 re: Select Board Meeting Platform and the State Mosquito Control Program