

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Remote Conference Call-In
4:30 PM
MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
April 27, 2021

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

Others Present: Tom Scanlon, Scanlon Associates; David Fierro, Town Accountant; Chris Lannon, Police Chief; Paula Harrison, Collector/Treasurer; Michael Shuipis, MLP Manager; Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Board of Health; Randy Crochier, FRCOG Health Agent; Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Library Director; Marty Dagoberto L. Driggs; Wendy Goodman; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

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

Appointments: Tom Scanlon, Scanlon Associates – Results of FY2020 Financial Audit

Tom Scanlon presented the FY2020 Financial Audit and his recommendations for improvements.

MOVED: Joe Kurland moved to accept the auditor’s report.

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

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

Approved unanimously.

Colrain Board of Health – RE: Mosquito Spraying, PFAS Testing (Town Office Well), COVID-19 Update, Town Boards/Committees Meeting Protocol (in-person etc.)

Mike Slowinski explained that the Town Office qualifies for free PFAS testing and postcards will be sent to residents for well testing to affected areas of the Town; Griswoldville, closest to landfills, mill areas, land where industrial sludge was spread, water and fire districts. The Board of Health is hoping to get 50 people to sign up for the free testing through a grant. Nina clarified that homeowners are responsible for fixing any positive results; repairs are not covered by the grant.

Nina explained that Senator Commerford’s office sent out information about mosquito spraying to many people and how towns can opt out of the spraying; however, didn’t give a lot of time for volunteer Board of Health’s to opt-out. The Board of Health has decided not to pursue making a decision on spraying this year and come up with a plan for next year, as there isn’t enough information yet. The Board decided to continue the discussion at their next meeting.

Nina has been asked questions about holding meetings publicly in person again and wanted to start the conversation with the Select Board. Randy explained a few different options depending on the topics of the meeting and how many people may attend. Discussion on current meeting protocols.

Nina informed the Board that there are currently six COVID-19 cases and the most ever at one time has been eight. Most cases are within one family. One of the variants has been detected. Approximately one third of the Town has been fully vaccinated. Randy added that COVID-19 vaccine clinics aren’t filling as fast as they would like.

Marty Dagoberto L. Driggs – Signage Along Green River

Marty addressed the Board as a member of a Colrain and Greenfield resident group regarding meeting to get pro-active movements to maintain the clean water, overuse and abuse of the river area. The group is putting together homemade signage one foot by two foot, to put along the river. Marty has spoken with Chief Lannon and he recommended particularly congested areas. Marty was also advised by Kevin to speak with the Board about putting signs up. The committee will speak with landowners before placing any signs. The committee has also discussed other community outreach ideas, for example a bi-lingual pamphlet to pass out to river-goers and handing out trash bags so they can carry their trash out with them. Chief Lannon supports the signs and other ways the committee is trying to help.

MOVED: Mike moved to allow Mr. Dagoberto-Driggs and his group to put up the signs, one in English and one in Spanish on Green River road along the popular swimming locations.

Joe Kurland seconded. **Roll Call Vote:**

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

Approved unanimously.

New Business: Request by Colrain Finance Committee to Hold a Meeting on 5/19/2021 Outdoors on the Town Office Property at 55 Main Rd

MOVED: Joe Kurland moved to approve the request by the Colrain Finance Committee to hold a meeting on May 19 on the Town Office property.

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

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

Approved unanimously.

Request by Colrain Veterans Memorial Park Committee to Conduct a Memorial Day Ceremony at 3 Main Rd on Sunday May 30 at 10:00AM

Chief Lannon is concerned with parking and traffic regarding holding a ceremony in the center of town. Discussion on parking at Highway Garage and Library. The members of the Board would like more details before making a decision.

Authorization for Conduit Record Search and Manhole Survey (Verizon)

Michael Shuipis informed the Board there are three homes on North Green River Road that were not included in the network map. The subcontractors that visited all the sites to determine which houses can be connected found that those three homes receive their electricity from Vermont and therefore cannot be connected; however, the phone service comes from Greenfield. Westfield Gas & Electric said to speak with Verizon to have them look at their records to determine if their conduit would be accessible to run the fiber through. Verizon quoted \$3,000 to look at their records and make a determination. There would then be additional make-ready costs, most likely covered by the State, and license fees, should the conduit be useable. Mike Slowinski further explained that only two of the three homes that could benefit from the make-ready. There is no electric or telephone that runs along the road to the third house. Discussion on possibility of working in and with Vermont.

MOVED: Joe Kurland moved that we approve the authorization for conduit record search and manhole survey Verizon application number CMA2100020001.

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: FY22 Town Budget – On-going Discussion

The Board agreed the budget looks good. Kevin explained that they will have another look when they sign the warrant and to please ask any questions should they have any.

Unanticipated: Library Board of Trustees Meeting Request

Chelsea informed the Board she is following up on the request of the Library Board of Trustees to meet outdoors during the warmer months. The next meeting is May 16th and they meet monthly.

MOVED: Joe Kurland moved to approve the library director’s monthly meeting outdoors following Board of Health protocols.

Mike Slowinski amended the motion to Library Trustees and seconded.

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

Approved unanimously.

Approve Meeting Minutes

MOVED: 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:

Green Communities Act

Kevin applied for an extension for the Green Communities Act, which has been approved. The energy efficiency [project for lighting and mini splits has also been approved. A contractor is working on a quote for siding and insulation at the garage. Kevin will keep the Board informed as the process moves along.

Auction on 5500 Truck

The current bid is \$21,500 and still have one day to go. Kevin asked for the Board’s opinion regarding what price level they would want him to reject the high bidder and extend the auction, as they were expecting close to \$35,000 for the truck. Kevin recommended that if the bid doesn’t get to \$30,000, he extend the auction for two weeks. The Board agreed.

Unregistered Vehicles

This is the time of year he and the Board will start to receive complaints about unregistered vehicles. Kevin believes the Zoning By-law section 4.1 supersedes the general by-law about unregistered motor vehicles.

Mark Thibodeau – Thank you

Mike Slowinski thanked Mark for his 12 years of service to the Town as a member of the Select Board. He will be missed.

MOVED: Joe moved that the Colrain Select Board Mark Thibodeau for his years of service on the Board and wish him well in his continuing endeavors.

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

Approved unanimously.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:26pm.

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

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

Town of Colrain, MA Report on the Examination for Basic Financial Statements for YE6/30/2020 prepared by Scanlon & Associates

Email between Nina Martin-Anzuoni and Kevin Fox dated 4/14/2021 re: Select Board meeting invite

Updated Guidance Re: Meeting of Public Bodies during COVID-19 Pandemic and Attachments as approved by the Select Board on 12/8/2020

Email from Marty Dagoberto L. Driggs dated 4/16/2021 re: Signage for Green River Road

Email from Doug MacLeay, Finance Committee Chair, dated 4/21/2021 re: Outdoor Meeting Request

Letter to the Select Board from Sharon Call, Chair of Colrain Veterans Memorial Park Committee dated 4/15/2021 re: Memorial Day Celebration

Authorization for Conduit Record Search and Manhole Survey

Email between Kevin Fox, Michael Shuipis and Verizon dated 4/16/2021 re: Conduit Application