

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30 P.M.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Present Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin

Others Present Jane Johnson; Gail Johnston; Mark Stanton; Mary Parsons; Kate Barrows, MTRSD representative; Michael Shuipis, MLP Co-manager; Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Chair, Board of Health; Paula Harrison, Treasurer/Collector; Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Kurland, Chair, at 4:31 p.m.

Appointments **Scott Sullivan – Chapter 90 Project Requests and Highway Department Staffing Needs Request**
MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve Chapter 90 Project request Colrain - Part of West Leyden Road and Coburn Street. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**
MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve paving the west end of the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge from Foundry Village Road to the new pavement on the west end of the bridge. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Staffing Needs Request

The Personnel Committee recommended the department head and town administrator bring two candidates before the board. The job posting will be advertised in the Recorder and applicants will be asked to submit an application along with a resume. Scott Sullivan and Kevin Fox will select viable candidates and do initial interviews. The Select Board will then interview final candidates.

Jane Johnson – Unregistered Motor Vehicles Concerns

The bylaw has been on the books for years yet nothing seems to get done to enforce it. Jane Johnson would like a letter sent out with a deadline included that is reasonably short. Mark Scranton told the Select Board about Donny Brown’s property describing it as an active business. Also, Josh has a business making demo cars, and Dave Whiles has a dozen or more vehicles sitting on wetlands.

Kevin Fox will ask town counsel to draft a letter that can go out with the tax bills

Paula Harrison, Treasurer/Collector, Broadband Borrowing Recommendations/Options

The town was considering going to the bond market this fall, but after a meeting with our Unibank financial advisor, it became clear that there are too many variables in the air to go to the bond market, for example, interest rates. The town does need to do a 2021 full town audit in anticipation of bonding. Until the Town’s broadband is fully built, we’ve paid all our bills and when we get the cap money and ARPA money.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski proposed to use the ARPA money of \$490,000 to go towards the Broadband capital expenses. Thom Griffin seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

Michael Shuipis – Should the town reduce or eliminate the allowance for the broadband drops and installation? We could either drop it entirely by a certain date and have no allowance or reduce it but have reduced allowance as we go into the future.
Michael will write up a policy for the Select Board’s next meeting.

New Business MOU – Hazardous Waste Day – FCSWMD and the Town of Colrain

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to accept the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and the Town of Colrain MOU re: Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection on 9/25/21. Mike Slowinski seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Single Precinct Authorization Pursuant to M.G.L. C54, Sec. 6

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Single Precinct Authorization for the Town of Colrain. Mike Slowinski seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business None

Unanticipated Business

Kate Barrows encouraged the Select Board to sign up for a meeting on September 23 at the high school gym where school funding will be discussed. The agenda has not been finalized. The Heath regionalization team agreement isn’t continuing for the 4th year and will expire at the end of the next school year. Heath students will have to be accommodated by Mohawk schools. There is no replacement yet for the high school principal.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve the 1-Day Liquor Licenses at Pine Hill Orchards with Four Phantoms Brewing on October 9, 2021. Thom Griffin seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

Town Administrator

Updates

Mask Mandates - Nina Anzuoni

The Oversight Board at FRCOG voted on mandatory masks inside public buildings. The Colrain Board of Health mandate will come next week.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to mandate masks in all town buildings effective 9/15/21. Thom Griffin seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

Toby Basset asked to have a bottle drive for the Colrain 5th & 6th Graders for Nature’s Classrooms at the Transfer Station on October 2, 2021.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to make a one-time exception to the Solicitation Policy and waive the 3-week notification to allow Toby Bassett to conduct a bottle and can drive at the Transfer Station to raise funds for Nature’s Classroom for the 5th and 6th grade at Colrain Central School. Thom Griffin seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

Police Officer James Hunkler submitted his resignation yesterday. Kevin and Chris are looking for a long-term plan for the Police Department and will bring their thoughts to the Select Board’s next meeting.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to accept James Hunkler’s resignation and wishes him well in his next endeavor. Thom Griffin seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Colrain Firefighters Association request to have boot drive on October 17 from 9 am - 5 pm. Michael seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

The Town of Colrain has David Lyons in the Chandler Hill Cemetery and they would like to hang The Boston tea party Ships and Museum.

The September 28, 2021 meeting will be moved to noon.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to end the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Joe Kurland - Chair

Mike Slowinski

Thom Griffin

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Single Precinct Authorization Form, Colrain, US Census Bureau 2020 Population Actual: 1606

Protective Zoning Bylaw, Section 4. 1: Prohibited Uses – All Districts and Introduction: Definitions

Email from Scott Sullivan to Town Administrator dated 9/2/21 requesting to be put on the agenda for the Select Board meeting 9/14/21.

Chapter 90 – Colrain – Part of West Leyden Rd. and Coburn St., Application Date: 8/26/21

Chapter 90 – Colrain – Jacksonville Rd., Application Date: 9/1/21

Town of Colrain Highway Department Memo to the Select Board dated 9/14/21 re: Staffing Needs

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and the Town of Colrain MOU re: Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection 9/25/21

Official Town Boundary Description

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Reprecincting

Town of Colrain Map Prepared for the Town of Colrain Courtesy of William F. Galvin, Census Liaison Secretary of the Commonwealth

Information for Block Reports

Information for Draft Map

Information for Single Precinct Authorization Form

Information for Certified Vote of Adoption