Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

Highway Garage

9 Jacksonville Road

4:30 P.M.

# MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2021

**Present** Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin

**Others Present** Jane Johnson, David Nims, Jonathan Legreze, Dawn Brown, Jannie Hall, Don Stetson, Ben Eastman, Barb Chase, Kellie Smith, Donnie Brown, Jr., Josh Slysz, Josh Hall, Julie Hall, Marybeth Chichester; Belden Merims and David Nims, Colrain Historical Commission; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Kurland, Chair, at 4:32 p.m.

**Appointments Colrain Historical Commission - Approval to pay invoices related to signage at the A.A. Smith Bridge**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to increase the total for the Arthur A Smith signs from the original appropriation to $1,800 in total from the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge donation fund.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Executive Session**

In accordance with MGL Ch. 30A Section 21A: “To consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening.”

**New Business Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran’s Service District Agreement**

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to renew the Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran’s Service Agreement for another 3-year term. Mike Slowinski seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Response from FCTRSD re: Colrain Student Enrollment**

The Select Board requires further study of Franklin County Technical School’s response to our letter of 7/27/21.

**Letter from Mary Parsons re: various concerns/complaints**

Chair Kurland read Mrs. Parsons’ letter to the group. Items of complaint for 1 Greenfield Road owned by Christopher Mattson of Sunderland: a) fit for habitation is a Board of Health matter b) cars parked in the right-of-way of someone else’s property is a police or domestic issue c) unregistered vehicles would be handled by the Select Board d) animals in the house may be a Board of Health issue. The Select Board will not take action regarding unregistered vehicles because at this time the property has not me the threshold, but will notify the Board of Health regarding the fit for habitation complaint.

Items of complaint for 3 Jacksonville Road owned by Paul Norwood: a) many vehicles, boats on the property b) piles of junk visible behind the house c) portion of the roof covered with a tarp, which may be causing mold that could affect children living there. The Select Board should send a letter to Mr. Norwood regarding the unregistered vehicles and the junk pile.

Chair Kurland accepted a letter from the floor from Ben Eastman and Emily Thurber (not present) and read its contents regarding a Study Group Proposal of the town bylaws regarding unregistered vehicles and junk.

The Halls, 5 River Street, submitted letters of support from some abutters. Kevin Fox did a drive-by assessment of the property and found the complaint was credible. The Halls would like to apply for a special permit and Kevin Fox gave an overview of the process.

**Request from Laurie Giard representing Catamount Country Store to reduce the Town-issued Liquor License fee**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to reduce the 2022 fee for Catamount Country Store from $1,000 to $500 and the fee for Pine Hill Orchards from $750 to $375. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**MTRSD bonding for capital projects – preference of timing and term of proposed bond issuance**

Does the Town of Colrain want to recommend a 5-year, 7-year or 10-year payback on the bond that would be for our share of the middle school/high school building. Our share would be somewhere between $103,000 and $130,000. Chair Kurland will tell MTRSD that Colrain’s preference is 10-year, and 7-year is acceptable; 5-year is not acceptable.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Inquiry from Leyden Select Board as to any interest in discussing shared Police Dept. possibilities**

Chief Lannon reported that he is not ready now to discuss a shared police department, but in the long run it should be pursued. Kevin Fox will speak with the Leyden town administrator.

**Old Business Un-registered Motor Vehicle By-law Violation response to specific complaints**

**Chair Kurland read the letter drafted by the Town attorney regarding s**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to send violation letter to 1 Jacksonville Rd. and 5 River St.

Thom seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Unregistered Motor Vehicle Bylaw – Special Permit Process**

Kevin Fox explained the special permit process.

**Unanticipated** Chair Kurland accepted a letter from the floor from Ben Eastman and Emily Thurber (not present) and read its contents regarding a Study Group Proposal of the town bylaws regarding unregistered vehicles and junk.

**Town Administrator**

**Updates None**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted, Accepted by the Select Board

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Betsy Shuipis Joe Kurland - Chair

Administrative Assistant

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Mike Slowinski

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Thom Griffin

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

FY Capital Debt Schedule

Email dated 11/3/21 from Joe Kurland to the Town Administrator re: FY22 MTRSD Debt revised 7/1/21

Letter dated November 3, 2021 from Laurie Giard re: Alcohol Licensing fee

Letter dated November 1, 2021 from Mary Parsons to the Select Board re: 1 Greenfield Rd and 3 Jacksonville Rd.

Addresses of students attending Franklin Technical School

Letter from Superintendent Richard Martin to Joe Kurland re students who attended FCTS from 2011 until 2021 along with student diploma

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District

Highway Department Applications and Recommendation re: Kevin Worden I, Timothy Daniels, Casey Peters and Charles Hamel

Final invoices from Hale Signs and Robin Brooks for Arthur A Smith Covered Bridge