

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

**MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2022**

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

**Others Present** Jonathan Lagreze, Ken Shearer, Jane Johnson, Howard Phelps, Craig Underwood, Chris Larabee, Greenfield Recorder; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Kurland, Chair, at 4:30 p.m.

**Appointments** None

**New Business** **Review and/or approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the Town of Colrain and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Barnhardt Manufacturing Company and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Michael Slowinski seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Transfer Station Staffing**

Mr. Craig Underwood submitted a letter dated 3/29/22 to the Selectboard stating he does not want to pursue the American Disabilities Act in relation to his job at the Transfer Station. Later, after some discussion, Mr. Underwood withdrew his letter and asked for accommodations concerning his inability to lift up to 50 lbs.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to make an ADA accommodation for Craig Underwood to eliminate any lifting in his duties at the Transfer Station. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously. Kevin Fox, Town Administrator stated for the record that with all due respect he disagrees with this decision and would not be doing his job otherwise.**

**Nomination of Animal Inspector**

There is \$400 left in this year's budget. If the Select Board raised the salary from \$400/yr to \$1,200/yr. for the next fiscal year then Mr. Kenneth Shearer would accept the nomination.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to nominate Kenneth Shearer as the town's Animal Inspector, and that we increase the salary next year to a \$1,200 stipend, and that the \$400 left in this year's budget be his stipend for the remaining of this fiscal year. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Proposition 2.5 Debt Exclusion ballot question re: Capital Project at the Colrain Central School**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved that Question 1 read "Shall the Town of Colrain be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amount required to pay the Town of Colrain's allocable share of the bond issued by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District for repair work to the Colrain Central School located at 22

Jacksonville Road in Colrain, Massachusetts, for the purpose of paying costs to include: rebuilding or resurfacing of parking lots and certain walkways; brick masonry repairs and re-pointing and other capital items, including costs incidental or relating thereto, which purpose of the projects will materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve the asset capable of supporting the required educational program totaling \$278,400?" Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously at 4:31 p.m.**

**Old Business    Involvement/Use of a Town Facility and Personnel (Transfer Station) for "Spruce it Up Colrain"**

Mr. Lagreze resigned as town representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District in the hope that his resignation would take care of any ethics questions with regard to donations and the tire disposal drive. Selectman Griffin believes we should hold off on the tire disposal drive because there was an appearance of an ethics violation in the past, which is not remediated by Mr. Lagreze's resignation. Selectman Slowinski asked Mr. Lagreze why he has not complied with the board's request made 5 weeks ago to get an opinion from the Ethics Commission in writing. Instead he chose to get an over-the-phone advisory opinion regarding his actions as a municipal employee soliciting anonymous gifts, which appeared to be in violation of Section 2 and 5. The Select Board has yet to receive from Mr. Lagreze: 1) an Ethics Commission opinion in writing, 2) a written plan between Mr. Lagreze and Mr. Scott Sullivan outlining how the additional volume and activity at the Transfer Station will be handled, 3) the training for volunteers suggested by our insurance company, 4) how the money will be collected.

The Board continues to support the litter pickup around town and the metal collection. The revised special bulky waste collection that allows residents to dispose of bulky wastes free for 3 weeks may be a problem, but is still possible. But until the board has in writing a decision from the Ethics Commission, they cannot support the tire drive on town property.

Chair Kurland asked Selectman Slowinski to put in writing a list of suggested requirements for the tire drive and removal of bulky waste that will ensure these efforts are a success. Then pair that with Jonathan's plan showing how all this activity can work at the Transfer Station (or other location(s)), including proposed training for volunteers so no one gets hurt, with the hope to finalize the details of "Spruce It Up, Colrain" at the next meeting.

Mr. Lagreze requested a list of town positions that are designated "special municipal employee". This is a question for the Town Clerk.

**Unanticipated    Bred Genetics and Flower Express signed the agreements the Select Board voted on last week and are ready for their signatures.**

**Jonathan Lagreze submitted his resignation to the Select Board.**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to accept Jonathan Lagreze's resignation as town representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Michael Shuipis submitted a letter of interest in being appointed Town Representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District.**

**MOVED:** Michael Slowinski moved to appoint Michael Shuipis to the Franklin County Solid Waste District. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved that we thank Mr. Lagreze for his many years of service as representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District. Mike Slowinski seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Town Administrator**

**Updates**

**Kevin Fox updates re: the budget**

The operating budget is based on submissions from department heads, health insurance information, and 5% COLA (does not include the capital on the operating budget), which shows a 2.2% increase over the previous year (\$39,000). The drivers are health insurance increase of \$26,000, and a potential new Police Department hire. Selectman Slowinski asked if we could put money into a demolition fund. Money can be added to the budget anytime, but need to decide where it will come from.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis  
Administrative Assistant

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Joe Kurland - Chair

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Mike Slowinski

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Thom Griffin

Select Board Minutes 2022-03-29

## Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes