

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
55 Main Road/Town Office Building
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF September 9, 2013

Present: Eileen Sauvageau, Mark Thibodeau, Jack Cavolick

Others Present: Tracey Baronas - Accountant, Leah Coburn – Tax Collector/Treasurer, Paula Harrison – Office Clerk, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eileen Sauvageau at 7:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes 8/19/13

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to approve the minutes from August 19, 2013, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Warrants were reviewed and signed by the board.

Appointments **Assessors – Tax Classification Hearing**

The Tax Classification Hearing was rescheduled to September 17, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Assessor’s meeting room, Town Office.

New Business **Approve Chapter 90 Final Report (gravel for various Town Roads)**

Kevin explained the Chapter 90 final report. This came in under budget and the final report has to be sent to DOT.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to sign the Chapter 90 final report, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Approve Chapter 90 Reimbursement Request

Kevin explained this is the \$37,000 for the truck dump body which was approved at the 2014 town meeting.

MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to approve the chapter 90 reimbursement for \$37,000 truck dump body for project 50770, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Declare Surplus Property

Kevin explained that there is a three bay sink Memorial Hall that could be declared surplus property.

MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to declare the 3 bay sink in Memorial Hall as surplus property. Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Award Bid for Sale of Surplus Property

Kevin explained the bids for the three pieces of surplus property.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved that sell the 3 bay stainless steel sink to Joseph Burek for \$63.07, the John Deere bulldozer to Patrick Sherwin for \$6,466.00 and the Garland 10 burner cast iron stove to Raymond Thomason for \$50.00, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Award Bid for Demolition of Memorial Hall

Kevin discussed the demolition bid for Memorial Hall with the Board. The bids were opened on August 26, 2013 and the low bid was from Bourgeois Wrecking, Inc. for \$47,760.00.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to award the Memorial Hall demolition bid to Bourgeois Wrecking, Inc. for \$47,760.00, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Appoint Code Red Coordinator

Kevin informed the board that the interviews for the Code Red Coordinator was two weeks ago. The interview committee has made two recommendations for finalists, Megan McDonough and Gary Ponce. Jack Cavolick informed the board that he had a concern that the closing of Vermont Yankee may have impacted the funding for this position. He addressed this with Vermont Yankee and read a letter in response to that concern stating that the closing will not have any effect on the Code Red funding. Jack informed the board that he feels he could work well with either candidate.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to appoint Megan McDonough as the Code Red Coordinator, Eileen Sauvageau seconded, Jack Cavolick abstained and it was voted 2 yea, 1 abstained.

Cell Tower Lease and Request for Proposals Discussion

Kevin received an email to locate a cell tower at the transfer station from AT&T. He discussed the meeting he had with the AT&T representatives. Jack Cavolick asked if the tower will impact the surrounding houses and the area used for the collection of white goods?. Kevin informed the board that the town has zoning bylaws that regulates cell towers therefore it would be subject to the special permit process and he has talked with Scott and he does not see a problem with the white goods collection area. There was discussion on what other towns charge companies for placement of towers. Kevin will look into what other towns in the area receive for revenue. No Action taken.

Plowing and Mowing at Colrain Central School

Kevin explained that in reviewing the school lease he noted no requirement of the Town for snow removal and mowing. He has check with Heath to see if they provide snow removal and mowing for the District and they do not provide this service. Discussion continued regarding the snow plowing and mowing at the school. Jack asked Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent how long it takes to remove snow at the elementary school. Jack informed the board that it takes an hour a storm to clear snow from the school and when the snow piles up the highway department has to bring the loader in to move the snow. Jack suggested writing a letter to inform the Mohawk School District that the town will no longer

continue snow plowing at Colrain Elementary School due to the Town's need to maintain our roads on a timely basis. The Board agreed.

MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to cease and desist plowing and mowing at Colrain Central School, Mark Thibodeau seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Determine Maximum Useful Life of Fire Truck Authorized to be Purchased

Kevin explained why this motion is necessary (to satisfy Bond Counsel request).

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau moved that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed below to be financed with the proceeds of the \$405,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passes May 7, 2013 (Article 38) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L. c.44, sec. 7(9) for the fire Pumper for \$405,000 for 15 years, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Old Business

Tax Title Procedures and Update, Discussion

Kevin informed the board that Leah has estimated the cost to place liens on properties delinquent on property taxes 3 years or more would be approximately \$15,000. Discussion on initial takings and how long this process would take. Kevin advised the board that this should wait till the new Treasurer is hired and in place. No Action Taken.

Not Anticipated

Letter of resignation for Tax Collector/Treasurer

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to accept the Tax Collector/Treasurer resignation, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Discussion on the positions and the estimated hours for each position. Kevin suggests posting both position internal and then after the three days put ad in Recorder for both if no one applies. September 20th is Leah's last day on a full time basis. Kevin informed the board that there is no need to have an audit other than by a competent accountant before the records are turned over. Kevin believed that is enough. Jack Cavolick asked if we need an audit prior to a new treasurer come on board how. Kevin informed that board that there is no legal requirement. Discussion on where the funds would come from. Jack asked in order to have someone new we need to have this audit by law? You have to have A/R audited not cash reconciliation. Discussion on whether to have an audit or not. The board would like to allow the treasure and accountant the next two weeks to balance and bring this back to the next meeting.

CDBG Application and Weston and Sampson Engineering proposal

Kevin informed the board that John Ryan writes and admin block grants for Buckland. Interested in 3 towns this year for block grants. John has sent a proposal and Kevin explained. Kevin explained these are competitive grants. The second piece is to pick a project. Kevin has looked at River Road for several reasons, paving, water lines and sidewalks. Kevin presents the proposals to the board for them to consider on how they would like to proceed forward. Kevin will ask the engineers to come to the next meeting to describe the process. Discussion on how the process would work, who would provide grant assistance

and who would provide the design services. Jack stated he is not sure about using funds only to benefit a few residents in town. Discussion on whether revitalizing the center of town will benefit the town as a whole. Discussion on the pros and cons of entering into a competitive grant. Kevin explained what the grant committee looks for in these grants. One factor is the projects happen in low to moderate income areas.

Vote to support FY2012 CDBG Budget Revision Request

Kevin reviews the CDBG request.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved that the Colrain Board of Selectmen support the request for a budget revision in the FT2012 Town of Erving CDBG Program (regional program including Colrain, Deerfield and Gill) to transfer funds from Social Service to Housing Rehabilitation to accomplish additional units under the Housing Rehabilitation Program as presented at the July 29, 2013 public hearing held in Colrain, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Wired West

Kevin informed the board that Wired West would like the board to write a letter to support the 40 million dollars of the Technology Bond Bill.

The board supports sending a letter in support of the Technology Bond Bill.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM. seconded by Jack Cavolick and it was voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

Kevin Fox
Town Coordinator

Eileen Sauvageau - Chairman

Mark Thibodeau

Jack Cavolick

Documents

- Warrants
- Meeting minutes from 8/19/13
- MASS DOT Chapter 90 Final Report
- MASS DOT Chapter 90 Reimbursement Request
- Municibid results for stainless steel 3 bay sink, garland 10 burner cast iron stove, John Deere Model 450D bulldozer
- Memorial Hall Demolition Bid Results
- Finalist information for Code Red Coordinator
- Proposed Cell Tower location from AT & T
- Taxpayer's Guide to Local Property Tax Deferrals, Seniors Clause 41A
- Resignation letter from Leah Coburn – Tax Collector/Treasurer
- Letter Breezeway Farm consulting, Inc – Proposal for Consulting Services – 2014 CDBG Application
- Letter Weston & Sampson – Proposal for Engineering Services River Road, Colrain, MA
- Wired West request for help with IT Bond Bill Hearing September 18th, 2013