

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
Select Board Meeting Room
Town Offices
55 Main Road
7:00 PM

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
September 8, 2014

Present: Mark Thibodeau, Jack Cavolick

Absent: Eileen Sauvageau

Others Present: Cynthia Herbert, Lynn Fisher, Ruth McDowell, Lisa Woodard, Nicole Williams, Bob Ramirez, Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent, Heather Staas, Jason Haskins, Mike Slowinski, Russell Coombs, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator, Paula Harrison – Office Clerk.

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Mark Thibodeau at 7:00 PM.

Appointments: Cynthia Herbert RE: Heath Road Bridge

Cynthia wrote a letter to Jack expressing her concerns regarding Heath Road Bridge and her many safety concerns regarding Maxam Road. Cynthia informed the Board signage is inadequate on Heath Road and Maxam Road. This has had a serious impact on her business. Customers will take the detour to Maxam Road but will not go down Heath Road because the current signs say Road Closed. There was discussion on why the Heath Road Bridge was closed by MassDOT. Jack asked the residents in attendance, what can we do to improve Maxam Road? Jack informed the residents that Scott Sullivan has removed some trees for sun to come in on Maxam Road and he has improved drainage. Jack explained that there is not enough room on the shoulder of Maxam Road to place a guardrail. Discussion on improving safety on Maxam Road. Discussion on the quantity of traffic that travels Maxam Road. Mark informed the residents that MassDOT said there are other communities in worse trouble than our town. Scott reviewed the condition of the Bridge and the idea of making the bridge a one lane. Jack pointed out that to put \$80,000 into a temporary Heath Road Bridge and then tear it down 17 months later is not the best use of the Town's funds. Scott is looking at improving the signage on Maxam Road, trucks entering, steep grade ahead, arrow to indicate a sharp turn. The Board would like these signs ordered right away. Cynthia would like the road closed sign removed and a sign that says Bridge closed and the mileage and a sign at Hager Cross Road that says Local Traffic Only. Scott will look into this. Bob Ramirez would like to see a sign that says, "Detour to Heath Road". Bob stated that the bridge closure has created a lower Heath Road and upper Heath Road. Scott said he will not be plowing Hager Cross Road this year for road safety reasons. Residents will have to continue up Heath Road and turn onto Maxam Road. There was discussion on how this could impact the Crafts of Colrain. Discussion on the parking at the bottom of Heath Road. Scott is trying to widen Maxam Road and discussed the widening of the two corners. Discussion on moving the guide wire for Verizon. Discussion on traveling through Kenny Herzig's fields to access the bottom of Heath Road. Mark explained that this is private property. Mark suggested that the residents would need to make an agreement with the landowner on their own. It would be a private arrangement. Mark reminded the residents that Representative Paul Mark and Senator Rosenberg's office were here when the Town met with MassDOT and they were unable to change the timeline for the bridge repair. Discussion on the meeting with MassDOT and that many other towns in the state or in worse shape than Colrain.

Jack shares everyone's frustration. We are going to have a new Bridge in the fall of 2017. Mark suggested writing letters to Rep Mark's and Senator Rosenberg's offices. But MassDOT can say no in the end even to Senator Rosenberg's office. Scott will work on signage and paving.

Chief Jason Haskins – Police Department Update

Chief Haskins informed the Board that this month has been extremely busy. It turned out well the person was found and returned home. There was an upsurge in domestic calls tis last month. Green River Road has been very busy this year with calls for people parking on the side of the road to go swimming in the Green River. Officer Lamay is currently training at the Police Academy. He has paid for it for himself. There was discussion on new mandates for new officers regarding firearm training. Chief Haskins explained the required training has gone from 8 hours to 40 hours. Jack asked how other towns in our area handled this mandatory training change. Chief Haskins explained that the Town of Deerfield offered a class free of cost for their community and surrounding communities to become certified. This will be incorporated in next year police budget.

There was discussion about training for the speed control and breathalyzer test. Chief Haskins explained these have been added to the academy curriculum. An officer has to be certified every three years to operate the large breath machine. Currently the State Police Officer administer these tests and the would like all officers to be able to do them. Discussion on the speeding in town.

New Business: Select Board Appointments to FRPB and CEDS

Kevin informed the Board that these positions were held by Eileen Sauvageau last year.

MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to reappoint Eileen Sauvageau as the FRPB and CEDS.

Mark Thibodeau seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Commonwealth Of MA Standard Contract – MEMA Grant

Jack explained for the 2014 -2015 EMPG grant is to be used for the purchase of radios for the fire department at a cost of \$3,600.

MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to accept and sign the contract from MEMA for the 2014/2015 EMPG grant.

Mark Thibodeau seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Letter from Leigh Morrel on Behalf of the Crafts of Colrain RE: Heath Rd Bridge

See Appointment with Cynthia Herbert

Notice of Intent Not to Exercise Option Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61A – Wheeler Property – East Colrain Road

Kevin informed the Board that Russell Coombs is here to acquire property from the Wheeler family which is currently in 61A in order expand their septic system. The Town has the right of first refusal.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to waive the Town's right of first refusal for the Wheeler property.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Next CDBG Application – Church Street

Kevin is looking to the next round of CDBG funding (Block Grant). Kevin informed the Board that he has had a meeting with Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent and would like to propose Church Street at the next street for a CDBG application. Discussion on why Church Street would qualify as a good CDBG project. Mike Slowinski expressed his concern regarding the height of the road and the water problem which has been created at St. John’s Church. Kevin explained that this road work could incorporate drainage to correct the current water issues at the Church. Kevin asked if the Board would like John Ryan to look at Church Street for the next CDBG project. Another street is Griswoldville Street, however, Scott and Kevin think that Church Street would be a more viable project and the Board agreed.

July 2014 Cash Reconciliation

Kevin asked the Board to accept the July 2014 cash reconciliation, there is no variance.

MOVED: Jack Cavolick moved to accept the cash reconciliation for July 2014.

Mark Thibodeau seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

Executive Session: “To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the public body” Roll Call Vote Required

No action taken.

Unanticipated: Mike Slowinski – St. John’s Church and Proposed Sewer Project

Mr. Slowinski informed the Board that there is a problem with the foundation of the church. When the paving happened, it was paved too high and there is a design for a fix. Mike explained the plans for repair.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to waive the permit fees for the St. John church repairs.

Jack Cavolick seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Mike Slowinski stated that there is a lot of talk regarding the cost of the sewer project. Mark Thibodeau informed Mike that currently we are hoping to get additional funding for the rest of the project. Mark would like to charge only the residents that hook up to the line. There have been conversations between Norm Ward regarding the combination of the sewer districts. He was very receptive to the idea. Mike would like to suggest that we hold an informational session to get the correct information to the public before Thanksgiving. Kevin Fox does not think that there will be enough answers to have an informational meeting. Mike encouraged the Board to move forward as quickly as possible so the funds stay in place. Jack stated we have our job to do and part of it is to deal with a couple of major obstacles. The USDA wants a letter with some type of understanding with Barnhardt and also some type of backup plan. Jack asked what is the projected timeframe of this USDA grant. Kevin stated that we may have to go to a special town meeting. Kevin also explained that if the sewer project was fully funded by grants the Town would not have to go to town meeting because the Board has the authority to accept and spend grants. Kevin reminded the Board that Paul Mark suggested to ask for part of the money to put sewer in on River Street. Mike pointed out that this the last chance to get the sewer system in our Town. We have to make this a priority for the Town. Discussion on how the sewer system will work. Mark Thibodeau stated that he attended a meeting with the people from River Street and that they were very much in favor of tying into the system. Kevin informed the Board that the projected cost was \$20,000 per year and that the USDA will want the Town to charge the State average. Kevin would like the Board to make a decision on whether or not to move forward. Jack pointed out that in the Weston and Sampson report, there are four systems currently in failure in the center of Town. Jack suggested that the Board allow Kevin to hire an

engineer. Mark explained to Jack that everything works backwards in politics and that we have to have funding in place first and then we can start the design process. Then the next step would be to negotiate a contract with the designer and then they would engineer the spec for an RFP that could go out to bid. Jack asked what the next step would be. Kevin explained that t a meeting with Barnhardt is critical to see if the Griswoldville District will be included. Jack asked where do we go after we meet with Barnhardt? They would need to sign the agreement and then we would each send it to our attorneys. Kevin encouraged the Board to take it slow in order to get all of the components. Discussion on the history of the Griswoldville Water District. Jack asked if it would be good to see if Jason Ferenc would take a good look into our legal position. Mark would like to see a lot of issues answered first. Kevin asked the Board if they would like to invite Mary Jane Bacon from Senator Rosenberg’s office to the next meeting. Kevin informed the Board that the feasibility study is a good first step in order to move forward. Kevin asked if they like the proposed system. Mark likes it because he feels it’s the leach fields that are the problem. Jack says the system is feasible but is concerned with the cost.

1 Greenfield Road – Water

Mark asked if the water should and could be turned off in the upcoming winter season. There was discussion on the dogs which are still living in the house. Mark is concerned with the house having frozen pipes.

Letter from Town of Buckland RE Excess Transportation Funding

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to dissolve the meeting at 10:18 pm.
Jack Cavolick seconded. **Voted unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Harrison
Office Clerk

Accepted by the Select Board

Eileen Sauvageau - Chair

Mark Thibodeau

Jack Cavolick

Minutes originally taken by Paula Harrison and typed by Marjorie Smith for approval by the current Select Board members. The current Board members accept the minutes as written on 8/8/2013, for the purpose of putting the minutes on record, as they were not accepted around the time of the original meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant


Accepted by the Select Board



Benjamin Eastman - Chair



W. Thomas Griffin



Emily Thurber

Documents:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Letter from FRCOG re: appointments to FRPB and CEDs

Appoint/Re-Appoint Form for the Town of Colrain re: Greater Franklin County CEDS Committee

Appoint/Re-Appoint Form for the Town of Colrain re: Franklin Regional Planning Board

Email from Cynthia Herbert re: Heath Rd Bridge Closure

Commonwealth of MA Standard Contract Form

Commonwealth of MA Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form

Letter from Leigh Morrell re: Crafts of Colrain Studio Tour and Heath Rd Closure

Memo from the Wheeler Family Requesting to Withdraw land from Chapter 61A

July 2014 Cash Reconciliations

Letter to Mr. Robert Aeschback, MTRDS School Committee Chair, from the Town of Buckland Select Board