

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Rd
4:30 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
August 24, 2021**

Present: Joe Kurland, Chair; Mike Slowinski; Thom Griffin

Others Present: Dan Crovo, Gill Engineering; Elaine Stanley; Michael Shuipis, Colrain Broadband; Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Library Director; Nancy Turkle, Library Trustee; Mandy Richtell, Postmaster; Sherri Lannon, Rural Mail Carrier; Amanda (Last Name Unknown); Summer (Last Name Unknown); Ellen Weeks; Matt Lovett; Matt Shearer; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Chair, Joe Kurland called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

Appointments: Dan Crovo – Gill Engineering Fee Proposal for Engineering Services (Heath Rd. over Taylor Brook) DOER Culvert Grant

Dan Crovo presented a proposal for engineering services on two culverts over the Taylor Brook, one on Maxam Rd and one on Heath Rd. The first step is field data collection, which DOER suggests doing in one visit. Kevin is still waiting on the contract from DOER and in preparation for the contract, DOER is willing to extend the grant to both culverts. Some Chapter 90 funds may need to be used as well.

Elaine Stanley – Mail Delivery on Church Street

Elaine Stanley presented a petition signed by seven residents of Church Street to have mail delivery reinstated to their houses. The Select Board has no jurisdiction to make any decisions on the matter. Mandy informed the Board that there are many children not being supervised by their guardians and the street was deemed unsafe due to an incident, so they stopped mail service. Mandy tried to make a central mail delivery spot or have residents relocate their mailboxes. She contacted the church and water district to possibly place something on their property. Mike Slowinski recused himself as he is a member of the finance committee for the church. Discussion on other forms of delivery. Discussion on the safety of the children in question. Joe Kurland acknowledged all the concerns brought before the Board and will speak with the Police Chief. Mike Slowinski explained he spoke with the State Ethics Commission regarding recusing himself.

New Business: None

MLP Issues: Network Redundancy Proposal

Michael Shuipis presented to the Board a proposal to add redundancy to the network. In March, there was a fire in Heath and put five other towns out of service for nine hours, which brought the issue to the forefront. Currently there is only one path from Colrain to Charlemont and can only go one direction. The first phase of this redundancy would be to add a second line from Colrain to Charlemont to go both directions. Local Link will rent the 1GB line for \$600/month.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve the \$600 a month to support the network redundancy proposal.

Thom Griffin seconded. Discussion on the price.

Mike Slowinski withdrew his motion. Thom Griffin seconded the withdrawal.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to authorize Michael Shuipis to negotiate a price for a network

redundancy program.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Increase of Broadband Capacity

The increase of 1GB is in the budget.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve the Broadband capacity and purchase a second Gig.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Extension of Additional Fiber Assets Deeper into the Network of FSA 4

FSA 4 is going to run out of fiber without everyone signing up.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve the extension of additional fiber assets deeper into the network of FSA 4 not to exceed \$2,000 at this time.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on when to send the "Drop Dead" letter to residents specifying they won't be eligible for the subsidy if they don't sign up for the broadband by a certain date.

Old Business: Common Good Fridge Located at the Griswold Memorial Library

The Common Good Fridge has withdrawn their request to put a community fridge at the library. Chelsea was in support of having a community fridge at the library, the idea was in line with the strategic plan of the library and saddened to hear that Kathryn was opposed and thinks a library is obsolete or should be a quiet place. Discussion on the library property and working with the neighbors.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to rescind our support for the Common Good Fridge to be located at the back of the Griswold Memorial Library without prejudice.

Thom Griffin seconded. Discussion on whether a motion to rescind is needed or should the topic be tabled for now. **Approved. Joe Kurland abstained.**

Unanticipated: One-Day Liquor License - Pine Hill Orchards

Matt Shearer of Pine Hill Orchards has requested a One-Day License on September 4, 2021. All fees have been paid and the Police Chief has signed off.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve the one-day license for Four Phantoms Brewery to pour at Pine Hill on September 4, 2021.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Scott Sullivan – Highway Department Update

Scott would like to prepare Chapter 90 paving projects to coincide with Palmer Paving's current project with Coburn St, North Green River Rd, and West Leyden Rd.

Scott revisited the new hire who currently works with Greenfield and the person would be willing to move his employment to Colrain with the higher wage being offered. He has all licenses and is a Colrain resident. Scott would like to do a road test as part of the interview process.

Joe Kurland – End Emergency Declaration

Joe was requested to declare an emergency in Colrain because of Hurricane Henri and asked if he should formally declare an end to the emergency. The decision was made that Joe should end the emergency and he did so. Discussion on why the emergency was declared.

Approve Select Board Minutes – 7/13/2021 and 7/27/2021

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to approve minutes July 27, 2021 and July 13, 2021.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

400 Adamsville Rd

The residents will be putting up a fence around the pool and they will contact the building inspector.

Town Administrator Updates:

Kevin received the energy credits from Eversource for the Green Communities Project. He signed the agreement and they will start in the near future.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:45pm.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

Joe Kurland - Chair

Mike Slowinski

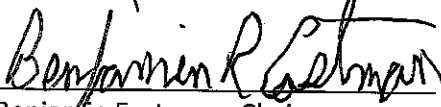
Thom Griffin

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

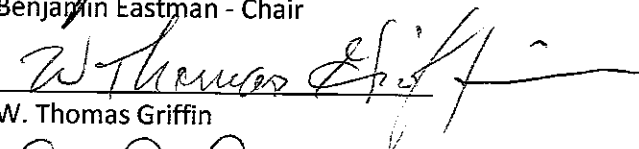
Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant


Accepted by the Select Board



Benjamin Eastman - Chair



W. Thomas Griffin



Emily Thurber

Documents:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Letter to Kevin Fox from the Governor of MA dated 7/14/2021 re: Grant for Heath Rd Culvert Replacement
Map of Heath Rd/Maxam Rd Intersection and Culvert Location

Gill Engineering Fee Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for Heath Rd Culvert Replacement

Email to Kevin Fox from Michael Shuipis dated 8/16/2021 re: Request to be on Agenda for 8/24 Select Board Meeting to Discuss Redundancy for Broadband Network

Email Conversation between Kevin Fox, Michael Shuipis and John Leary (Westfield Gas & Electric) dated 8/18/2021 and 8/9/2021 re: Backhaul Line Close to Maximum

Email between Kevin Fox and Joe Parda (Westfield Gas & Electric) dated 8/17/2021 re: Cost to Expand Fiber

Draft 7/27/2021 Select Board Meeting Minutes