

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
55 Main Road/Town Office Building
1:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF April 17, 2014

Present: Eileen Sauvageau, Mark Thibodeau, Jack Cavolick

Other Attending: Scott Sullivan – Highway Superintendent, Albert Hager, Alan Nafis, Diane Scala, Audrey R. Brown, Nicole Williams, Mary Jane Bacon from Stan Rosenberg’s office, Cynthia Herbert Lynn Fisher, Chris Cappocci from Rep. Paul Mark’s Office, Maureen Mullaney – FRCOG, Mark Moor – MassDOT, Peter Frieri – MassDOT, Mark DeVylder – MassDOT, Robin Pease – MTRS, Paula Harrison – Office Clerk, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator.

Eileen Sauvageau called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

New Business

Discussion on Heath Road Bridge

Scott Sullivan Highway Superintendent informed the Board of the events that lead to the closing of the Heath Road Bridge. Scott is now in discussion to see if the bridge could be made into a one lane bridge or have a temporary bridge installed. Scott stated that either option will be at the Town’s expense. There was discussion on how the closing of the bridge will affect the Crafts of Colrain, Emergency services and the Hager’s Farm on Merrifield Lane. Chip Hager voiced his concern regarding the turning radius at the bottom of Maxam Road. It is not possible to turn off the Maxam Road Bridge safely going right. Large vehicles would have to turn left off the bridge and then turn around at Auchambo Road. He also informed the Board that this detour will negatively affect the finances of the farm. He explained further.

Mass Highway officials joined the meeting and Jack reviewed what had been discussed up to this point. Mark DeVylder from Mass Highway informed the Board that there are options but the cost will fall on the Town. Discussion about a temporary bridge. Mark added another possibility would be to have the outside beams of the bridge cut off and make it into a one lane bridge. Mark cannot guarantee that this will work but an engineer will tell you if it possible. The plan will then have to be submitted through a Chapter 85 review. Mark stated this could take up to 6 months to completion. Discussion with Mass Highway and the Board regarding a one lane bridge vs. a temporary bridge. Mark says that if you want to use Chapter 90 funding you would have to use an approved

engineer from Mass DOT and encouraged the Board to contact other towns that have installed a temporary bridge to inquire on project costs. Eileen asked if there are bridge closings all over the State? Mark said this is a big problem in the State, many bridges are at the end of their lifespan and this is happening all at once. He stated that it is the Town's responsibility to maintain their bridges. There was discussion regarding a box culvert to replace the Bridge. Mark said that due to environment issues you would have a hard time putting in a box culvert today. There was a request to have guardrails installed on Maxam Road. The Board will make sure that Maxam Road will be a priority for maintenance and safety. Discussion on the possibility of using Massworks. It is only good when you have a project that can be built in a 12 to 18 months period. Mary Jane Bacon – rep from Senator Rosenberg's office will continue to work closely with the town and to see if the town can get supplement Chapter 90 funding and will investigate whether there is any funding for engineering.

Old Business

Weston and Sampson – TIP project

Discussion on the possibilities of a sewer system being installed at the same time as the TIP project. Jack is concerned that the village integrity will be lost with this project due to the requirements of a sidewalk and bike paths. Mary Jane stated that Mass Highway does not require a town to overbuild. Discussion on the Healthy Transportation policy and how this can be worked to meet a small town needs.

Jack asked about required design. There was discussion on the bicycle and pedestrian requirements. It is possible to get the 5 foot width waived. There was further discussion on how an exception would be submitted.

Kevin informed that Board that the scope of the project needs to be discussed. Mark said the scope of the project is the decision of the town. Maureen points out that the project has been built as a Center Improvement project and if you eliminate the sidewalks and shorten the parameters it would be reviewed differently. Kevin points out that there are sidewalks on the library side of the road already. Scott – Highway Superintendent would like to see sidewalks to the Verizon building and would like the drainage at the Pitt House as part of the project. Kevin said that these are problems that could be incorporated into this project. Mark Moore From Mass DOT stated that if we are going to construct a project, stone culvert may need to be repaired and brought up to current standard along with guardrails. Maureen said there are currently 5 project competing for this funding. She reviewed the projects. Maureen cautioned the Board about changing the project in a dramatic way. Kevin reminded the Board that the Colrain project was the highest rated project of the five project. Mark from DOT explained that TIP is made up of multiple funding sources, there are specific funds tabbed for bicycle paths

and others for sidewalks. So if you take out those pieces of the project the funding will be reduced. Discussion on the complete street projects. The board defined the scope of the project ending the sidewalk at the Post Office.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau moved to close the meeting at 3:12 PM, Jack Cavolick seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

Paula Harrison
Office Clerk

Eileen Sauvageau - Chairman

Mark Thibodeau

Jack Cavolick