Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

Remote Conference Call-in

6:00 P.M.

# MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2020

**Present** Mark Thibodeau, Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski

**Others Present** Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent; Jake Orzechowski, Judson DeCew, Michael Shuipis, Chair, Broadband Advisory Committee; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Asst.; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

The meeting, held remotely through conference call-in, was called to order by Mark Thibodeau, Chair, at 6 p.m.

**New Business Approve STM Warrant for 7/20/20**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to approve the STM Warrant for 2/20/20. Joe seconded**.** Roll Call: **all ayes.**

**Purchase and Sale Agreement of 3 Main Rd**

A title search is in the process of being completed. The closing date is 7/31/20.

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland made a motion to approve the Purchase and Sales Agreement of 3 Main Road. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll Call: **all ayes**

**Cal Coombs Road Discontinuance Proposal**

Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent, received an email from Jake Orzechowski outlining the work plan of the turnaround and it meets the Town’s standards, allowing our largest vehicles to turn around. If Scott approves, Nick Anzuonni, Fire Chief, will follow suit.

Mike Slowinski pointed out that the Conservation Commission needs a hearing and the Planning Board would sign off after them. Mr. Orzechowski was advised to email Alice Wozniak to get a request for determination for the process to begin. Mr. Orzechowski should also email Bobby Slowinski as Chair of Planning Board for a recommendation. Then the proposal can be brought to the Select Board for approval to go to a Special Town Meeting.

**Request to Appoint Benjamin Beas to Conservation Commission**

Mr. Beas introduced himself to the Select Board. He has lived here for five years with his wife and has a Ph.D.in Environmental Science. He would like to be involved in local policy and helping out the Town of Colrain.

**MOVED**: Joe Kurland moved to appoint Benjamin Beas to the Conservation Commission. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Kevin will get a letter out tomorrow to Mr. Beas. The Town Clerk will swear him in.

**End of Year Transfer Request**

Kevin Fox asked that the Select Board meet on 7/13 concurrent with the Finance Committee outdoors at 5 p.m. on the lawn outside the Town offices. The Board agreed.

Kevin will post the meeting.

**Old Business Pitt House Disposition Update**

The keys were handed over to Belden Merims, the insurance was taken off, and the lawn mower service terminated.

**Unanticipated Scott Sullivan – Transfer Station Fee**

Scott Sullivan recommends to increase the mattress charge from $15 to $25. The Town website will be updated.

**MOVED**: Mike Slowinski moved to increase the mattress disposal fee to $25. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **All ayes.**

**FRCOG request for a community food assessment designee or board member.**

Mark Thibodeau volunteered.

**Michael Shuipis, Chair, Broadband Advisory Committee**

Michael Shuipis included a summary of pricing and policies that the committee is proposing for the roll out. He is not asking for a vote tonight, but he wanted to introduce it tonight so the Board could look at the details before the next meeting in case there were any questions or issues with it.

Michael went over the major points:

* The Internet will be offered at $89/month; phone service if signed up for Internet is an additional $12.95/month; only phone service $60/month.
* Drop and Installation – the cost of the drop (the connection of the pole on the street to the side of a resident’s house); and installation (from the side of the house to inside to a wireless router) varies considerably from $700 up to $6,000. The budget shows that we can sustain a $2,000 allowance.

Questions:

* Will there be a low income policy? Not as this time. Westfield strongly advised against it.
* Is there commercial or business pricing? They will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Michael will be at the next Select Board meeting on the 28th.

**Judson DeCew, 413 Adamsville Road, and the Tissdale Brook Bridge**

Mr. DeCew explained that he had agreed to the bridge survey and easement and was assured by the construction crew that the access to the barn from Adamsville Rd. would not be compromised. Mr. DeCew is a seasonal resident. Upon his return to town, he found that the north guardrail completely blocks the easement. After talking with Representative Paul Mark’s office and the DOT, he learned that recourse would be with the Town of Colrain. Rep. Paul Mark would try to help with any cost Colrain incurred.

Mr. DeCew’s question: Can the Town assess his property to see if remediation can be done on the north side guardrail to regain access to the easement?

Mike Slowinski offered to meet Mr. DeCew at the site to stake out the changes on Friday at 3 p.m. Mr. DeCew will share his emails from DOT and Paul Mark with Kevin Fox.

**Town Coordinator**

**Updates** It was confirmed that the Select Board will meet the 2nd and 4th week of the month.

The school district has a 1/12 budget and will be sending assessment letters to each town. The first payment is due August 1st.

Call Road Bridge is completed and open now. The Town of Shelburne and the school district have been notified.

The Town has received a $9,257.10 donation from Colrain Veterans Committee, who have independently raised funds, to be used for the construction and maintenance of a veteran’s memorial park to be held by the Town in a separate account.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to accept a 9,257.10 donation from Colrain Veterans Committee to be sued for the construction and maintenance of a Veterans Memorial Park. Joe Kurland seconded. **Roll call: All ayes.**

Mohawk Trail Regional District’s recently hired Superintendent, Sheryl Stanton, will attend the next Select Board meeting, 7/28/20, to meet with town officials. The Finance Committee members will also be invited.

Mark closed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Accepted by the Select Board

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Betsy Shuipis Mark Thibodeau, Chair

Administrative Assistant

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Joe Kurland

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Mike Slowinski

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Special Town Meeting Warrant Fiscal Year 2021

Purchase and Sale Agreement, June 29, 2020, 3 Main Road, Colrain, MA containing .17 acres, Seller:

Denis F. Bordeaux

Email from Jake Orzechowski of June 29, 2020 to Town Coordinator re: Driveway Turn-around on Cal

Coombs Road

Email from Benjamin Beas to Town Coordinator requesting appointment to the Conservation

Commission.

Broadband Advisory Committee Pricing and Policies, Exhibit E: Customer Onboarding

Email from Helena Farrell to Town Coordinator re: Community Food Assessment for Colrain 2020

Email from Scott Sullivan to Town Coordinator re: Increased mattress fee