Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

55 Main Road/Town Office Building

6:00 P.M.

# MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2020

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

**Others Present** Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent; Michael Shuipis, Broadband Advisory Committee; Brian Cady, Elizabeth Erickson, Lynn DiTullio, and Bing Waldsmith of the Energy 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.

**Appointments Energy Committee Highway Garage Solar Project Update**

Elizabeth Erickson, Chair, gave a brief overview of the committee’s efforts. Lynn DiTullio continued with the Solar PD update 2020 and what the group learned from engineer Chris Guilfoyle’s recent report of the highway garage roof as a solar site. Chris’s findings: the roof must be a penetrated system and its area is limited because of pipes and equipment. Overall, the project would be expensive while only providing 22% of the Town’s electricity load. It was agreed that the Highway Garage solar project should not be pursued.

The Committee would like Chris Guilfoyle to assess other Town sites and write up a true price comparison with each site’s advantages/disadvantages.

The next step would be to identify the new site, submit a scope of work with a cost estimate from Chris to the Select Board and then be sent to DOER for approval.

**Scott Sullivan, Highway Department Update**

* Recent work: both mowers have been going every day, storm cleanup, drainage work on Van Nuys Road where it gets muddy, and gravel put on Phillips Hill Road.
* There have been no complaints regarding E. Colrain Road. In the spring, Northeast Paving went over the road with magnets and some metal was removed.
* Donny’s last day was June 14.
* Kevin and Scott are working together on the TIP project and the application is 50% done. The Mass DOT project will start at the Shelburne line to the village center where the TIP project will take over to complete that entire stretch of road. The State will finish the rest of Rt. 112 going south later this year.
* Scott will give an update on Charlemont Rd. bridge to Kevin later this week.
* Heath Road is on Scott’s list, but needs cooler weather to work on it.

Mike noted that the Metal Bin is filling up quickly and should be monitored.

**Scott agreed to provide the Select Board with a department schedule weekly.**

**New Business Request to Appoint Brian Cady to the Energy Committee**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to appoint Brian Cady to the Energy Committee

Joe seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Traffic Control on Call Road**

Chief Chris Lannon asked Scott about a portion of Call Rd. and the use of MGL c.90 s.17C for thickly settled districts that allows local authorities to set the speed limit to 25 mph. This requires notification to MASS DOT. Chris said that under the same law, towns can also opt in for a townwide speed limit. The Board would like to consider this option.

**Limited Cable Television License Agreement between Town of Colrain, Massachusetts and Comcast Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc.**

There is a resident who lives on S. Green River Rd. on the Greenfield line. It was calculated that bringing broadband to this residence would be very expensive. The resident contacted Comcast. Comcast then asked Kevin if Colrain would sign a limited franchise agreement for this one resident to be connected to Greenfield’s Comcast cable and broadband. The Town of Colrain will apply the same drop policy for this resident of a $2,000 limit and the resident will pay for rest.

**MOVED**: Joe moved to sign the Limited Cable Television License Agreement between the Town of Colrain, MA and Comcast Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc.Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes**

**Town Coordinator**

**Updates** The new server will be delivered tomorrow and installed on 8/18. The records management project is finished.

Westfield Gas & Electric needs a staging area. Kevin offered to allow the use of 3 River Street lot. It has good access and is flat. They will need to use it for 6 months for a couple of vehicles and a pod.

**Unanticipated**

**Business Approve Select Board Minutes of 6/8/20, 6/11/20, 6/22/20, 7/7/20, 7/13/20,**

**MOVED**: Joe moved to accept the minutes of 6/22/20, 7/7/20, 7/13/20. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes**

**MOVED**: Joe moved to accept the minutes of 6/8/20, 6/11/20. Roll call**: Mark – aye; Joe – aye; Mike abstained.**

**Request to open the Police Station Monday nights to general public for licenses to carry.**

The department has a protocol of procedures for the safety of officers and the applicants, which includes wearing masks, keeping the doors closed, hand sanitizing, disinfecting the outside of the building and the lobby before and after office hours.

**Moved**: Mike Slowinski moved to allow Police Chief Lannon to open up the lower front lobby and the main police department office on Mondays, 6-8 pm, subject to his protocol of sanitizing and installing protective devices.

Joe seconded. Roll call: **All ayes.**

**Janice Barnes, Chair, Council on Aging request to appoint Audrey Brown to the committee.**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to appoint Audrey Brown to the Council on Aging. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes**

**Eileen Sauvageau, Town Clerk, submitted to Kevin for your approval and signatures, the Warrant of the 2020 State Primary.**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to approve the Warrant of the 2020 State Primary. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Revised Mohawk Trail Budget and Assessment**

We need to schedule a special town meeting -- $7,265 short and need to appropriate more money. A potential date for special town meeting is 9/22. The capital assessment is fine.

Mark Thibodeau announced in Executive Session the suspension of Officer Derek Worden without pay indefinitely. Because it is a personnel matter, the Select Board will make no further comments. Kevin will send Officer Worden a letter for his signature.

**MOVED: Mark moved to close the meeting at 7:30 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