Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

55 Main Road/Town Office Building

6:00 P.M.

# MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

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

**Others Present** Alice Wozniak, Director of Assessing; Scott Sullivan, Highway Superintendent; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Asst.; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Meeting was called to order remotely by Mark Thibodeau, Chair, at 6 p.m.

**Appointments Scott Sullivan – Chapter 90 Project Request – Cal Coombs Road**

Scott presented a Chapter 90 request for Cal Coombs Road and Franklin Hill Road. Currently we have a balance of $317,752; this project costs $107,000, leaving a buffer of approximately $210,000. This does not include the $32,000 for Coombs Hill Rd. Scott’s done the prep work and repaired culverts; paving only existing pavement.

**Highway Department Update**

* Getting ready for winter. Some grading is getting done, but it’s too dry and need more moisture to continue. All the catch basins were fixed on Coombs Hill Road, clearing of brush on Charlemont Rd., taking down dead trees that have been noted throughout town.
* Guidance on the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge. Scott met with a MassDot employee at the covered bridge who confirmed that the signage there now is adequate for opening the bridge. He was advised not to install a stanchion across the top of the bridge because, if a vehicle gets damaged by it, the town is liable. With the height limit posted as it is now, we are not liable.
* Signage for the bridge. Four recommendations: the bridge should be posted for weight (13 tons), for vehicular clearance (9 ft.), the bollards removed, and notify MassDOT District 1 office. The signage has been done, so if there’s nothing more needed than we can open the bridge.

**Questions:**

* **Should we have stop signs on each side of the bridge and at the end of Foundry Village Road and Lyonsville Road?** It was agreed that there will be 3 stop signs added – at both entrances of the bridge and at the end of Lyonsville Road intersecting with Rt. 112; and 1 yield sign at the other end of Lyonsville Road intersecting with Foundry Village Road. As soon as these signs are up, Scott can open the bridge to traffic. Kevin will notify the Historical Society and put a notice on our website when the bridge opens.
* **Why are there no runners on the bridge to protect the decking**? Vehicular traffic, snowmobiles, studded snow tires and salt will degrade the surface and it may be cost effective to add runners. If adding runners is considered structural, it must go through a Ch. 85 review. It may also change the load rating. **It was decided to go through at least one winter/spring to see how the bridge wears.**
* **Can Donnie Brown snow plow this winter for the Town?** Kevin confirmed that there is money in the budget to fund.
* **MassWorks – is this from Tillsdale Brook towards Lyle’s sawmill?** Yes.
* **Any word on Charlemont Bridge?** No letter yet.
* **The 30 mph sign near Marty’s at 3 Griswoldville Road?** Scott will get to this.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinskimoved that we offer Donnie Brown a temporary winter position with the Highway Department at the same rate he would be making if he was a regular employee at $23.08/hour**.** Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved to adjourn the Select Board meeting. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Tax Classification Hearing – Alice Wozniak, Director of Assessing**

The Board of Assessors recommendation is for a single tax rate; not a split tax rate.

Note: The process has been changed this year - the Select Board is not required to sign. It is done with an approval certificate vote by the Town Clerk that the hearing was held.

**MOVED:** Mike moved to accept the Board of Assessors recommendation for a single tax rate for the Town of Colrain. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to adjourn the Tax Classification Hearing. Joe seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

The Select Board resumed their meeting.

New Business **MOU – By and Between FRCOG and Users of the Franklin County Emergency Communications System and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System**

The county built the current system, FRCOG inherited it and it’s falling apart. The state’s agreed to take on the system with the condition that there be an MOU between the FRCOG Oversight Committee and the state. The system includes all 26 towns, police, fire and ambulance departments. Kevin believes this is the best system and recommends it.

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and between Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee and Users of the Franklin County Emergency Communication System and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System subject to Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni’s approval. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes**.

**MOVED**: Joe Kurland moved to rescind the previous motion and moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and between Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee and Users of the Franklin County Emergency Communication System and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Proposed Surplus Fill Policy**

Joe Kurland asked that the policy consider the disposition of the fill by favoring the request with the closest distance to the fill, keeping transportation costs down. Kevin will make that addition to be revisited at the next meeting.

Unanticipated **Select Board Meeting Minutes of 9/8/20.**

Business **MOVED:** Joe moved to approve the minutes of 9/8/2020. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes**.

Town Coordinator

Updates **Updates:**

* The TIP project for the Town Center was advertised on 8/29/20 with a bid opening on 12/1/20. The project will begin in spring 2021.
* The closing for the 3 Main Road property is planned for Oct. 1, at 10 a.m. at the registry.
* Special Town Meeting is this Thursday, 9/24/20, at 6 pm outside at the Town Offices.
* Muriel Russell wrote a letter about town documents and wants a subcommittee formed to preserve records/books. The Select Board asks that Kevin write a letter explaining the work that’s been done over the years by the Town to preserve records that should allay any misunderstandings Muriel might have about the matter.

**Kevin will write a letter from the Town to Muriel Russell.**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Joe seconded. Voted unanimously.

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

State and Reimbursable Programs – Project Request, Chapter 90, Cal Coombs Rd. and Frankin Hill Rd. 2” HMA Overlay

Surplus Fill Policy and Request for Surplus Fill Material Permit

Memorandum of Agreement by and between Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Franklin County emergency Communication system Oversight Committee and Users of the Franklin County Emergency Communications system and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System