

Town of Colrain  
MLP Board Meeting  
Remote Conference Call-in  
2:30 PM  
**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD**  
**February 18, 2021**

**Present:** Mark Thibodeau, Chair; Joe Kurland; Mike Slowinski

**Others Present:** Michael Shuipis; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Paula Harrison, Treasurer/Collector; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Mark Thibodeau called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm.

**Appointments:** None

**New Business:** FY2022 Budget Discussion

Michael Shuipis informed the Board regarding projections for the operations of the broadband project. There are capital expenditures that are projected to be over budget; hut electronics by \$25,000 due to an incorrect quote received, "Make-Ready", and contingency costs. Discussion on grants, borrowing and tax rate to make up the over-budget items.

Discussion on models created to determine the price for customers using figures from this fiscal year and FY2022. 56% of all dwellings have signed up and 52% have included phone service.

Discussion on possible prioritizing hooking up homes in each FSA, specifically homes with school-age children are put in the front of the line; however it won't be feasible to prioritize homes due to winter. Whip City is expected to do two installations per day, but it could be more.

Discussion on the Town's responsibilities once the network is built and up and running. Customer service will be handled by Whip City. Michael Shuipis will be stepping down at the end of FY2021 and the Board needs to look at who will fill his role. The treasurer currently and will continue to have an important role for any borrowing, paying bills, taking payments, and will add up to five hours a week to the treasurer position. Starting 7/1, Paula will add the five hours/week to her scheduled hours. Discussion on role and salary of an MLP Manager. The MLP Manager position will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Kevin suggested the Board look at the FY2022 budget and schedule a meeting in March so they can approve a budget in time for the Annual Town Meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**Unanticipated:** None

Mike Slowinski had to excuse himself at 3:32 pm.

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved to dissolve the meeting at 3:35 pm.

Mark Thibodeau seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Shuipis  
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Thibodeau - Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Kurland

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Slowinski


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 11/14/2023, 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:**

Spreadsheets re: FY2021 & FY2022 Projected Budgets for Broadband