

Town of Colrain  
Select Board Meeting  
Remote Conference Call-in  
4:30 P.M.  
**MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2021**

**Present** Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski, Thom Griffin

**Others Present** David Greenberg; Nancy Turkle, Library Trustee; Randy Croshier, Regional Health Director; Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Chair, Board of Health; Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Library Director; Kate Barrows, Asst. Library Director; Eileen Sauvageau, Town Clerk; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Kurland at 4:31 p.m.

**Appointments** **Scott Sullivan – Highway Department Update**

**Currently working on:**

- Put millings at the Foundry Village Road/Rt. 112 intersection.
- Did a bleeder at 28 Call Rd. The water needs to be diverted at the top of the driveway.
- Grading and raking the 45 miles of road.
- Street sweeping was completed.
- Scott spoke with Tom Spencer of lower Adamsville Road about the on-going problem of water coming into the road issue. Scott told him what would help with the issue including contacting the Conservation Commission.

**Soon to be working on:**

- Go to the Transfer Station with the loader to pack bulky waste or metal, bring down hardpack and fill in some holes at the Rte. 112/Charlemont intersection.
- Patch pot holes once the weather warms up.
- Nate will paint the frames of the dump truck for preventative maintenance using an undercoating product.
- Catch basin cleaning is June 2-3 on Greenfield Road mainly.
- Go to the mill and look at the Vortex.
- Start work on some of the gravel roads beginning with the worst areas (Ed Clark Road) using Geogrid, a new product.
- Scott put in the FRCOG bid and contracts for paving that includes an estimate of materials needed. Areas include W. Leyden Road, Green River Road, Shelburne Line Road, North Green River Road, New County Rd, and Greenfield Rd.

**Questions:**

- Has Scott gotten any updates concerning Charlemont Rd. Bridge? No.
- Can paving be done on Lyonsville Road on the west side of the covered bridge where the paving ends up to Foundry Village Road? Yes.
- Call Road sign? Scott sent in an order for Call Rd., Stacy Rd., and a few others.
- New truck, 2020 Dodge, is on the road; the 2012 Dodge 5500 sold for \$32,500.
- Jeremy Topitzer curb cut? Submitted, paid, and approved by fire chief and police chief.
- Update on large puddle on Main Street - telephone pole was removed and the catch basin was repaired.

**Colrain Board of Health – Re: Mosquito Spraying aerial or truck**

Randy Croshier has received the criteria for when the state would conduct aerial spraying (see attachment). Join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD)? The cost is \$5,000/year and, at this time, there is only one employee, and they only do testing. If the State sprays our area, which is a very low risk, the Town would not pay. If the Town opts out of the State, we must have a plan, but what is an acceptable plan is not known, only that the plan must include education. The Town would also have to pay for spraying, if needed. To join the district, we'd have to sign an agreement, which needs first to be vetted by town council before it could be voted on at annual town meeting.

**The Select Board will defer a decision concerning the State opt-out program and whether to join the PVMCD until the next meeting on May 18. Kevin will invite representative(s) from the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District to the meeting.**

**New Business Select Board Reorganization**

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to nominate Joe Kurland as Chair of the Select Board. Thom Griffin seconded. **Roll call:** Thom Griffin, aye; Mike Slowinski, aye; Joe Kurland abstained.

**MOVED:** Joe Kurland moved to nominate Mike Slowinski as Vice Chair of the Select Board. Thom Griffin seconded. **Roll call:** Thom Griffin, aye; Mike Slowinski, abstained; Joe Kurland, aye.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to nominate Thom Griffin as Clerk of the Select Board. Joe Kurland seconded. **Roll call:** Thom Griffin, abstained; Mike Slowinski, aye; Joe Kurland, aye.

**FY22 Board and Committee Appointments**

The Town Clerk is recommending that the board and committee appointment dates be standardized so that all terms have an effective start date of July 1 for the length of the term indicated on the attached listing of all appointees. Once the Select Board reappoints, the software generates the appointments letters. If accepted, the appointee is sworn in. If a person declines, they are removed from that position. **Please note:** Laura Slowinski wants to be appointed to the Board of Registrars; Ben Eastman wants to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, but there are no vacancies. (Typically, the Select Board would reappoint the Zoning Board members, and if one declined the reappointment then Ben Eastman would be contacted.) Michael Shuipis informed the Board that the Broadband Advisory Committee has completed its mission and members should not be reappointed.

The Town Clerk said there is a problem of non-compliance with the completion of the mandated Conflict of Interest training, despite many reminder notifications. Rather than removing all those who are noncompliant, the Town has had a more lenient approach so that committees aren't left understaffed and volunteers aren't offended.

It was decided to continue discussion and reappoint at the next board meeting. Eileen and Kevin will have a draft letter for review. Joe Kurland will stop by the office to pick up a list of noncompliant members to call. Mike Slowinski will talk with Rocky and Mike Friedlander.

**Old Business FY22 Town Budget – On-going Discussion**

Kevin alerted the Board that Article 31 will have some problems because it references another town's by-laws, not Colrain's. The petitioner was asked to have an amendment ready for Town Meeting.

Kevin went over the budget with the SB noting items of importance. There is a \$91,000 increase in the school budget this year and it may not be sustainable.

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to remove the Articles 26 and 27 from the Town Warrant, which do not involve any capital funds from the Town of Colrain. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

**Unanticipated**

**Business**

**Chelsea Jordan-Makely - William Apess Day Declaration**

Chelsea thanked Kate Barrows, Drew Lopenzina and Rhonda Anderson for their help and support. The William Apess Event is Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, with the intention that this be an annual event.

Discussion of the document: There was agreement from the Board with honoring William Apess, but they felt the tone was off; specifically in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs, and that the document should focus on William Apess’s accomplishments. Chelsea explained that the document included the Native American perspective, holding up Apess’s triumphant life despite horrific circumstances. Thom offered to edit the document; one he could endorse and that would be less controversial. Chelsea will email the latest draft to all before the next meeting.

**Town Administrator**

**Updates**

Kevin will remove Articles 26 and 27 from the warrant, replace Mark Thibodeau’s name with W. Thomas Griffin, indicate Joe Kurland as chair, and work on the mosquito control article for the 18th.

Kevin has arranged for chairs and a sound system for the annual meeting. No porta-potty. There are bathrooms in the town office and fire house.

**MOVED:** Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 7:22 p.m. Thom Griffin seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by the Select Board

Betsy Shuipis  
Administrative Assistant

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Joe Kurland - Chair

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Mike Slowinski

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Thom Griffin

## Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

List of board and committee members up for reappointment for 1 year and 3 year terms

Mosquito Control Projects B3, Mass. Dept. of Revenue, Cherry Street Manual

DRAFT William Apess Day Declaration submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Library Director and Kate Barrows, Assistant Library Director

Town of Colrain ATM FY22 Funding of Sources/Uses

Town of Colrain Annual Town Meeting Warrant FY22

Email to the Town Administrator from Martha Thurber, MTRSD Capital Requests