

Colebrook Selectman's Meeting

Minutes

Monday, March 28, 2022

At 1:00pm Town Hall Courtroom

Present

Selectboard: Chairperson Greg Placy, members Ray Gorman & Sue Collins

Staff: James O'Gorman, Town Manager; Greg Marchand

At 1 PM the Board held a Zoom meeting with Paul Schmidt and Josh Bouchard, CMA to go over the status of the current list of projects of Colebrook – CMA Projects including:

1. **APP EVALUATION** – all agreed that these services would be discontinued. Colebrook needs to pursue funding from APP for the work done to date totaling \$115,603.52 with APP only reimbursing \$45,000 so far.
2. **WATER WELLS – FINAL APPLICATION FOR Drinking Water/Ground Water Trust Fund:** Due 6/1/2022. This project will need environmental review. Need to get the application finalized ASAP to get the grant agreement finalized. CMA had a limited budget on this.
3. **TOWN ARPA:** CMA Engineering Study WWTF \$75,000 Allocated – Paul Schmidt indicated they are making progress and it would be completed within a month – by the end of April.
4. **COUNTY ARPA:** Corliss Lane to Edwards Street Pump Station including Pipe Bursting \$40,200 allocated. Josh Bouchard indicated they are working on this and need to get the surveyor in there. On the Pump State Design, Sue asked Josh if he could provide an approximation for construction as Ray's District 3 still has \$140,639 unallocated in County funds and the Town should apply for the balance.
5. **NORTHERN BORDERS COMMISSION/EDA: \$1,000,000.** Paul Schmidt stated the Town is working with North Country Council (NCC) on the funding package and CMA cannot proceed with any work until formal notice to proceed is received. James is finalizing all the application components with NCC.
6. **CWSRF/ARPA Application for \$3,023,000.** Paul Schmidt stated that the Town needs to submit the final application. Paul will have another meeting with James to complete DES application requirements.
7. **MAIN STREET TAP.** Paul explained that CMA is moving forward with Preliminary Design, and they have forwarded to James the information that needs to be submitted to NH DOT. Greg inquired about the status of the utility re-location and asked Josh to get something lined up for early May.
8. Sue mentioned that HB398 relative to “forgotten projects” would be headed to the Governor's desk for signature. The list includes 110 new projects that are expected to be eligible for grant funding in 2023 and 2024. Colebrook is on the list at \$2,668,000. Paul stated he would look into this.

Colebrook Mobile Home Cooperative - Meeting via Zoom: Review of Colebrook Mobile Home Cooperative removal of trailers. Discussion about collaborating with Attorney Frizzell included Dawn Cameron from Colebrook Mobile Home Cooperative and staff from New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, Alan Blake.

The Board met with Greg Marchand who terminated his employment with the Town without prior notice. Greg asked the Board to consider paying his accrued vacation time.

Pittsburg Police Department – Mutual Aid Agreement Sue commented that the taxpayers of Colebrook would not be happy with our police department covering Pittsburg. This goes beyond mutual aid. There is concern about this agreement.

Chief Rella joined the meeting to discuss the mutual aid agreement. Sue commented to the Chief that Pittsburg needs to pay Colebrook for aid. Chief Rella noted that this agreement was put together when Steve Cass was still Police Chief.

Former Chief Cass said that the new Pittsburg Chief and Colebrook Chief (Rella) should sign a new agreement. The selectboard was unaware that there was an agreement at all.

Rella explained that Colebrook backs up the New Hampshire State Police in Pittsburg and Clarksville. He noted that Pittsburg should be calling the State Police first. He noted that there would have to be something serious for Pittsburg to call Colebrook.

Sue noted that the police department budget was not brought up as a topic at town meeting and it went through well – but if taxpayers see Colebrook covering Pittsburg, this will be an issue next year.

Discussion about the police log in the newspaper helping people in Colebrook understand what the police department does.

Last week, Chief Rella went up to Pittsburg in the cruiser to pick up a treadmill for the Police gym in Colebrook – this was not for coverage.

Chief Rella noted that if dispatch is called, then dispatch will call the State Police. He noted that Troop F is down by thirteen troopers.

Chief Rella left the meeting.

Discussion about mud season, including the barrier on Bear Rock Road getting moved. Conversation around Reed Road, Piper Hill Road, and South Hill Road. Ray noted that the paving Piper Hill Road seemed to help with the mud on the road. Issues with Aldrich Road still remain.

Greg noted that T.J. Rossitto gets phone calls from throughout the Town of Colebrook about mud on roads and even on driveways. Greg explained about the materials used to lay roads in this part of the State. The Town of Colebrook needs to clean out the ditches regularly, starting this summer.

Greg suggested putting out a notice to Colebrook residents to let them know how to be included in the town-wide calls from Dispatch. Having Dean Neary at dispatch is helpful. He noted that just putting notices out on Facebook does not get urgent information out in the needed time.

Recording stopped and restarted here.

Signatures

Water abatement for Gary Puleo approved for \$400.

Notice of Intent to Excavate – Rosalie Hawes 232 Reed Road.

Notice of Intent to Cut – Kevin McKinnon – South Hill Road.

Cemetery Lot Deed – Sasha Brower – Colebrook Village Cemetery.

Letter of Intent to Transfer Funds – Northern Borders Dispatch PDIP Fund \$19,527.37.

Kym Lambert Property - Greg Placy reviewed a letter approved by Attorney Frizzell to be sent to Kym Lambert as the owner of a tax deeded property and her rights thereto.

Property Tax Default Reviews - Melanie explained to the selectboard about her communications with taxpayers in arrears, signed agreements and payments received.

Other

Greg asked James about the ATV form for access to Town roads. The Town is not going to charge for permits.

Ongoing review of State of New Hampshire Labor Laws RSA 275 – all sections relative to Greg Marchand's demand to be paid for his accrued vacation time after he quit. The review of the statutes indicates that the select board will uphold the Town's personnel policy.

James will send Greg Marchand a certified return receipt letter notifying Greg of this information.

Ray noted that there is an issue with streetlights being out throughout town and not being replaced by Eversource.

Sue noted that the light on the pole outside her house was replaced within a week: She had to go online and input the information that is on the pole. Sue noted that the Town is not reporting correctly. A form needs to be submitted for each streetlight with the pole information and the Town's account number. So, someone needs to go out after dark, record the pole information and create a list.

Ray mentioned the following poles:

By the Dollar Store.

Bottom of Cooper Hill.

By Northern Tire. There are four total in this section.

One on Bridge Street close to Town Hall.

One half-way down and one at the end of Bridge Street.

And, Ray noted, there are more around Town than what he listed.

Sue Collins made a motion to go into Non-Public Non-Public session at 3:34pm to discuss a personnel issue under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the

meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Ray Gorman seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Collins, yes; Gorman, yes; Placy, yes.

Sue Collins made the motion to return to regular session. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. Ray Gorman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Collins, yes; Gorman, yes; Placy, yes.

Out of Non-Public at 3:50pm.

Motion to adjourn by Sue Collins at 3:50pm. No second recorded. The Board had a work session on water rates.