

**TOWN OF COLEBROOK
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 11, 2022, AT 5:00 PM

Select board members present: Chairman Greg Placy, select board member Ray Gorman

Town Manager: James O’Gorman

REGULAR AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

Zoom meeting with Don Dawson of Netify (audio only) and Ericka Canales from Coos Economic Development Corporation, (CEDC) about the cell tower on Skyline Drive. Netify is talking with CEDC about a lease at this tower to grow-out capacity and get their system delivery to the next level. Don Dawson proposed upgraded services to five critical locations for the Town of Colebrook. Dawson mentioned combining a yearly payment along with a provision of service to as many buildings identified for Town of Colebrook for example Town Hall could use a secondary connection. A payment that would make a lease reasonable on the Skyline Drive would be around \$150 per month or \$1800 per year, plus five platinum services which is a 50 x 50 “wide open” *ultimate plus* - as fast as possible. Netify will work with vendors for installation and configuration – there will be no to the town for installations. The fiber circuit to the tower and have proper power back-up.

Ray Gorman asked if this project would include doing something with police radios, dispatch, etc. Don responded the Town would be able to get on the Netify antennae and that Netify would help with the delivery and installation of this equipment as well. There would be no expected charge for this space.

Ray noted that he believes that dispatch could do a better job for this region with this added capacity. Don said they can plan to provide a hard line for equipment to the Netify fiber optic circuit. HE would like a three-to-five-year lease. James will work with Netify and CEDC towards that goal and James will keep the select board updated. Netify is aiming for a May 1, 2022, start. The lease would renew for three years and Netify would commit to making the system resilient and to become a solid provider of the primary link to the area.

Don will be in Colebrook for the next select board meeting on April 25th at 1:00pm. In the meantime, Don will put together an agreement for the Town of Colebrook to review. Don will stay in touch with James to work through this.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC:

Steve Olson – Concern about New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) relocating utility poles on property. Mr. Olson’s property is at 290 Reed Road. He has been a Colebrook resident for over 24 years. On March 29th, NHEC showed up to tell him what their plan was on Steve’s land. Steve categorically refused the plan. NHEC wanted easements and rights to come on the land, etc.

Steve wanted to know what the Town of Colebrook knows about this. Since notifying the Town, Mr. Olson received a phone call from the NHEC representative stating that they (NHEC) had changed their plan and would not do anything to Mr. Olsen’s land. He is concerned that NHEC could still come back

with a plan that involves his property. He has asked to talk with the project manager. He has not received any return calls. He could not talk with the NHEC legal department and asked for copies of all the documents pertaining to his land and that request has not been answered either.

Mr. Olson is asking that if town hears anything, please let him know. Steve reported that the NHEC representative took great pains to say that the new plan does not involve Mr. Olson's land

Rita and Mike Gilbert were present because they live at #313 Reed Road and have been there for almost 40 years. A while ago, they were approached by NHEC looking for an easement off of the Town right of way on the Gilbert's land. They said they had no interest in it. The Gilberts want to make sure that they are in the loop if the town hears anything. NHEC told the Gilberts that NHEC was going to use the town right of way and that the town was going to expand that right of way.

The easement is the same as it has been since 1940, but the Gilberts and Mr. Olson said that it is worth checking on.

Bob Nienhouse owns property on Harry's Way. He was at the meeting to talk about extending the ATV trail to where they are, so they do not have to be on an illegal road to get to the trail. The ATV club (Mr. Washburn) told Mr. Nienhouse to talk to the select board.

Greg Placy explained that the routing for the ATVs is all done by the ATV club, and that the Town gives access to the closest trail on town roads – but not on state roads. Bungy road is a town road. The Nienhouse property is 1.5 miles from Bungy Road. Greg said that they can apply to get a permit by filling out a form.

James will send them a form.

Ray noted that they are going to have to talk with the Town of Columbia as well, since quite a bit of their access is in Columbia.

Review and approval of Minutes from 2/14/2022 and 2/15/2022. Ray Gorman makes motion to approve the minutes from 2/14/2022 and 2/15/2022. Greg seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Ray Gorman made a motion to approve the minutes for March 28, 2022. Greg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Manager's report was presented and is attached to these minutes.

Carol Miller is working on the broadband infrastructure and on May 5th from 4pm to 7pm, she wants to use courtroom space for informational meeting. The select board saw no problem with this.

Dispatch suggested the select board update the homeless policy that is used by the dispatchers.

Ray asked James if the select board was going to meet with CMA on a monthly basis? Ray wants to keep things moving and wonders if regular meetings with CMA would help. He noted that there may be other funds available for the Town of Colebrook projects.

Greg suggested that CMA submit a monthly report to James and that James could then update the select board. The select board will pass their questions to CMA through James.

James will check with CMA about this plan.

GIS Services Contract with CAI Technologies \$6,000 for scanning land maps. The contract was signed.

ARPA funding report due at the end of the month. Mel is working on this - Kendra sent a direct email to the select board on last Friday regarding the ARPA fund. Kendra is coming to meet with Mel and wanted to make sure that the select board agrees with the email she sent. Greg did not receive the email. Kendra's email made a recommendation for the reporting method. Sue agreed with this email.

Purple Heart Community Request – If the Town wants to become a purple heart community, the select board passes a resolution. Department of corrections installs signs at a special cost. Funding could be raised through local legion or veterans' group. There are other New Hampshire towns that have moved forward with this. The signs can go where the Town would like them to go.

Greg suggested that the Town go through the legion and let the legion tell the Town where the signs should go. The Commander is Mike Collins. James will contact him.

Main Street Crosswalks – A concerned citizen spoke with James about the crosswalks in town and almost getting hit on Main Street.

Greg noted that road temperature needs to be at 50 degrees before crosswalks can be repainted for safer crossings. The Main Street project will make things safer. Littleton's "stop, look, wave" crosswalks may be an idea.

Water Rates – Tabled for Sue's review and comment on the report. The town has a high delinquency rate: Mel did a print-out today - \$89,000 worth of water bills are not paid as of today which is more than 50%. All drive-by's have been done and bills can print within the next couple of days. Our vendor has no idea of when the endpoints will be delivered. The water meter is in at UCVH.

Colebrook Homeowners Cooperative update information from Attorney Frizzell. Mel reported that Jonathan told her to hold off because there was money in the Co-Op's grant for legal fees. Jonathan is doing work through the grant and working with the Town of Colebrook as needed. There are eleven trailers involved.

#129 Corliss Lane – ongoing work with Hospital.

ATV recent court ruling for the Town of Gorham: Greg talked to the New Hampshire Department of Natural & Cultural Resources – they said they expect an appeal of the court ruling. If the ruling sticks it will affect the entire snowmobile and ATV business. Copies of the ruling were sent to Mike Ouellette and Craig Washburn (club president). Mr. Washburn knew that this was coming and seems to think that this will be appealed. James told the local newspaper that this topic will be part of future discussions at the Town of Colebrook.

Town of Gorham ruling says, in effect, "If it causes noise and impacts the property owner, the town is doing an abatement." There must be a hearing every year on what roads are impacted.

John Petrofski talked with Greg Placy to make sure that Colebrook is going to take ATV traffic off his section of Bear Rock Road. Craig Washburn and the ATV club would do the signs. If the trail is there to by-pass, then ATVs will be taken off the road – no matter what the club says. Ray would like Craig Washburn to talk with the select board about this.

Signatures

Property tax abatement for Corey Bulleman One Indian Trail – Software glitch again. This glitch has to do with a new owner for first issue versus second issue bill. This is a correction, not a reduction of Town income. It shows as an abatement because it is an overbilling: The former owner paid, and the new owner paid again.

Three Notices of Intent to Cut for Raoul Riendeau

- #168 Route 145 one acre
- Fish Hatchery Road (blown down material)
- Brandy Lee Lane

Utilization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate

Other Items:

James said Dean Neary in Dispatch will complete the street light inventory (for streetlights that are not working)

Ray report that tomorrow in Concord there is a senate hearing about Golf Links Road. Ray may try to make this hearing. It is at 2:00pm. The Town letter has been sent. Paul Grenier will be there representing the County Commissioners.

Ray Gorman made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned 6:20pm.