

Town of Colebrook
Budget Hearing – Public Hearing

February 9, 2023

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Selectboard Members: Greg Placy, Chairperson; Suzanne Collins, and Ray Gorman

Staff Present: Melanie Fogg, Tax Collector; Dottie Uran, Assessing Clerk; Melissa Shaw, Recreation Director; David Brooks, Landfill

Greg Placy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Placy then reminded those in attendance to raise their hand to speak, state their name for the minutes, and turn off all cell phones and other potentially distracting electronic devices.

Hand-outs from the meeting, referenced in these minutes, are available to the public.

The first presentation was the budget summary page (which is page #14 of the public hearing handouts). The select board reviewed the 2023 budget summary information which includes:

- A total 2023 operating budget of \$5,540,839
- A 2023 total valuation of \$194,613,320 (used in the NH Department of Revenue Administration's (NH-DRA) per \$1,000 tax rate calculation)
- Estimated, but not final, tax rate per \$1,000 = \$12.40. This represents an increase of .53 cents per \$1,000 or approximately 4.5%.

General comments about Town Warrant Articles:

Article #7 is the warrant for approving the general government proposed budget.

Articles #2 through #6 are on the ballot for voting. These articles pertain to zoning ordinances they are, "not money warrant articles, just housekeeping," stated Sue Collins.

In December 2022, the selectboard held a public hearing on the changes to these ordinances. Sue noted that these 2023 warrant articles bring all ordinances up to date with one change in the precinct: Frontage for new construction is one hundred' for new construction versus 150' previously required.

Sue further noted that Articles #7 through #24 are money articles and they are all contained in the SUMMARY slide as presented.

General comments about the hand-outs:

The yellow pages include the details of budgeted revenues that roll up to \$2,877,818.

The blue pages include the details of budgeted expenditures that roll up to \$5,540,839.

General Strategy for 2023 Budget Definition:

The select board is proposing the use of \$250,000 of fund balance to reduce taxes (before the independent audit and NH-DRA may update of equalized values). Then in the fall, NH-DRA will give the

Town an opportunity to tell NH-DRA how much of the fund balance the Town wants to use in the tax rate calculation. Then, the .53/\$1,000 increase could be wiped out.

In general, the budget demonstrates increased costs in almost all departments.

Wendell Woodard – Regarding property re-valuation. What do they base this on?

Sue – The assessor looks at all the sales during the year in the town. Then, the annual equalization is based on the change in the property values based on sale prices. That is how they make that change. Every town in the state is re-evaluated every five years. Every year they change the total valuation based on sales.

Mr. Woodard – When the June tax bill comes will it still have the same assessed value for his property?

Sue noted that the individual assessed values are not affected year to year. However, the selectboard does send the property tax assessor out for abatements based on a potential obvious difference of what the tax assessor valued the house at and the actual condition of the house. The assessor will produce a new value based on what he sees (or not). For Example: A fire means the building is gone, then the tax bill needs to be adjusted.

Mr. Woodard – If someone sells their house assessed at \$200,000 for \$400,000 the valuation stays at \$200,000?

Sue responded that the NH-DRA does not let the town immediately re-assess individual properties based on that sale price. It is called “cherry picking.”

Richard Cole noted that if you buy that house during the reassessment year then, yes, the valuation will change immediately because it is a reassessment year.

Sue noted that, in 2022 a property sold for +/- \$2million, but it was assessed at 700+/- . That property will be re-assessed in 2024 (the re-assessment year for all properties).

Individual Articles – *Please refer to the Public Hearing hand-outs for Article language. Line-item breakdowns are included on the blue sheet hand-outs or “Town of Colebrook Budget Worksheet – Expenditures.”*

General Government. Budget is up by \$1860. This increase includes an increase of \$1500 to increase pay to the select board by \$500 per selectboard member.

Town Administration. Budget is up \$1360.

Town Clerk. Budget is up \$30,170. Our current town clerk is not running for office this year. She has been training a deputy clerk, and that person has decided to run. This person will work full time to learn the job by March 2023. After the election that deputy clerk goes back to being a part-time position. The budget includes the three-month span of a full-time deputy instead of part-time.

Town Meeting/Elections down (\$5175). Last year there were three. This year there is only one.

General Office is up \$24,110. This budget includes additional hours for another position.

Sue noted that with all the grant funding the Town has received (well into the millions of dollars) it is very time intensive to meet all the requirements. Each granting entity (USDA, NH-DES, NBRC, EDA) has its own set of requirements for various sources. The office staff could use some help.

Tax Collection – this budget is down (\$1025) based on how health insurance is budgeted.

Treasury – this budget is up by \$500 to offer a raise to the town treasurer and the trustees of trust funds.

Data Processing – is increasing by \$22,500 because all the town hall needs all new network switching. It may take nine months to get the parts to upgrade the system. Next year the town will be looking at replacing the in-house servers and migrating to the Cloud.

Assessing Services – is increasing by \$6750. The Town signed an agreement with George Sansoucy who evaluates utilities' property tax responsibilities. A lot of New England towns are hiring this assessor to evaluate the Portland Natural Gas system (PNGS). What PNGS is paying in Colebrook is far less than in other towns. The select board will compare this assessment value to the NH-DRA value. If his values are accepted by the State, PNGS could be playing higher taxes to Colebrook relieving the burden to the citizens. This is the only utility for evaluation at this time.

Planning Board – Last year a consultant and an attorney reviewed ordinances and that project is completed. Instead of \$10,000, the appropriation is for \$5000 for any further document work. There is a grant to help with some of the expense, but not all of it.

Zoning Board – Had some activity during the past year. The wages are for Mike Ouellet's specific work for Zoning Board.

Government Buildings – This is for the town hall building. Electricity rates have increased. And heating fuel (#2) expense has increased as well. The town is paying \$3.86 per gallon for #2 fuel oil.

Regional Association – This expense is for North Country Council participation.

Police/Stone Garden/Cruiser – The town was able to take advantage of NH Governor's locality fund, so \$5,556 was used for the new cruiser in 2022, but this is not in the 2023 budget.

Mr. Cole asked about the money from selling the old cruiser. Sue noted that the \$10,000 from the police cruiser sale is in the police cruiser capital reserve fund.

Ambulance line-item increase is \$28,720. Last year the 45th Parallel EMS Service had a total number of runs of 266, this year the total number of runs was 382. The town appropriation formula is based on the number of bedrooms, total assessment, and the number of runs. Because of that formula Colebrook's cost went up.

David Brooks – When the 45th charges for a run is it for a run to a doctor's appointment or is it per 911 call?

Greg answered that the charge is for both. If there is no transport – like for a scene call where the ambulance responds but does not transport a patient there is no payment to 45th, nor is the town charged.

Greg explained that insurance does not cover the transport charge. The service towns make up the difference. Ambulances do not make money. And under a different model, (other than freestanding EMS service) the towns' costs would be much higher.

The 45th has three crews in day, one crew at night. Interfacility transfers are profitable, and these make sense. Generally, each day two to three vehicles on transfers.

Transfer revenues help reduce the budget.

Colebrook Fire Department – Starting last year, the town agreed to pay \$15,000 per year so that no out of precinct calls are charged to the out of precinct resident. For non-precinct calls the fire department would bill the town of Colebrook. People got upset when receiving a fire department bill from the town. Most of the time they would not pay it.

The \$15,000 is not a lot and removes the accounting and dunning responsibilities from the town and removes the additional stress for citizens who may have experienced a fire or an emergency that required fire department response. Last year the town decided to write off related bad debts of \$8716 for uncollectible fire department bills. The town would spend more on legal fees for small claims court. None of this made sense.

Mr. Woodard – So if I had a fire in the past, I would have gotten a bill from the Town?

Sue – Yes and the bill would have said “please submit to your insurance company.” Some insurance companies told clients not to pay. Now, the individual will not get a bill.

Emergency Management plus Capital Reserve - Every year the town appropriated \$2500 for water purification equipment. Just as the NH Governor's funds helped with the cruiser purchase, the town was able to buy the water purification system, and the capital reserve funds will be saved.

Road Maintenance – this item is up \$69,045 and is not surprising given an increase in health insurance from single to two-person. Plus, wages, electric, #2 fuel for the garage – all are increasing. There is an expense for \$10,000 for a new sander for the Bobcat. The prices of chloride and winter sand are up. Gravel and sand purchasing will go out to bid again this year. Fuel for the trucks is increased in price as well.

Street Lighting – Electric rates went up. For the last two or three years many lights are out, not working so the town has been paying less. Ray Gorman is on a mission to get all non-working lights replaced. He is reporting the pole location and pole number to Eversource.

Ray gave examples: The end of Bridge Street, by the crosswalk, down by Black Bear, crosswalk. Cooper Hill. For safety reasons these lights need to be working.

Transfer Station – This expense has increased because Colebrook has a lot more tonnage and because the hauling services contract went up. The contract includes a fuel escalator – kicking in because of the diesel price increase. More tonnage, more trips, more fuel used. Finally, the tipping fee at Mount Carberry has increased.

Mr. Woodard – Why is the tonnage up a lot this year?

Sue – A lot more people moved into Colebrook, and people are gutting places and redoing properties. The demo container is always full. We use dump stickers for citizens and have stopped commercial haulers from going in there. Commercial haulers have to go directly to go to Casella in Bethlehem. Carberry does not take commercial waste.

Ray noted that Colebrook cannot recycle certain types of plastics – that goes in the cost as well and there is enough plastic to make a difference.

Recycling budget is up – this is based on a formula that includes equalized value and population. The County used to pay 40% of the salary of the corrections officer who runs the recycling center – now the towns have to pay this salary. Ray added that another corrections officer works at Recycling much of his time too but is not charged to the towns.

Outside Agencies – One (Caleb Caregivers) went out of business, so is not included in the 2023 budget.

David Brooks – The old Academy seems to now be called a non-profit. What does this mean for that building?

Sue – the purchaser never gave the Town a formal request. They have to prove that they are operating solely for charitable purposes before tax exemption is granted. Currently, the select board is going through the whole list of property tax exemptions. Some are not operating as 100% not-for-profit. For example, Helping Hands has a rental property – so the value of that square footage is subtracted, and the exemption is not on the full building.

Currently, Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital is providing a donation to the Colebrook instead of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Ray – The select board is working on a questionnaire, which will require several more details about tax-exemption in order for the select board to make a proper assessment.

Terry MacKinnon – What criteria are used?

Sue – The questionnaire is guided by what is in New Hampshire statutes.

Greg – If a property that has been non-profit for years is now vacant – they would get a tax bill now if they are not using it for tax exempt purposes.

Animal Control – Money paid to Coos Animal Sanctuary.

General Assistance – The welfare budget up \$1400.

Terry MacKinnon – What is this?

Sue – if someone shows up at the town office and they need emergency shelter, they get a motel room, and it is not a forever thing. Some people need electric assistance. Staff will meet with them to pay the current bill so the electricity will not be shut-off. But the person needing assistance has to get their own agreement from electrical company for back bill payment plans.

Burials are included in here as well. The town is responsible for a certain amount of money for cremation or burial for citizen who dies. The amount is \$750 per burial and \$200 per cremation.

Wendell Woodard – I am hearing about big cities having challenges around homelessness. Does this amount of money take care of that for Colebrook so there is no homeless here? Does the town make sure they have a place to stay?

Sue – Staff end up referring people who are homeless to a lot of different agencies. We do have some homeless people here in Colebrook. The town will pay for a few nights at a hotel as a stopgap. The person has to get help from TCCAP, and other places. They have to prove that they are trying. The only available motel at this time is Maurice's in Canaan.

Ray – I am the person taking care of this in the absence of a town manager. The person who is experiencing homelessness needs to make an appointment with me, fill out an application, and some folks will not do it. We want to help, but it can be frustrating. It is never just about housing – there are many other factors. These are challenging situations.

Recreation – up \$5595. Wages are up. The student staff do not get paid a lot. The budget (line item) is for director and staff wages and benefits. All other expenses come out of a revolving fund – this money is from all the charges for summer camps and programs. Parents pay and their money is used to pay for busses and other non-personnel items. The program gets a lot of grants to offset expenses.

Patriotic – This item is up by \$5000 and is usually Memorial Day and 4th of July. In 2024, Colebrook is in the path of totality for an eclipse. This is important. Sue wrote a grant for a one-time eclipse coordinator. We can expect thousands of people to show up. Coordination includes lodging, food, porta potties, police. The date is April 8th, 2024, and just the traffic is a concern. There are a lot of moving parts. The State Division of Travel & Tourism reports that the impact will be amazing.

Colebrook and Pittsburg have the longest amount of solar eclipse outside of Quebec. The eclipse will last a bit over three minutes. In Lancaster? One minute. People will come here. We need to provide safety glasses, and lodging owners need to insist on three-night minimums. The Colebrook County Club already has reservations. This is anticipated to have a significant impact. The select board is asking for \$5000 from taxpayers with balance from grant applications.

Sue printed a white paper, and the eclipse chasers know that bad weather could occur – but they will be here just in case. You have to have places for people to congregate. Garbage cans, pickup, etc.

The New Hampshire Office of Travel and Tourism, Chambers of Commerce, everyone needs to be involved in planning. This is a once every 375 years event – it does not happen very often, and it is happening next year.

Economic Development – no change.

Conservation Comm. – no change.

Debt service – This is for the Main Street infrastructure water and sewer debt.

General Government total increase \$162,741.

END ARTICLE #7.

Article #8 Capital Reserve Funds are down \$10,000. All remain the same. Town buildings amount went down \$10,000. Others remain the same.

Article #9 Landfill Closure - Reduction because last year another monitoring well was installed, but this addition is not needed this year. David Brooks noted that last year we expended \$4,000 for gravel on the road, but not this year.

Greg – We seem to get to a level when we could get rid of the landfill leachate removal requirements, but then the criteria change, so we have to keep it going.

Sue offered a reminder that any article that takes money out of the capital reserve fund has to stand on its own by state statute.

Articles 10 & 11. Town Hall. The heating system in this building is old. This past year all windows on main floor replaced and made an enormous difference. Considering that the town could help out the heat in the upstairs.

Arnold Goodrum – thank you!

Sue – Our priority is the furnace. Each year we try to make an improvement to this building. One step at a time.

Energy audit. NH-C DFA will reimburse 25% of the cost of an energy audit. Prior to buying the heating system and the audit will find out whatever improvements this building needs. The energy audit will help inform decisions.

Articles 12 & 13. The plan is to pave Corliss Lane and High Street. This includes replacement of the highway plow truck with accessories and warranty.

Sue: We learned about the non-lapsing language because it takes so long to get a vehicle. Last year a water and sewer truck that was ordered two days after town meeting still does not have a delivery date.

This year we got \$80,000 of unanticipated money. We held a public hearing on accepting these funds and we put it into the highway capital reserve fund. This is in the \$245,000 capital reserve fund amount. We are replacing a 2011 International truck and whatever we can sell it for, the proceeds will go into capital reserve (as with the police cruiser).

Articles 14 & 15. Water & Sewer Departments Paid by User Fees.

Sue: The town has experienced a significant increase because in electric rates because of all the pumps we are using. The increased budget is due to spending beyond budget on electricity last year. There is extra for upgrading the water testing lab.

Also, there is funding for a GIS data collection mapping system for the water system.

Greg reported that last year's GIS data collection for the sewer system included inventory of culverts in the whole town of Colebrook, as well as the catch basins. This continued work helps out immensely.

Article 16 – Support of Colebrook Library. Julie Colby there to answer questions. No questions.

Article 17 – Colebrook Cemetery. This year we are spending perpetual care money for the first time.

Sue reported that some of the perpetual care money collection started in 1911. In the past we have fixed a lot of monuments in disrepair or broken. With the use perpetual care funds, we will be able to

perform \$20,000 worth of maintenance in two cemeteries including a lot of work for the Reed Cemetery. Those funds will be withdrawn from the trust funds and set aside for that purpose. The budget is down because there is no more of the \$5000 set aside for the cemetery reclamation fund. There is enough property for grave sites for the next two hundred years. So, no funding needed for the cemetery reclamation fund.

Article 18 – Northern Borders Dispatch. Sue reported that the Colebrook cost is based on the number of calls and there has been an increase.

Ray noted that the biggest cost is the cost of keeping staff because of wage competition and the specialized training. Ray said that Northern Border Dispatch has done very well with maintenance upkeep and trying to get more coverage. Dispatch is fairly stable. The increase in expense is the cost of operations.

Arnold Goodrum – how many towns are we sharing with?

Ray: There are five Canada towns and then Dispatch covers all the way to island pond – including that northern VT can get very confusing along Rte. 102. Then, over to Wilson’s Mills plantation in Maine. And all the unincorporated places. Total towns covered are twenty-five including the unincorporated. They cover Dartmouth grant, Atkinson, Gilmanton Academy Grant. Unincorporated do contribute to equipment and pay an annual fee for the operation.

County is contributing to equipment costs. The Canadian Towns paying \$6000 each for fire dispatch only.

Wendell Woodard – What is the \$10,000 for rent? Why is this under our expenditures?

Sue: The Town of Colebrook is the fiscal sponsors for the Dispatch Center, we process all the salaries, and expenses. We recover from other towns \$195,246.

The Town charges Dispatch to be in this building. This expense gets backed out of Colebrook’s share. Dispatch has to pay the rent, but when Colebrook pays its fee to Dispatch, that \$10,000 is deducted out of that amount.

David Brooks – Clarification: Every time someone calls in to Dispatch, the town gets charged \$46 on average?

Ray – That is correct.

Mackinnon – People need to stop making stupid calls.

Ray – We are trying to get calls reduced by collaborating with police, because some calls can go directly to the police.

Sue – We are working on little ways to make changes.

Trail maintenance for Dispatch is up to the towers in Magalloway, etc. The five core towns pay \$400 apiece.

Article #20 Solar Panel Project – Town Garage.

Sue: The solar panels would produce electricity required at the town garage and any excess power from net metering would be applied to our other bills according to Eversource. After five years, the benefit will be to the Colebrook taxpayers.

The selectboard may look at other locations including town hall.

Greg: We are also looking at something on the northern wells' property – the failed wells – for feasibility for solar array.

Sue: There are companies that will do installation at no cost but will get part of what the generated energy produces.

Article #21 – WWTP Upgrade Planning Grant.

Greg reported that this is for an upgrade planning project so that we can know what needs to be done at the treatment plant. We know we need to dredge, but there may be some other things, including cleaning up the lines between APP and wastewater treatment plant.

Sue added that we want to make sure that we know what APP is discharging if they start up again so that there is no dispute about where water contaminants or other things come from: With clean lines we can know what APP is discharging.

Article #22 – Housing Opportunity Planning Grant. This is a \$63,300 opportunity planning grant. The Planning Board is revising the main plan and the site plan review and is revising another document. All of this is part of the same grant. Some of the work for housing opportunity does not qualify for the grant, but most of it does.

Article #23 – Solar Eclipse Planning – Grant for the one-time Solar Eclipse Coordinator position.

Article #24 – Readopt All Veterans' Tax Credit – There is a requirement that this be put in as a warrant of every town in New Hampshire. In Colebrook, the amount is \$150. The credit amount varies by town.

Article #25: *Petitioned Warrant Article requiring all regular and special sessions of the board of selectmen be video recorded and livestreamed on a platform that is accessible to the public.*

Greg – The select board does not have a problem with this. But when we start doing this, we want to make sure of the total cost and what will be involved. Since the meetings are in courtroom, we cannot put up video cameras. We need to work with the court system to do this. No problem of this being included in the budget with the appropriate background information including knowledge of the cost.

Now, digital recordings are available. The meeting minutes are available on the website.

Sue noted that the selectboard's intent is to comply. Meetings may have to move from the courtroom. Audio recording is not a problem, it is the video and livestreaming part. Need time to deal with doing it correctly.

Julie Colby – This bill at the State level got tabled already.

David Brooks – Video & livestreaming costs \$3,000 per year in Pittsburg. That cost includes five years of recorded minutes, livestreaming and the equipment is free.

Sue – We will contact Pittsburg.

Greg – We are not sure we are allowed to do, by law, in this courtroom.

Sue – We will contact the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Carrie Rancourt – The same issue on the school side. Is there a way to share the cost even though it is two separate systems.

Sue – They have an I.T department and a lot of equipment at the school.

Wendell Woodard – Two organizations could get together with their boards and set up a location together.

Greg – it is a big benefit to have meetings near to the town office. There are a number of times that items are needed from the office or items come into the office late. Being away would not be a good idea.

Ray – afternoon meetings are three to four hours. Lots of the afternoon meetings include eight or ten people and staff and it would be nice to stay here.

Article # 26. Accept, ratify, and confirm reports of agents, selectmen, auditors, and other town officials.

Article # 27. Any other business.

Wendell Woodard - What is the status of the Main Street project?

Greg – we are close to approval of preliminary design plans, then we will need right of way plans and the final design plans. The State of NH DOT moved the advertising date from early 2023 to advertise in late 2023 for construction in 2024.

Sue – COVID threw a wrench into the works as well.

Greg – Also, this summer the Bear Rock Road Bridge – this side of the Keazer Farm – will be under construction during the summer months. This will require a total road closure for a couple of weeks.

Moving utility poles –East side poles, business side, will disappear. All those big cables – no communications going through those lines. All utility poles for a good portion of Main Street will be on the West Side of the road. That should start to happen this summer.

Each company will have to move their own lines: Eversource, FiberCast, and Consolidated.

Wendell Woodard – The school tax rate is going up at least 3.8 per one thousand without the bond. So, at present, what has selectboard seen as far as delinquent taxes? Amount being paid? How many are not being paid? Is this on the rise?

Greg – Stayed about the same.

Mel – A lot more people are using escrow. There is a grant program for those severely delinquent that has helped pay off a few balances.

Sue – There is a process the Town has to follow, but the Town can take a property. It is a lengthy process, and the Town is being aggressive.

Sue noted that in the last two years the town has taken two major properties. At the sale, the Town recovers all of our costs and fees. One property sold for \$440,000 and the owner owed about \$90,000 in taxes, interest and fees. Any difference goes to previous owners. The Town keeps no profit. Owners have a repurchase timeline and some manage to pay.

Wendell Woodard– So there has been no increase in delinquency in the last couple of years?

Mel – Accepting credit card payments and the disbursement of COVID payments have helped out.

Ray noted that the select board is being more aggressive about water and sewer bills that are overdue and that there will be disconnects.

Mr. Cole – With the Main Street project will the sidewalks be ADA compliant?

Sue – they have to be and will be ADA compliant.

David Brunault – Regarding the bonding status of Colebrook: What is the proposed school effect on the Colebrook bond rating and how is it going to affect the present and future projects that Colebrook has going on or plans to have to go on?

Sue prepared an affordable debt limit for Colebrook based on statutes. The debt limit is 9.75% of the equalized value or \$18,974,799. The school has no outstanding debt. The Town has debt on the wells north of town, with ten years left and \$601,060 owed. The select board is going to see if this or any portion of it can be forgiven, especially given that DES approved that site in the first place. There is also outstanding debt on the Main Street infrastructure project completed 3 years ago.

At last year's town meeting there was authorization for borrowing to find a site and for drilling test wells, but once we find the site, we have to drill those wells, and connect to the water main. Four sites under consideration. If we do not have grant money, we will have to borrow.

David Brunault: Would you agree that we have a lot of projects in the future that we need to fund before building a luxury golf course?

Sue: We have a lot of needs in the future, and we will address one at a time using as much grant money as we can. Federal funds have been available, but what is in the future for federal funding? We do not know.

David Brunault: That federal money is going to dry up. If something happens, are we going to be able to fix it or will we be strapped to a building with no kids and no support from any surrounding towns.

If we had a real disaster, with contaminations, for example, our bonding is limited, and we have to correct that. The new school is a luxury, the water and sewer are a necessity.

This bond for the school is not for one year, we are going to live with it for fifteen year and each year the school side taxes go up.

Sue – This selectboard cannot answer to the school side of things. We do not know how much they need to borrow.

David Brunault: The paperwork presented by the schoolboard changed at the meeting and the townspeople cannot get an answer from the schoolboard.

David Brooks: How open are you as the selectboard to having the school board and select board annual meetings on Saturdays and elections on a Tuesday? We would have to do a petition.

Sue: We would rather do it during the day, so we are open to this.

Ray: Saturdays are fine.

David Brunault: We might get more voters and it would be great.

Greg: Talk to the two boards and get them to get an agreement.

David Brooks: I will bring it up at the Town Meeting and the School Board meeting for straw poll.

Deb Thompson: About the bond. A newspaper editorial said something about that in 2016 the school stepped back from a big project because the town needed some major repairs. Now, we are in this situation, is the school board thinking its their turn and the town needs to step back? Our small town could have a disaster. We need back-up for emergencies.

Greg responded that the selectboard cannot speak to what the schoolboard is doing or thinking.

Sue – the schoolboard has not asked what we have for future capital improvement needs. The school district made the last payment on the current school when the town was looking at the Main Street project which was huge.

Yes, the water & sewer project needed to happen, and we asked the schoolboard to please wait.

David Brunault: The Town of Colebrook has a lot of unfinished projects.

Sue: In 2016, the Main Street project was approved. It is eight years later, and that project is not done yet.

Ray: COVID put us back at least a couple of years.

Thank you for coming.

MEETING ENDED AT 8:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine E Charman

Christine E. Charman, Transcription