

Colebrook Select Board
Selectmen Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2024

Selectboard Members: Greg Placy and Ray Gorman

Staff: Tim Stevens & Heidi Lawton

Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of the Public:

- A. Carol Miller will be at the next meeting on 5/13/24 at 1:00pm to discuss broadband in Colebrook. She could not make it to this meeting. Greg wanted to know what this was about. Ray advised Greg that this is a grant for high-speed internet in towns. Because Colebrook has Netafy and Consolidated, we didn't qualify. Consolidated has fidium fiber so the hope is that the Eversource customers would get fidium fiber. Tim wanted to know if this will be buried like the utilities on Main Street with the Main Street project. Ray was unsure of this.
- B. Tim advised the board that Barbara Woodard would like the town to put no parking signs in front of her driveway. She wants to be able to see coming out of her driveway on both sides. She has talked to Ray and Greg about this. Tim said there are statutes already that say it is illegal to block someone's driveway.

Regular Agenda:

- A. Review and approval of Minutes of 4/9/2024, Sue would like the board to wait until next meeting to approve these minutes.
- B. Review and Sign Payroll and Disbursement Manifests: The Selectmen reviewed completed payrolls and disbursement manifests and signed them.
- C. Town Manager's Report

-Eclipse After-Action Report: Tim advised the board that he has been receiving cards and emails about how well the town did with the eclipse. He had one family from Los Angeles that had never been here before but will be back because they had such a good time in our town.

-The Northern Borders Dispatch funds, held by the Trustees of Trust Funds have been transferred into the NH PDIP account. The Trustees were able to get the penalty waived by the bank.

-Sand and gravel bids went out, they will be in the newspapers this week and next week.

-The Town Clerk would like to raise the dog fees from \$6.50 to \$7.00. Tim has looked in the newspaper and none of the other towns have raised their fees to \$7.00, they are still at \$6.50. The Selectmen decided they do not see a need to raise it.

-Tim advised the board that the Health Officer has no budget. The only line item in that budget is the \$900.00 she gets paid a year. There is training that she needs to go to, mileage, and supplies. Heidi explained why the health officer needs the training and supplies. Melanie said that she might be able to take it out of the Emergency Management budget for now, since she is in both positions. Then next year we can create a health officer budget. Tim advised the board that she had been active and already has done two visits. She is very good at talking to the Police Department and taking an officer with her when she needs one. Tim and Heidi sent her to Colebrook Copy Center to get a Health Officer badge made up so that she could identify herself when she conducted visits.

-Corliss Lane: Tim was not aware of this and didn't know if the board was or not, but every year some residents on Corliss Lane brush all the dirt from their driveways into dirt piles and the Highway Department goes and picks it up. Some of the piles are quite large and that is a safety issue. Number one, it is illegal to put things in the road and what if an ambulance hit one of those piles and gets thrown back into traffic. Also, if we do it for one road, then everyone is going to want this done. Tim would like to send a letter to all residents on Corliss Lane to let them know that they cannot put sand/dirt into the road. If every road in town did this, the Colebrook Highway crew would spend all summer cleaning up roads.

-April 29, 2024: The Board has a Teams Meeting with Infinity LED at 1:00pm and right after that will be a GIS Presentation from EJ Prescott. Tim just sent an email off to Infinity LED to both Kelly and Steve because there have been a couple concerns about light pollution. There have been towns that have had new lights put up and the lights were pointed up causing light pollution. That is going to be part of the discussion, that the lights are not causing extra light pollution in the sky and to also consider that there are certain requirements by NHDOT and safety purposes that ensure our crosswalks are safely lit.

-Aldrich Road: Tim has been in contact with Trout Unlimited and Trout Unlimited has said that they have been in touch with NH Fish & Game and there are natural trout in that brook so they will look into it. One of the things Trout Unlimited is looking at doing is natural barriers, taking stumps that have roots in them and putting them in there, so it is more of a natural type of embankment. Trout Unlimited has been in touch with FEMA to see how much they can do in this area. Additionally, Tim had been in touch with Nick from North Country Council, and they do have Engineers on Retainer, it is first come, first serve until the money is gone and the Town of Colebrook would be a good candidate. Nick sent Tim an application and the Engineers are HEB. Tim asked the board if North

Country Council was federally funded. Ray said, "North Country Council is federally funded, but not all their money is federally funded."

-Tim has the deed for the property across the street, if any of the board members want to see it.

-Rt. 145 Project: Tim received an email from Josh Bouchard of CMA saying that CMA and Eversource are going to have a meeting out there, NH DOT as well, either next week or the week after. It will be a discussion on moving the poles along Route 145. Greg asked, "do they have to move them, or do they have to hold them?" Tim was not sure of this. Tim will let the board know when the meeting is. Tim has talked to the Carlton's, and they are fine with the fire hydrant being moved back. Greg said we need to get letters out to all the property owners. Greg believes that something has to be signed by all of them for that to happen. Probably an easement.

New Business:

- A. Colebrook Hazardous Waste Day: Heidi explained to the board that she has applied through NH DES for a Hazardous Waste Day Grant, the town will be receiving about \$276.00, due to the population of the town. She applied for the grant in February of 2023 and has not heard anything yet, but has emailed Tim Prospert, with NHDES today to see where the grant stands. The day will be Sunday, August 18th, from 9:00am to noon and has already been scheduled with Northeast Resource Recovery Association. Heidi explained that there is a maximum budget of \$5,900.00, during the event if the maximum budget is reached, the vendor will ask the town if: 1. The Town wants to continue with collection and go over budget or 2. The Town wants to stop collecting. The set-up fee is \$2,340.00 and the per unit fee is \$31.50. The board wanted to know how much the town has in the budget for this event. Heidi will check and let them know. Greg said what happened before when the town did their last Hazardous Waste Day was the town received a \$3,600.00 budget and they had way more people coming in, so James Steele from North Country Council asked Greg if the town wanted to keep taking collections or stop the people from coming in. Greg said, "he got a hold of Sue and she found more money in the budget" In 2021, the Town generated 111 units at their October Collection Event. One unit equals 5 gallons or 20 pounds of waste or a combination of the two. Greg said, "we need to get with the vendor and find out exactly what they are accepting and what they aren't." Heidi will do this. Tim will try to identify some funds in the budget in case we go over. Greg mentioned that someone needs to be there checking cars to make sure they are Colebrook residents. Tim said that if they are Colebrook residents, they should have a dump sticker. Heidi mentioned that when we advertise this, we need to put in the ad that all Colebrook residents must have their dump sticker to bring anything down to the collection site.

Old Business:

- A. Kearsarge Letter of Intent: Tim advised the board that the letter had gone to Attorney Frizzell, and he would look at it and get back to Tim. Tim showed the board the results from Eversource saying how much money we would get back for kilowatt hours and usage. This is based on all the electric bills we sent in for the town for the year, that is in addition to the lease and other funds they come up with. Greg said, “five to ten thousand bucks a year.” Greg wanted to know, is that what Eversource figured out after all town businesses get credited or is that the total? Discussion ensued.

- B. Unpaid Balance Reports: Heidi gave the board these to review, the board would like to wait until Sue is at the meeting. We will put this on the next agenda.

Tabled/Pending Items:

- A. Working on Ordinances.

For Approval and Signature:

- A. ATV Permits: James & Linda Anderson
Jeffrey Ricardo
Sean Cobb

- B. Intent to Excavate: Creed Cooney

The Selectmen signed all permits and the intent to excavate.

Hearing of the Public and Any Other Business:

-Tim gave the board an invite to the Ski Bees Landowner’s Appreciation Dinner. It will be May 18, 2024, at Coleman State Park.

Determine Date for Next Meeting: May 13, 2024, at 1:00pm

Adjourned: Greg made a motion to adjourn, Ray seconded the motion, motion passed to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Lawton

Heidi Lawton, Administrative Assistant, Town of Colebrook