

Colebrook Select Board
Selectmen Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2024

Selectboard Members: Sue Collins, Ray Gorman, and Greg Placy

Staff: Heidi Lawton

Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of the Public:

A. None

Regular Agenda:

- A. Review and approval of Minutes of 5/13/24. Sue made a motion to approve the minutes of 5/13/24, Ray seconded. Motion passed.
- B. Review and Sign Payroll and Disbursement Manifests: The Selectmen reviewed completed payrolls and disbursement manifests and signed them.
- C. Town Manager's Report

-Assessing Update: Tim spoke with Phil today at DRA, they continue to work on the issue and are doing a petition to the Board of Land & Tax Appeals, the enforcement body for the revaluation assessments. As soon as the Department of Revenue Administration gets direction from BTLA they will let Tim know what orders have been given as a method of resolving the issue. Heidi mentioned that David Buckley had called the town today to say he will be doing the assessment for the Town of Dalton. Sue wanted to know if David Buckley got permission from DRA to move forward. Heidi advised the board that no, he has not received permission yet, but that Dalton signed a contract with him anyway. Greg has a question for Tim, should we sign a contract with David Buckley also to push DRA? Heidi had asked Tim about this today and Tim said, "no we should not sign a contract with him yet." Tim called the Town of Dalton and they said they signed the contract because they just figured they would go ahead and get it done." Tim doesn't want the town to spend all that money and then have the state say it is not a legitimate revaluation because Mr. Buckley was not an approved assessor. Greg's thought is that if we don't sign a contract with him and he does get approved, we will be way down the list of towns, and he will be too busy by that point. Ray agrees with Greg. Ray made a motion for Tim to sign an agreement with David Buckley to do the full revaluation required by DRA conditioned on his approval of NH licensure designated and a separate agreement for Mr. Buckley to do annual pickups. Sue seconded the motion, motion approved.

Sue also has a question about where are the tax bills? It is May 15th and that was the due date for first issue taxes. That needs to be clarified as soon as possible. Sue asked Heidi today what the status was, and Heidi had asked Melanie and she said she is waiting on Dottie. The board wants an answer on that now.

The board did a vote on the assessing agreement, all three voted in favor.

-Rt. 145 Project: Tim had the most current Route 145 Project Timeline for the board. Heidi will give the board a copy of this. The board wanted to know what NOA & NTP meant in the timeline. There were some dates that were wrong on the timeline, the board corrected them, and Heidi will bring it back to Tim to look at. Discussion ensued on this project. The board would like more information on the absolute drop-dead date for ARPA funding.

-Fuel Bids went out and they are due back June 7th.

-Hydro Net Metering: Tim has a brochure for Hydro Net Metering, Heidi will make copies for the board. Tim spoke with Mark at Coos County, as they have already been doing this. Mark told Tim that all you need to do is sign up for it and then you receive checks on a regular basis. Hydro Companies are required to get so many municipalities and other government entities to be recipients of their benefits. There is a five-year agreement to accept these monies at 0.05 cents per kilowatt-hour for a payment of \$2,345.22 per year for five years or if the town wanted to go year by year it is 0.02 cents per kilowatt-hour for a payment of \$938.09 per year. Tim's recommendation is to participate in the five-year agreement. Heidi will make the board copies of the brochure on this. Ray advised the board that a check comes into the County, and they basically do not have to do anything. Greg would like a ZOOM presentation on this to get more information.

-Test Wells: Tim has notified all the property owners for the two test well sites that the drillers will be in town in the next couple of weeks to start drilling.

-Colebrook PD Phone Number Change: The new PD number has been posted in the newspapers, Jake from the News & Sentinel is also going to do a small article to explain the purpose and use of the PD phone number instead of the dispatch number when you need to talk to an officer as opposed to reporting a crime or incident. There are also measures in place that if a call goes to the PD, if there needs to be record of such call, the officer will give the information to dispatch to be recorded in the system. Sue asked if there should be a recording advising people what number to push to talk to police, dispatch, or other option? Like what they have at UCVH. Discussion ensued.

-Kearsarge Proposal: The Kearsarge Proposal has been sent back to Kearsarge with the recommended changes proposed by Attorney Frizzell along with the question of whether

the three-year initial commitment can be amended to an 18-month agreement.
Discussion ensued.

New Business:

A. NH CO-OP Ballot: Board advised to give this to Tim to do.

Old Business:

A. Charitable Exemption Letters: Sue made a motion to send out charitable letters to the following:

1. 45th Parallel
2. Community Baptist Church
3. Coos Economic Development Corp.
4. Coos Animal Sanctuary
5. Monadnock Congregational Church
6. Mohawk Grange
7. Methodist Church
8. Kingdom Hall Jehovah Witnesses
9. Food Pantry (Palmer Lewis Trust)
10. Shallow River Properties for 55 Colby St.
11. St. Brendan's Church
12. St. Brendan's Parsonage
13. North Country Recreation Center
14. Monadnock Congregational Church
15. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
16. Shallow River Properties for 24 Depot St.
17. Tillotson Center
18. Tri-County Community Action for 53 Park St.
19. UCVH
20. UCVH
21. UCVH

Ray seconded, Greg agreed, motion approved.

-Rec Center Letter: Sue is getting bothered by the Rec Center not moving forward with anything. Sue saw on the Focus Group that raising funds for another two million dollars is not going to be feasible. The board is supposed to be getting a written report with updates. They had better start something this year or Sue will not sign the letter next year, Greg agreed. Ray did not sign the letter this year. Discussion ensued.

Charitable Exemptions that needed more information: Shallow River property on 39 Edwards Street. This property will be going from a home to a residential building (business). The board feels this is a change of use and they need to go in front of the Planning Board. The board would like Dottie to call them ASAP and tell them they need to contact Mike Ouellet and fill out a new

site plan. The board would like to know what their charitable contribution is. This application is still denied at this time.

-The Legion and Helping Hands letters need clarification. Sue did an example for Dottie to show her how the board would like the letters done. The board wants to make sure the tax bills go out correctly to reflect what the letters say.

-Canaan School Property: The school sent an email to Tim saying they will be using the building for two more years. The board would like someone from the school to come to the next Selectmen's Meeting.

-County Day School: Andrea brought in the financial paperwork that was needed to complete their application. Dottie was not in the office today, so the board did not get the application to sign today.

Tabled/Pending Items:

A. Working on Ordinances.

For Approval and Signature:

A. Cemetery Plots: Blenda Rappaport, signed by the board.
Jeffrey Goodrum, signed by the board.

B. ATV Permits: David Naugler, signed by the board
Mike Cooper, signed by the board

C. Intent to Cut: Jay Weir, signed by the board.

D. Coos County Recycling Contract: The board signed the three-year contract.

E. Ahead Agreement: This is an agreement on a payment in lieu of taxes, Sue made a motion to approve the payment in lieu of tax agreement on May 31st, 2024, Ray seconded it, motion approved.

Hearing of the Public and Any Other Business:

Greg: Wants to start working on next year's budget. He would like to start on September 1st. Greg wants to think about the money that was put into this year's budget; the water and sewer department that is supposed to be repairing or replacing a bunch of hydrants, what is the status of that? Hydrant flushing, the Fire Department wanted to do it and was told they couldn't do it, someone needs to do it, Greg was not sure if it got done last year. Heidi advised the board that Tim just talked to Brian Sullivan and Chief Woodard, and they are going to try to do the flushing of the hydrants all together. Tim is also going to try to have the gentlemen come up from the company that they are buying the hydrants from and do training for the Fire Department and the Water & Sewer Department.

Greg also wants an update on the water meter endpoints and the town ordinances.

Sue: While Sue was on vacation, she had a message from Haven Haynes Jr. so she called him back and left him a message, but he has not called back. Sue would like to know if anyone on the board knows what he wants. Ray explained the whole story to the board, about the rocks up by the house before Haven Haynes's. Ray mentioned several times for this to be done and it still has not been done. Ray will talk to Tim again about this. Ray said there are big rocks and giant potholes. Sue advised that Haven should not be calling each Selectmen individually, if he can't get a hold of the Town Manager, he should come to a Selectmen's Meeting. The Selectmen would like this to be a priority on Monday for the Road Crew.

Ray: -Would like the status of when the Bear Rock Bridge Project starts.

-Did the Selectmen receive invitations to the Chamber of Commerce Dinner? Heidi advised that none have come into the Town Office yet. Sue would like Heidi to sign up all the Selectmen. It will be at Mohawk Falls.

-Status of North Country Council Grant.

-Status of Trout Unlimited. Ray thinks they are hauling trees up there already.

Determine Date for Next Meeting: June 10, 2024, at 5:00pm

Adjourned: Sue made a motion to adjourn, Ray seconded the motion, motion passed to adjourn meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Lawton

Heidi Lawton, Administrative Assistant, Town of Colebrook