Town of Colrain

Select Board Meeting

55 Main Road/Town Office Building

6:00 P.M.

# MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2019

**Present:** Mark Thibodeau, Eileen Sauvageau, Joe Kurland

**Others Present:** Lindsey Draleau, Northeast Paving, Stephen Skowyna, Northeast Paving, Dan Crowell, Charlene Crowell, Jeffrey Crowell, Beth Kimball, Brad Hosmer, Jen O’Connell, Sandy Skura, Stan Skura, Greg Olchowski, Scott Schneider, William Schneider, Betty Schneider, Ron Croteau, Michael Beausoleil, Ryan Castine, Perri Wexler, Dan Goldstein, Marybeth Chichester, Craig Chichester, Brenda Sturmer, James Martin, Rachel Martin, Jeff Bache, Sue Walsh, Jill Catao, Adrian Catao, Julie Nartowicz, Betsy Shuipis, Admin. Asst., Scott Sullivan, Colrain Highway Supervisor, Kevin Fox – Town Coordinator.

Meeting was called to order by Eileen Sauvageau, Chair, at 6 p.m.

**New Business:** **Gravel Issue East Colrain Rd./ Northeast Paving**

Eileen began by setting the rules. The Select Board will meet with NE Paving: Steve Skowyna, Yard Manager and Lindsey Draleau, Plant Engineer, and Kevin Fox. Once the agenda is finished, discussion will follow. Before speaking, one must be recognized by the Chair.

Kevin gave a brief description of the grievance: Issues with hardpack that was delivered at the end of June. After some of the hardpack material had been applied to parts of E. Colrain Rd., it became clear that there were problems. FRCOG was notified, they contacted NE Paving and MASS DOT. A meeting was set up with NE Paving and they delivered a letter to the Town at 4 p.m. on 8/1/19.

Addressing Steve and Lindsay, Eileen questioned NE Paving’s letter noting that the company’s response to the Town’s grievance was inaccurate in its wording and needed clarification.

1. The letter states the Town was not satisfied with the material; but, in fact, the material was unacceptable and not as contracted.
2. There was more than a “steel wire” discovered on the road. There were many pieces, large and small.
3. Eileen asked for clarification on the section of the letter stating NE Paving inspected the material and stood by its overall integrity. Eileen asked when that inspection took place, where, and how they inspected it. Lindsay explained that once NE Paving was contacted, they went out and looked at the material stockpiled in the yard and took back samples. Steve, with one of their foremen, did a visual inspection of the road.

Eileen made it clear to Steve and Lindsay that if no vote is taken tonight then no decision has been made.

Eileen questioned the offer that NE made to re-screen the material in the yard. Better to take the pile away. Also questioned the offer to scarify E. Colrain Road using a magnet and its effectiveness in getting the road completely free of unwanted materials. Mark noted that the magnet will not pull out non-ferrous materials, such as aluminum, stainless steel, etc. Eileen confirmed with Steve that NE would guarantee that the road would be free of metal after scarification and magnetized, although NE has never done this before.

The Town expects another letter of proposal from NE Paving stating what they will do, how they will ensure the work is done correctly, including a clerk of the works, and insurance for residents’ tire damages. Once the Town has a revised letter from NE Paving, the Select Board can meet and vote on the matter.

Kevin requested contact information for insurance claims from Lindsay, which she handed over to Betsy.

Lindsay confirmed that a revised letter/proposal will be delivered Monday.

The meeting continued without Lindsay and Steve present.

Ron from the Town of Colrain Post Office started the resident discussion by telling them that mail trucks cannot travel on legally closed roads. Consequently, they must pick up their mail at the Post Office.

Some of the concerns residents voiced: emergency vehicle response time, quality of the material to be put down, flat tires, school buses getting through, and the ability of the Town to get news to residents effectively and timely. It was noted the sign-in sheet does have phone numbers that can be used for the robo-call, and Kevin, when necessary, will notify the school administration.

**MOVED:** Joe moved to continue this meeting until Tuesday, 8/6/19, at 6 p.m.

Mark seconded; approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

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Betsy Shuipis Eileen Sauvageau - Chairman

Administrative Assistant

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Mark Thibodeau

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Joe Kurland