

**TOWN OF COLEBROOK
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 14th, 2023

7:00PM

Selectman's conference Room

Board Members Present:

Christopher Johnstone

Kate Kennedy

Ernie Marmer

Board Members Absent:

None

Others Present

Jim Millar

Kate Adams

Duncan Wilber

Jen LaRoque

Pat Power

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.
2. Motion by Chris Johnstone to move line item 19 "other Business" to discuss the Wind Colebrook South WCS) proposal to line 2. Motion seconded by Kate Kennedy. Motion passed, Unanimous. Pat Power explained the WCS tax settlement proposal and stated that their proposal did not include supporting documentation. Pat will submit the Colebrook tax proposal, called option B to the court tomorrow, August 15th, 2023. Pat is under the assumption that WCS will submit their proposal to the court on the 15th of August as well. Pat also stated that the WCS proposal would pay about \$250K less per year in taxes from what they are paying now. Pat stated that due to the difference in tax settlement proposals that it may be a good idea to hire a mediator to negotiate a settlement. Pat also explained that the mediator would charge a fee and that the cost would be split 50/50 between the Town and WCS. Pat also explained that if the mediator is not successful in negotiating a settlement that it is likely that the case would go back to a trial.
3. Public Comment: None
4. The minutes of the regular meeting held July 10th, 2023 and the special meeting held July 26th, 2023 were distributed and read, there being no changes, they were accepted as presented.
5. Road Foreman's Report: No comments or questions.
6. Selectman Johnstone discussed the situation with the high sodium and Chloride in the Town Well. He explained that Grela Well Drilling had come to the town Hall to examine the water test and they recommended drilling a new well. Grela will submit an estimate for drilling a new well behind the Senior Center. The estimate has not been received as of this date.
7. Discussed Community Investment Fund. Ernie Marmer looked into the grant and at this time there are not any projects identified that would be eligible for a grant at this time.

8. Selectman Johnstone discussed the situation with the Colebrook Town pick-up truck #1, and explained that the frame has rusted through in two places and that the cross brace that the rear shock absorbers bolt to has failed. This combined with the additional repairs that the truck needs exceed the value of the truck. Selectman Johnstone made a motion to purchase a replacement truck with vehicle reserve funds that are available in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The use of the funds would need to be approved at a CIP meeting. Motion was seconded by Ernie Marmer, motion passed, unanimous. Selectman Johnstone will schedule a CIP meeting.
9. Dog Pound; Selectman discussed the new Connecticut State law that mandates that municipal dog pounds must have mechanical heating and cooling systems that can maintain an indoor ambient temperature of between 55 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Since our dog pound does not meet this requirement, it cannot be used to impound dogs. Selectman Johnstone stated that until we have a dog pound that meets the new requirement, other arrangements will need to be made if a dog needs to be impounded. Selectman Johnstone will discuss this with the Dog Warden and will discuss an alternate location for utilization when a dog needs to be impounded.
10. STEAP Grant: Selectman Johnstone discussed the 2023 STEAP Grant application deadline of 18 August 2023, and stated that the Town of Colebrook is eligible to apply for a grant of \$550k. The Department of Public Works has identified five paving projects that would be eligible for this grant. Kate Kennedy, “RESOLVED, that First Selectman Christopher L. Johnstone be, and hereby is, authorized to accept on behalf of the Town of Colebrook, a 2023 Connecticut STEAP Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for paving of Old Forge & Robertsville Road, Forge Firehouse parking lot, Pine Road, and Eno Hill Road. FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman Christopher L. Johnstone is hereby authorized to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain said 2023 STEAP Grant with the State of Connecticut.” Seconded by Ernie Marmer. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
11. Legal Issues: No discussion.
12. BOF Meeting of August 9th, 2023. No Discussion.
13. Building Permit Refund: Chelsea Boutin has indicated that she is no longer going to build a house on Old Creamery Road and has requested a refund of the fees that she has paid for the building permit(s). The Town has collected a fee of \$3,500., for the permit(s). Due to the amount of work that the Building Inspector and various Boards have spent reviewing and approving the plans and permits, The Board of Selectman recommend holding back \$500., to cover cost incurred by the Town. A motion was made by Selectman Chris Johnstone to refund an amount of \$3,000. Motion was seconded by Ernie Marmer, motion passed, unanimous.
14. Discussed Old Creamery and Sandy Brook Road bridges. NJR Construction has applied for a three-week extension to the Bridge Contract. This request is based on the July weather event and flooding at the bridge site. The request will need to be approved by the Connecticut DOT.
15. Discussed Pinney St. bridge. On track to begin construction in August with a November completion date.

16. Reviewed FY 22/23 Budget. At the close of FY 22/23, there is a surplus of \$188,094.13 which will be returned to the General Fund. Only 91.9% of the Selectman's budget was expended.
17. Reviewed FY 23/24 Budget. As of this date 10. % of the budget has been expended.
18. A motion was made by Kate Kennedy, seconded by Ernie Marmer to approve a tax refund for Dennis Gomez in the amount of \$94.03. Motion, passed unanimous.
19. Paid bills as presented.
20. A motion was made by Chris Johnstone to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Johnstone
First Selectman