

TOWN OF COLRAIN
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Fiscal Year 2016

FRANKLIN SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Colrain in the County of Franklin.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote on town affairs, to meet at Colrain Central School, located at 22 Jacksonville Road at 7:00 PM in said town on Tuesday, the fifth day in May next, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, there and then to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE #1. To see if the Town will instruct the Town Clerk to report on the election of officers and ballot questions as follows:

Selectman	3 years
Assessor	3 years
Moderator	3 years
Library Trustees	3 years
Library Trustees	3 years
Library Trustees	2 years
Mohawk Trail Regional School District Committee Representative	3 years
Constable	3 years

Question 1.

Shall the Town of Colrain be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amount required to pay the Town of Colrain's allocable share of the bond issued by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District for repair work to the Mohawk Trail Regional Middle & High School located at 26 Ashfield Road in Buckland, Massachusetts, for the purpose of paying costs to include: tennis court repairs, security cameras, high school boiler replacement, exterior door replacement, boy's locker room renovation, window caulking, replace building D condenser units, re-build auditorium air handling unit, upgrade lighting equipment in auditorium and re-build gymnasium air handling unit totaling 250,700?

Yes – or - No

Question 2.

Shall the Town of Colrain be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amount required to pay the Town of Colrain's allocable share of the bonds to be issued by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District for the purchase of a school bus totaling \$90,000?

Yes – or – No

Question 3.

Shall the Town of Colrain be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to fund the Town's share of the costs of construction, installation and start-up of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant totaling \$2,400,000?

Yes – or – No

ARTICLE #2. To hear reports of various town officers and act thereon, or pass any vote or votes thereto.

ARTICLE #3. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of Compensation of Elected Officers of the Town, as provided by MGL Chapter 41, section 108 as amended; the salaries or compensations for the period of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 are as follows, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

	<u>Voted FY 20145</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2016</u>
Selectman, Chairman	\$3,232.00	\$3,232.00
Selectman, Clerk	\$3,232.00	\$3,232.00
Selectman, Member	\$3,232.00	\$3,232.00
Moderator	\$83.00	\$85.00
Town Clerk	\$17,613.00	\$18,325.00
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$3,078.00	\$3,140.00
Board of Assessors, Member	\$3,078.00	\$3,140.00
Board of Assessors, Member	\$3,078.00	\$3,140.00

ARTICLE #4. To see if the town will vote to make the following appropriations to fund the Town Operating Budget and raise by taxation, or otherwise provide, the required amounts, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

<u>General Government</u>		<u>Voted</u> <u>FY 2015</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2016</u>
01-5-100-000	Attorney Expense	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
01-5-113-000	Moderator	\$83.00	\$85.00
01-5-114-001	Moderator's Expenses	\$60.00	\$60.00
01-5-122-000	Selectmen's Stipend	\$9,696.00	\$9,696.00
01-5-122-002	Office Clerk Wages	\$18,033.00	\$14,148.00
01-5-122-001	Selectmen's Expenses	\$2,200.00	\$800.00
01-5-122-005	Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
01-5-135-000	Town Accountant Salary	\$14,021.00	\$14,695.00
01-5-141-000	Assessors' Stipends	\$9,234.00	\$9,420.00
01-5-141-001	Assistant Assessor Salary	\$24,032.00	\$27,040.00
01-5-141-002	Assessors' Expenses	\$10,730.00	\$10,830.00
01-5-145-000	Treasurer's Salary	\$15,398.00	\$16,770.00
01-5-145-001	Tax Title Costs	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
01-5-145-002	Tax Foreclosure Custodian	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
01-5-146-000	Tax Collector's Salary	\$19,497.00	\$22,734.00
01-5-162-000	Election Worker's	\$2,950.00	\$3,450.00
01-5-161-000	Town Clerk Salary	\$17,613.00	\$18,325.00
01-5-175-000	Planning Board Expenses	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
01-5-122-003	Town Coordinator Salary	\$52,000.00	\$54,080.00
01-5-122-004	Town Coordinator Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-5-421-002	General Highway Maintenance	\$84,691.00	\$86,691.00
01-5-421-000	Highway Department Salaries	\$254,006.00	\$256,967.00
01-5-421-003	Machinery Maintenance	\$40,000.00	\$45,000.00
01-5-421-004	Bridges	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
01-5-421-005	Gasoline, Diesel & Oil	\$67,800.00	\$67,800.00
01-5-421-006	CDL Drug Testing	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
01-5-423-000	Winter Roads	\$86,400.00	\$86,401.00
01-5-424-000	Street Lights	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00
01-5-611-000	Library Expenses	\$20,379.00	\$24,533.00
01-5-610-000	Library Salaries	\$29,951.00	\$30,947.00
01-5-541-000	Council on Aging Expenses	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
01-5-544-000	Veterans Benefits	\$38.00	\$0.00
01-5-692-000	Memorial Day	\$700.00	\$700.00
01-5-693-000	Cemeteries	\$475.00	\$475.00
01-5-210-000	Police Protection Wages	\$50,032.00	\$54,314.00
01-5-210-001	Police Office Expense	\$1,716.00	\$1,716.00
01-5-210-003	Traffic Control	\$5,306.00	\$5,810.00
01-5-210-004	Police Training	\$7,140.00	\$7,818.00
01-5-210-005	Police Equipment	\$15,643.00	\$13,728.00
01-5-210-006	Police Cruiser Expense	\$19,356.00	\$11,350.00

<u>General Government</u>		<u>Voted</u> <u>FY 2015</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2016</u>
01-5-210-008	Constables Stipends	\$572.00	\$583.00
01-5-220-000	Fire Protection Wages	\$34,437.00	\$39,986.00
01-5-220-001	Firehouse Maintenance	\$12,700.00	\$14,400.00
01-5-220-002	Fire Pumper Maintenance & Equipmen	\$29,675.00	\$37,085.00
01-5-222-001	Emergency Management Expense	\$200.00	\$200.00
01-5-222-001	Emergency Manager Stipend	\$1,131.00	\$1,749.00
01-5-241-000	Building Inspector Salary	\$8,205.00	\$8,369.00
01-5-241-001	Building Inspector Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00
01-5-241-002	Building Inspector Certification	\$870.00	\$870.00
01-5-292-000	Inspector Of Animals Stipend	\$375.00	\$383.00
01-5-294-000	Tree Warden Stipend	\$50.00	\$51.00
01-5-433-001	Transfer Station Expense	\$50,213.00	\$50,613.00
01-5-433-000	Transfer Station Salaries	\$13,744.00	\$14,136.00
01-5-513-000	Board of Health Expenses	\$3,850.00	\$3,850.00
01-5-513-001	Board of Health Wages	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
01-5-192-001	Town Office Maintenance	\$12,450.00	\$13,550.00
01-5-192-002	Town Garage Maintenance	\$22,640.00	\$26,056.00
01-5-192-001	Town Building Custodian Wages	\$3,328.00	\$3,439.00
01-5-192-006	Property/Liability Insurance	\$41,971.00	\$46,500.00
01-5-192-005	Professional Development	\$3,385.00	\$4,560.00
01-5-192-003	Office Expense	\$34,391.00	\$34,391.00
01-5-192-004	Town Telephone	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
New Account	Board/Committee Clerical Wages	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
New Account	Town Property Maintenance	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
01-5-195-000	Town Reports & Ballots Printing	\$800.00	\$800.00
01-5-901-000	Group Ins/Medi/SUI - Town Share	\$127,000.00	\$141,848.00
01-5-170-000	Personnel Committee Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00
01-5-131-000	Finance Committee Expenses	\$180.00	\$180.00
01-5-132-000	Reserve Fund	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
01-5-171-000	Conservation Commission Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00
01-5-651-000	Open Space Committee Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00
01-5-690-000	Historic Commission Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00
New Account	Long Term Debt - Principal	\$0.00	\$24,667.00
New Account	Long Term Debt - Interest	\$0.00	\$11,563.00
Town Operating Budget - Total		\$1,360,047.00	\$1,468,712.00

ARTICLE #5. To see if the town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E1/2 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to **authorize the establishment of revolving funds for certain town departments** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 with specific receipts credited to each fund, the purposes for which each fund may be spent and the maximum that may be spent from each fund for the fiscal year as follows:

<u>Revolving Fund Title</u>	<u>Authorized to Spend Fund</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Use of Fund</u>	<u>FY16 Spending Limit</u>	<u>Disposition of FY15 Fund Balance</u>
Plumbing Inspector	Plumbing Inspector	Plumbing Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services	\$3,500.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016
Health Inspector	Health Inspectors	Board of Health Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016
Electrical Inspector	Electrical Inspector	Electrical Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services	\$3,500.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016
Fire Inspector	Fire Department Inspectors	Fire Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services	\$3,500.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016
Dog Fund	Town Clerk, Dog Officer, and Board of Selectmen	Dog License Fees and Other Charges as Provided by Chapter 40, S 147A.	Offset Expenses Related to Administration of licenses and other Animal Control Matters	\$15,000.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016
Demolition Fund	Board of Health and Building Inspector	Receipts from demolition liens, municipal abatement liens and related insurance reimbursements including court orders.	For purposes associated with demolition, boarding and securing, and abating public health nuisances related to abandoned properties as determined by the Board of Health or Building Inspector.	\$20,000.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2016

ARTICLE #6. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend any state or federal grants that may become available, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to be used for Interest on Indebtedness, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$287,105, and transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of \$3,633, for a total sum of \$290,738 to be used for the Franklin County Technical School District's annual operating assessment, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$1,729,174 to be used for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual operating assessment, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$50,000 to be used for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's Free Pre-K Education for District Residents, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$42,158 to be used for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual capital assessment, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE # 12. To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money, not to exceed \$744,532, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School located at 75 Mechanic Street in Shelburne, Massachusetts, to include; re-pointing/re-caulking and masonry repairs, asbestos abatement and floor replacement, band shell repairs, asphalt repairs/replacement totaling \$744,532. The proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program.

2/3 Vote Required

ARTICLE # 13. To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money, not to exceed \$100,000, to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the Sanderson Academy located at 808 Cape Street in Ashfield, Massachusetts, to include; boiler replacement and heat valve replacement totaling \$100,000. The proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required education program.

2/3 Vote Required

ARTICLE # 14. To see if the Town will vote to allow the District to borrow, a sum of money, not to exceed \$90,000 to be expended under the direction of the School Committee to purchase a school bus to be used district wide totaling \$90,000. The bus would replace a bus owned by the district in excess of ten years. Provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters of the Town agree by vote to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

2/3 Vote Required

ARTICLE # 15. To see if the Town of Colrain will vote to the District to borrow, a sum of money, not to exceed \$250,700 to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee for repair work to the Mohawk Trail Middle and High School located at 26 Ashfield Road in Buckland, Massachusetts, for the purpose of paying costs to include: tennis court repairs, security cameras, high school boiler replacement, exterior door replacement, boy's locker room renovation, window caulking, replace building D condenser units, re-build auditorium air handling unit, upgrade lighting equipment in auditorium and re-build gymnasium air handling unit. Provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters of the Town agree by vote to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

2/3 Vote Required

ARTICLE #16. To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following language contained in Section III (B):

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that all residents of the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne (the "K-12 Member Towns") in grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, will receive their education in facilities located in the District: Ashfield and Plainfield residents at Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents at the Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents at the Buckland-Shelburne Regional School and Heath residents at the Heath Elementary School.

and replacing said language with the following:

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the members towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield and Shelburne (the "K-12 Member Towns") will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School; Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School; and Heath residents to Heath Elementary School. Notwithstanding the above, students

may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon (i) a majority vote of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both (a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

However, it is also the intent of this Agreement that the closure of a District elementary school building and the reassignment of all students being educated in that building may not be accomplished under this section. Rather such action requires an amendment to this Agreement, the process for which is contained in Section XIV.

ARTICLE #17. To see if the Town will vote to accept the amended Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement *(as attached at end of warrant)* which provides for the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2016.

ARTICLE #18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$28,000 to cover the cost of **Tuition/Transportation-Smith Vocational**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$10,921 for its share of the **Statutory Charges and Core Service Assessment of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,648 for its share of the **Cooperative Purchasing Program Service Assessment of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$150 for its share of the **Emergency Planning Committee Service Assessment of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #22. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$73,919 for its share of the cost to maintain the **Franklin Regional Retirement System**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #23. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$4,813 to pay the town's allocated share of cost of the **Franklin County Solid Waste Management District**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #24. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,234 to pay the town's allocated share of the cost of membership in the **Central Franklin County District Department of Veterans' Services**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #25. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$700 to pay for its share of the **Operating and Capital Costs of the Franklin County Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #26. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$10,500 to pay for **engineering and grant writing services** for grant application purposes, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #27. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,000 to be used for the **Police Administration account** (any amount expended will be 100% reimbursed), or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #28. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,000 toward the cost of **restoration and preservation of town records**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #29. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Dog Fund Revolving account, the sum of \$2,940 toward **reducing the tax rate**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #30. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Dog Fund Revolving account, the sum of \$1,560 toward the **salary of the Animal Control Officer**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #31. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,500 to cover the **on-going maintenance for the G. William Pitt House**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #32. To see if the town will **authorize the Selectmen to accept and expend, as an available fund, any of the bond issue or operating budget monies** (also called "Chapter" monies) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #33. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$100,000 to the **General Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #34. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$8,000 to the **Transfer Station Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #35. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$3,000 to pay for the materials to **Construct a New Ramp at the Transfer Station**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #36. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$40,000 to the **Highway Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #37. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$15,000 to fund the **Police Department Stabilization Fund**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #38. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$4,000 to the **Assessor's Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #39. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$4,000 to the **Audit Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #40. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$1,000 to the **Technology Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #41. To see if the town will vote to transfer from prior year warrant articles (FY 14 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article #35 and FY 14 Special Town Meeting (5/6/14) Article #1) \$2,578 for the purpose of **Network and Computer Upgrades at the Fire Station and Emergency Operations Center**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #42. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, the sum of \$20,000 to the **Fire Department Stabilization Account**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #43. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$30,000 for the purpose of performing **Various Repairs at the Town Office**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #44. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash account, \$20,000 to purchase a **New Highway Department Pick-up Truck**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #45. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Highway Department Stabilization Fund, \$20,000 to purchase a **New Highway Department Pick-up Truck**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #46. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$26,000 to purchase a New Police Cruiser, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #47. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Police Department Stabilization Fund, \$20,000 to purchase a New Police Cruiser, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

2/3 vote required

ARTICLE #48. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$3,500 to pay for a Propane Heat Conversion at the Fire Station, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #49. To see if the town will vote to transfer from the free cash account, \$15,000 to pay for New Shelving Units in the Town Clerk Safe, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #50. To see if the town will vote to transfer from Overlay Surplus the amount of \$23,570.73 toward reducing the tax rate, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #51. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash the amount of \$39,914 toward reducing the tax rate, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE #52. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the Town's share of the costs of the construction, installation and start-up of a high-speed broadband network, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto. Provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect unless and until the voters of the Town agree by vote to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

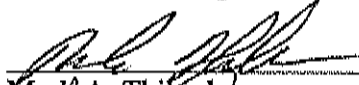
2/3 vote required

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at two usual places in said town, seven days at least, before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the town clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand fifteen.

Eileen D. Sauvageau, Chair



Mark A. Thibodeau

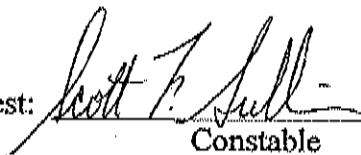


Jack Cavolick

Colrain Board of Selectmen

A TRUE COPY.

Attest:



Constable

4/14/15