

TOWN OF COLRAIN
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Fiscal Year 2021

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 the Colrain Town Office grounds, located at 55 Main Road at 1:00 PM in said town on Saturday the twentieth day in June, 2020, there and then to act on the following articles:**

Moderator Megan McDonough opened the meeting at 1pm and acknowledged the warrant had been served correctly. The moderator announced that social distancing and the wearing protective masks was required due to Covid 19.

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	Michael Slowinski	154 votes	3 years
Assessor	Dwight Harrison	157 votes	3 years
Library Trustees	Jill Horton-Lyons	161 votes	3 years
Library Trustees	Cheli Mennella	159 votes	3 years
Constable	Scott Sullivan	150 votes	3 years
Mohawk Trail RSD School Committee Member	Kathryn Barrows	159 votes	3 years
Mohawk Trail RSD School Committee Member	Toby Bassett	159 votes	2 years

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

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

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

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, 2020 – June 30, 2021 are as follows, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

					Voted	Proposed
					FY 2020	FY 2021
Selectman, Chairman					\$3,232.00	\$3,297.00
Selectman, Clerk					\$3,232.00	\$3,297.00
Selectman, Member					\$3,232.00	\$3,297.00
Moderator					\$100.00	\$102.00
Town Clerk					\$21,493.00	\$21,923.00
Board of Assessors, Chairman					\$3,140.00	\$3,203.00
Board of Assessors, Member					\$3,140.00	\$3,203.00
Board of Assessors, Member					\$3,140.00	\$3,203.00

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

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:

	Voted FY 2020	Proposed FY 2021
Attorney Expense	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Moderator	\$100.00	\$102.00
Moderator's Expenses	\$60.00	\$60.00
Selectmen's Stipend	\$9,696.00	\$9,890.00
Office Clerk Wages	\$27,835.00	\$28,113.00
Selectmen's Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Town Accountant	\$19,800.00	\$20,394.00
Town Accountant Expense	\$3,619.00	\$3,619.00
Assessors' Stipends	\$9,420.00	\$9,608.00
Director of Assessing	\$39,549.00	\$40,886.00
Assessors' Expenses	\$17,780.00	\$17,305.00
Treasurer/Collectors Salary	\$48,157.00	\$51,492.00
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	\$19,253.00	\$19,853.00
Tax Title Costs	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Tax Foreclosure Custodian	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Election Worker's	\$3,228.00	\$4,500.00
Town Clerk Salary	\$21,493.00	\$21,923.00
Town Clerk Expense	\$3,226.00	\$3,226.00
Planning Board Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Town Coordinator Salary	\$71,750.00	\$81,600.00
Town Coordinator Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00
General Highway Maintenance	\$108,731.00	\$111,011.00
Highway Department Salaries	\$285,278.00	\$289,982.00
Machinery Maintenance	\$43,000.00	\$43,000.00
Bridges	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Gasoline, Diesel & Oil	\$48,300.00	\$51,550.00
CDL Drug Testing	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Winter Roads	\$86,401.00	\$86,401.00
Sidewalk Snow Removal	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Street Lights	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
Library Expenses	\$32,495.00	\$36,937.00
Library Salaries	\$39,205.00	\$44,678.00
Council on Aging Expenses	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Veterans Benefits	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
Memorial Day	\$700.00	\$700.00
Cemeteries	\$475.00	\$750.00
Police Protection Wages	\$93,444.00	\$101,576.00
Police Office Expense	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Police Training	\$7,818.00	\$6,000.00

	Voted	Proposed
	FY 2020	FY 2021
Police Equipment	\$14,612.00	\$15,130.00
Police Cruiser Expense	\$10,220.00	\$10,820.00
Constables Stipends	\$607.00	\$870.00
Fire Protection Wages	\$61,074.00	\$62,537.00
Firehouse Maintenance	\$18,200.00	\$18,850.00
Fire Pumper Maintenance & Equipment	\$44,150.00	\$44,650.00
Emergency Management Expense	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
Emergency Manager Stipend	\$1,149.00	\$1,784.00
Building Inspector Salary	\$8,536.00	\$8,707.00
Building Inspector Expenses	\$200.00	\$200.00
Building Inspector Certification	\$870.00	\$870.00
Inspection Software	\$3,445.00	\$3,445.00
Inspector Of Animals Stipend	\$383.00	\$391.00
Inspector of Animals Expense	\$200.00	\$200.00
Tree Warden Stipend	\$51.00	\$52.00
Transfer Station Expense	\$55,878.00	\$69,438.00
Transfer Station Wages	\$15,692.00	\$19,206.00
Board of Health Expenses	\$475.00	\$1,175.00
Board of Health Wages	\$1,200.00	\$500.00
Town Office Maintenance	\$13,300.00	\$13,300.00
Town Garage Maintenance	\$21,320.00	\$20,900.00
Town Building Custodian Wages	\$4,003.00	\$4,666.00
Property/Liability Insurance	\$57,000.00	\$57,000.00
Professional Development	\$500.00	\$500.00
Office Expense	\$17,600.00	\$27,223.00
Town Telephone	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Board/Committee Clerical Wages	\$2,175.00	\$2,218.00
Town Reports & Ballots Printing	\$800.00	\$800.00
Group Ins/Medi/SUI - Town Share	\$159,236.00	\$123,587.00
Personnel Committee Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00
Finance Committee Expenses	\$330.00	\$330.00
School Committee Stipends	\$900.00	\$900.00
Reserve Fund	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Conservation Commission Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00
Historic Commission Expenses	\$100.00	\$100.00
Pitt House Oil/Electricity	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Long Term Debt - Principal	\$24,667.00	\$24,667.00
Long Term Debt - Interest	\$8,480.00	\$7,709.00
Total	\$1,661,666.00	\$1,703,881.00

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

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, 2020 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>FY21 Spending Limit</u>	<u>Disposition of FY20 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 2021
Health Inspector	Health Inspectors	Board of Health Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2021
Electrical Inspector	Electrical Inspector	Electrical Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services	\$3,500.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2021
Fire Inspector	Fire Department Inspectors	Fire Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services	\$3,500.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2021
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 2021
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 2021

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$63,100 to be used for **Interest and Fees on Short-Term Indebtedness**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$336,819, and transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of \$1,783 for a total sum of \$338,602 to be used for the **Franklin County Technical School District’s annual operating assessment**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$5,090 to be used for the **Franklin County Technical School District’s annual capital assessment**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,063,215 to be used for the **Mohawk Trail Regional School District’s annual operating assessment**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed in the affirmative

ARTICLE #11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$57,852 to be used for the **Mohawk Trail Regional School District’s annual capital assessment**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$11,383 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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,764 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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed in the affirmative

ARTICLE #14. 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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$11,220 for its share of the cost of the **Franklin Regional Council of Government’s Cooperative Public Health Service**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$5,414 for its share of the cost to pay for a **Regional Animal Control Officer**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$97,616 for its share of the cost to maintain the **Franklin Regional Retirement System**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$6,200 to pay the town’s allocated share of the cost of the **Franklin County Solid Waste Management District**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,358 to pay the town’s allocated share of the cost of membership in the **Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran’s Service District**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$350 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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide the sum of \$424,000 to pay for the operation and maintenance of the **Colrain Broadband Network** (an enterprise fund), or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #22. 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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #23. 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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #24. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$103,000 to purchase a **new Highway Department Dodge 5500 Regular Cab and Chassis Truck and Stainless Steel All Season Body**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #25. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$16,300 to **purchase Two (2) New Highway Department Plows**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #26. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$10,000 to **purchase and install a new Network Server**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #27. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$5,000 to **pay for the installation of new flooring and related costs** in the Town Office, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #28. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$16,500 to **pay for the costs of a Records Management Project**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #29. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$14,000 to **pay for the costs of an FY19 Financial Statement Audit**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #30. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$7,000 to **purchase and install a new Police department/Fire Department Carport**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #31

To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money for the stabilization funds as shown in the chart below:

2/3 vote required

Purpose	Fund	Amount	Source of Funds
General	General Stabilization	83,739	Free Cash
Assessor's	Assessor's Stabilization	3,000	Free Cash
Transfer Station	Transfer Station Stabilization	5,000	Free Cash
Highway	Highway Stabilization	40,000	Free Cash
Police Department	Police Stabilization	15,000	Free Cash
Technology	Technology Stabilization	1,000	Free Cash
Fire Department	Fire Department Stabilization	20,000	Free Cash
Library	Griswold Library Capital Stabilization	15,000	Free Cash
Audit	Audit Stabilization	3,000	Free Cash
Total	Total	185,739	

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

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.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #33. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the free cash account the sum of \$50,000 to the **Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund** established under Article 36 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, and authorized by M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20, in order to offset the anticipated future cost of providing post-retirement health and life insurance benefits to current and future retired Town employees, or take any other action relative thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #34. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6%, said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed in the affirmative

ARTICLE # 35.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, permanent and temporary easements in certain parcels of land adjacent to and/or contiguous to Route 112 (Main Road/Jacksonville Road) and Greenfield Road as depicted on a plan entitled “Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Preliminary Right of Way Plans Route 112 (Main Road/Jacksonville Road) & Greenfield Road (Intersection Improvements) in the Town of Colrain Franklin County,” revised through April 6, 2020, as said plan may be amended, on file with the Town Clerk, and in parcels of land located within 200 feet of said parcels and in parcels adjacent to Route 112 (Main Road/Jacksonville Road) and Greenfield Road, as such additional areas may be shown on said plan, as hereinafter revised, for public way purposes, including, without limitation, drainage, utility, slope, grading and construction of improvements and structures, and other related purposes, to enable the Town to undertake the Town Center improvement project; and, further, vote to transfer the care, custody, and control of a portion or portions of Town-owned property or properties shown on the aforesaid plan from the board or officer having custody of the same for the purposes for which such properties are currently held to the Select Board for public way and related purposes and further to dedicate said portion or portions of the Town-owned properties for the foregoing purposes; and to donate, for nominal or no consideration, such portions of the Town-owned properties needed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Town Center improvement project, as shown on the plan, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE # 36. (by petition)To see if the Town of Colrain will vote to:

Open the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge to vehicular traffic after posting for weight and height limitations in compliance with MGLC 85 section 34, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to set times and conditions under which vehicles may traverse the bridge and when the bridge may be closed to vehicular traffic for other functions and to authorize measures (like speed bumps or additional signage) to ensure that vehicles abide by the rules.

or to do or act anything in relation thereto.

Moved by Jonathan Lagreze, seconded by David Nims. Motion to table the article moved by Douglas Macleay, seconded by David Greenberg. Motion to table the article passed in the affirmative

ARTICLE # 37. (by petition)To see if the Town of Colrain will vote to:

Have the Town owned land on Lyonsville Road in the area around the Arthur A Smith Covered Bridge designated as a town park and promote its development as a recreation area and a point of regional historic interest.

Or to do or act anything in relation thereto.

Moved by Jonathan Lagreze, seconded by Peter Brooks, passed in the affirmative

Motion made to dissolve the meeting made by Michael Slowinski, seconded by Mark Thibodeau. Passed unanimously in the affirmative. Meeting dissolved at 2:12pm

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 twenty sixth day of May two thousand twenty.

Eileen D. Sauvageau, Chair

Mark A. Thibodeau

Joseph Kurland

Colrain Board of Selectmen

A TRUE COPY.

Attest: _____
Constable

