

TOWN OF COLRAIN
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting Warrant As Voted

Fiscal Year 2022

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 5:30 PM in said town on Wednesday the sixteenth day in June, 2021, there and then to act on the following articles:**

Moderator Megan McDonough opened the meeting at 5:30 pm and acknowledged the warrant had been served correctly. The moderator requested a moment of silence in remembrance of those lost and those who have suffered 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:

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

The town clerk reported the following elections results for May3, 2021

Selectman	Thomas Griffin	3 years
Assessor	Joseph Slowinski	3 years
Library Trustees	Betty Johnson	3 years
Library Trustees	Nancy Turkle Rich	3 years
Constable	Melinda Herzig	3 years
Moderator	Megan McDonough	3 years

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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

The town clerk swore in appointments to the various town committees who were present at the meeting.

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, 2021 – June 30, 2022 are as follows, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto:

	Voted	Proposed
	FY 2021	FY 2022
Selectman, Chairman	\$3,297.00	\$3,297.00
Selectman, Clerk	\$3,297.00	\$3,297.00
Selectman, Member	\$3,297.00	\$3,297.00
Moderator	\$102.00	\$105.00
Town Clerk	\$21,923.00	\$23,000.00
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$3,203.00	\$3,283.00
Board of Assessors, Member	\$3,203.00	\$3,283.00
Board of Assessors, Member	\$3,203.00	\$3,283.00

Michael Slowinski moved “as read”, seconded by Betty Ringwood.
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	PROPOSED
	FY 2021	FY 2022
Attorney Expense	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Moderator	\$102.00	\$105.00
Moderator’s Expenses	\$60.00	\$60.00
Selectmen’s Stipend	\$9,890.00	\$9,890.00
Office Clerk Wages	\$28,113.00	\$28,705.00
Selectmen’s Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Town Accountant	\$20,394.00	\$20,904.00
Town Accountant Expense	\$3,619.00	\$3,619.00
Assessors’ Stipends	\$9,608.00	\$9,849.00
Director of Assessing	\$40,886.00	\$46,624.00
Assessors’ Expenses	\$17,305.00	\$17,055.00
Treasurer/Collectors Salary	\$51,492.00	\$59,570.00
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	\$19,853.00	\$19,903.00
Tax Title Costs	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Tax Foreclosure Custodian	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Election Worker’s	\$4,500.00	\$2,200.00
Town Clerk Salary	\$21,923.00	\$23,000.00
Town Clerk Expense	\$3,226.00	\$3,626.00
Planning Board Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Town Coordinator Salary	\$81,600.00	\$84,563.00
Town Coordinator Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00
General Highway Maintenance	\$111,011.00	\$115,000.00
Highway Department Salaries	\$289,982.00	\$307,953.00
Machinery Maintenance	\$43,000.00	\$43,000.00
Bridges	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Gasoline, Diesel & Oil	\$51,550.00	\$51,550.00
CDL Drug Testing	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Winter Roads	\$86,401.00	\$86,401.00
Street Lights	\$5,300.00	\$5,300.00
Library Expenses	\$36,937.00	\$39,531.00
Library Salaries	\$44,678.00	\$47,135.00
Council on Aging Expenses	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Veterans Benefits	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Memorial Day	\$700.00	\$700.00
Cemeteries	\$750.00	\$750.00
Police Protection Wages	\$101,576.00	\$107,548.00
Police Office Expense	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Police Training	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Police Equipment	\$15,130.00	\$15,535.00
Police Cruiser Expense	\$10,820.00	\$10,820.00
Constables Stipends	\$870.00	\$200.00
Fire Protection Wages	\$62,537.00	\$65,356.00
Firehouse Maintenance	\$18,850.00	\$18,850.00
Fire Pumper Maintenance & Equipment	\$44,650.00	\$44,650.00
Emergency Management Expense	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
Emergency Manager Stipend	\$1,784.00	\$1,829.00
Building Inspector Salary	\$8,707.00	\$8,925.00
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	\$391.00	\$400.00
Inspector of Animals Expense	\$200.00	\$200.00
Tree Warden Stipend	\$52.00	\$53.00
Transfer Station Expense	\$69,438.00	\$69,837.00
Transfer Station Wages	\$19,206.00	\$20,592.00
Board of Health Expenses	\$1,175.00	\$3,500.00
Board of Health Wages	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
Town Office Maintenance	\$13,300.00	\$14,400.00
Town Garage Maintenance	\$20,900.00	\$20,900.00
Town Building Custodian Wages	\$4,666.00	\$5,944.00
Property/Liability Insurance	\$57,000.00	\$57,800.00
Professional Development	\$500.00	\$500.00
Office Expense	\$27,223.00	\$28,496.00
Town Telephone	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00
Board/Committee Clerical Wages	\$2,218.00	\$2,274.00
Town Reports & Ballots Printing	\$800.00	\$800.00
Group Ins/Medi/SUI - Town Share	\$123,587.00	\$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
Long Term Debt - Principal	\$24,667.00	\$24,667.00
Long Term Debt - Interest	\$7,709.00	\$6,938.00
Total	\$1,703,881.00	\$1,753,139.00

Michael Slowinski moved “as read and written”, seconded by Joseph Kurland.
Passed by a majority 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, 2021 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>FY22 Spending Limit</u>	<u>Disposition of FY21 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 2022
Health Inspector	Health Inspectors	Board of Health Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2022
Electrical Inspector	Electrical Inspector	Electrical Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services	\$3,500.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2022
Fire Inspector	Fire Department Inspectors	Fire Permit Fees and Applications	Reimburse Inspectors for Inspection Services	\$3,500.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2022
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 2022
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	\$20,000.00	Balance Available for Expenditure in 2022

			Board of Health or Building Inspector.		
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Michael Slowinski moved “as read and printed”, seconded by Joseph Kurland.
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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,435 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 Thomas Griffin.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$334,287 and transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of \$2,274 for a total sum of \$336,561 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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$4,786 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 Thomas Griffin.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,161,916 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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$54,176 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 Thomas Griffin.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$10,752 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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$2,426 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 Thomas Griffin.
Passed unanimously 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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$13,464 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 Thomas Griffin.
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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$107,945 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 Thomas Griffin.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, the sum of \$6,405 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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,846 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 Thomas Griffin.
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 Joseph Kurland.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide the sum of \$ 459,812 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 Thomas Griffin.
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 Joseph Kurland.
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 Thomas Griffin.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #24. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash \$3,309 to **purchase and install a new Town Office Security System**, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

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

ARTICLE #25
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

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Assessor's	Assessor's Stabilization	3,000	Free Cash
Highway	Highway Stabilization	17,000	Free Cash
Police Department	Police Stabilization	15,000	Free Cash
Fire Department	Fire Department Stabilization	20,000	Free Cash
Library	Griswold Library Capital Stabilization	15,000	Free Cash
Total	Total	70,000	

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

ARTICLE #26. To see if the town will vote to allow the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$665,000 for work at Mohawk Trail Regional School in Buckland, Massachusetts, to include replacement of the heating boiler control system; resealing of parking lots; replacement of the fire alarm control panel and related sensors; replacement of/upgrades to certain domestic hot water heaters, condenser units, heating system hot water control valves, and freeze prevention system; construction of a second means of egress from the main electrical switchgear room; installation of additional safety railings to sections of the outside bleachers; replacement of the movable gymnasium partition; and replacement of floor covering in the library; and including costs incidental or related thereto, which purpose of the projects will materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve the asset capable of supporting the required educational program. Said sum is to be expended under the approval of the School Committee’s Building Subcommittee, and to meet said appropriation, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair, is authorized to borrow said sum under MGL Ch. 44 or any other enabling authority. 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.

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

ARTICLE #27. 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 Thomas Griffin.
Passed unanimously in the affirmative

ARTICLE #28 (by petition). To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO STATE SUBSIDIES & INCENTIVES FOR BIOMASS PLANTS

WHEREAS, the Town of Colrain is committed to ensuring and safeguarding the health, safety, and environment of the residents of our community, and

WHEREAS, wood-burning biomass plants are a highly polluting form of energy generation, known to release pollutants including fine particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth adopted science-driven Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) regulations in 2012 recognizing that wood-burning power plants emit more carbon dioxide than fossil fuel power plants per unit of energy generated,

WHEREAS, due to the 2012 RPS regulations, the only wood-burning biomass plants eligible for Massachusetts renewable energy subsidies have been small, efficient combined-heat-and power biomass plants, and

WHEREAS, if the weakened RPS regulations proposed in December 2020 by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) go into effect, Massachusetts subsidies and incentives would be available for inefficient large-scale biomass power plants, and

WHEREAS, the proposed RPS regulations would wrongly incentivize and directly subsidize the construction of a large-scale wood-burning biomass plant proposed by Palmer Renewable Energy in Springfield, an Environmental Justice community already heavily burdened by industrial air pollution and by record-setting rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, and

WHEREAS, particulate and gaseous pollution from the planned Palmer Renewable Energy plant would increase hazardous pollution throughout the Pioneer Valley; and

WHEREAS, our Town stands in solidarity with the residents of the City of Springfield, and the Springfield City Council, which passed a resolution on December 21, 2020, opposing Massachusetts state subsidies and incentives for wood-burning biomass plants

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Colrain opposes any state subsidies or incentives for commercial wood-burning biomass plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Colrain calls upon the Massachusetts DOER to revise the proposed RPS regulations by returning the woody biomass provisions to their previous, science-based language, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Colrain calls upon the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy of the Massachusetts Legislature to hold an accessible public hearing on said proposed RPS regulations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Colrain urges its State Legislative Delegation to support legislation in the forthcoming session of the Massachusetts General Court to remove and bar taxpayer and ratepayer incentives for commercial biomass power plants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Representative Paul Mark and Senator Jo Comerford, as well as Governor Charles Baker, DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy Committee, Senator Mike Barrett and Representative Jeff Roy

<p>David Greenberg moved "as read", seconded by Marty Lygatedriggs. Passed with 37 votes in affirmative, 9 votes No</p>

ARTICLE #29 (by petition). To see if the town will vote to amend the Town By-Laws to substitute the term “Board of Selectmen” throughout with the term “Select Board” and the words “selectman, selectmen, or selectwomen” with the words “select board member(s) or “member(s) of the select board” in each and every place they appear in the Town By-laws, and , further, to insert the following in Article 1, section 3, before the existing text thereof, the following:

For purposes of these bylaws, and for all official business of the Town, the board previously referred to as the Board of Selectmen shall hereinafter be referred to as the Select Board, with individual members referred to as “select board members” or “members of the select board”, and said Select Board shall have all the powers and duties of a board of selectmen as set forth in the General Laws or any special act applicable to the Town.

Or take any action relative thereto. (Selectmen)

Summary: The Board of Selectmen was named when women were not allowed on the Board. The term "Select Board" provides historical continuity while recognizing that this is no longer the case.

Sheryl Stanton moved “as read “seconded by Leslie Fraser

Second motion made by Jon Rhemus and seconded by Michael Slowinski to replace article #29 with the following: (see attached original)

I move that the matter be referred to the Board of Selectmen so as to change all references to “Board of Selectmen” in the town’s By-Laws and other documents to read “Select Board.” Passage of this motion “confers authority not only to determine what should be done, but to do it” (Town Meeting). As is necessary at the 2022 Colrain Town Meeting or through other legal means, the Board of Selectmen shall seek approval of such changes or otherwise report to the 2022 town Meeting on how the changes were accomplished.

Seconded by Mike Slowinski.

Vote to replace body of Article #29, passed unanimously in affirmative

Vote to pass Article #29 passed in unanimously affirmative

Motion to dissolve made by Michael Slowinski, seconded by Robert Slowinski
Passed unanimously in affirmative

Meeting dissolve at 6:27 PM, June 16, 2021