



TOWN OF COLRAIN
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting Warrant
Fiscal Year 2027

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 Central School, located at 22 Jacksonville Road at 6:00 PM in said town on Tuesday the fifth day in May 2026, there and then to act on the following articles:

Opening The Moderator, Joseph Kurland, opened Colrain's Annual Town Meeting at 6:05pm with an insightful history statement about the States previous dividing opinions regarding The Stamp Act and Tax on Tea. Joe then connected these remarks to the upcoming Articles about school and town budgets. Joe also reminded all residents about kindness toward one another when expressing concerns or opinions about these topics.
103 residents in attendance.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon the report of the Select Board and other offices, departments, committees, or other agencies of said Town, or take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to hear and act upon the report of the Select Board and other offices.

Explanation: See article description above.

Article 1 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. The majority voted in favor. **The motion passed.**

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of \$15.35 for the payment of invoice incurred in a prior fiscal year to Aztec for copier expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

4/5 Vote Required.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of Fifteen Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents (\$15.35) from FY26 Town Office Support for payment of a prior year invoice to Aztec for copier expenses.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This amount covers an outstanding FY25 invoice from Aztec.

Article 2 was moved by Katie Korby. Emily Thurber seconded. **103 town residents voted unanimously in favor.**

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to set the compensation of elected officials as provided by G.L. c.41, §108, to be made effective from July 1, 2026, as presented below, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to set the compensation of elected officials to be made effective July 1, 2026 as presented in table below.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This article sets Town officials' stipends and the Town Clerk's salary for FY2027.

	Voted	Proposed
	FY 2026	FY 2027
Select Board, Chair	\$3,600	\$3,600
Select Board, Clerk	\$3,600	\$3,600
Select Board, Member	\$3,600	\$3,600
Moderator	\$120	\$120
Town Clerk	\$26,516	\$27,258
Board of Assessors, Chair	\$3,600	\$3,600
Board of Assessors, Member	\$3,600	\$3,600
Board of Assessors, Member	\$3,600	\$3,600

Article 3 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion, yet **two** residents voted against. **The motion was passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds sums of money for the FY2027 Omnibus Budget items, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars (\$2,324,356), and transfer from the Broadband Enterprise Fund, the sum of Sixteen Thousand and Nine Hundred Dollars (\$16,900), for a total sum of Two Million, Three Hundred Forty-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Six Dollars (\$2,341,256) deemed necessary to fund the

Town's FY2027 Omnibus Budget and as set forth in the budget document "Omnibus Budget – Article 4", as attached to this Warrant.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: Funding supports the Town's operations in FY2027.

Article 4 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. Before the Moderator offered the motion to the floor, E. Thurber began to read a statement regarding the FY2027 Budget and what it "means to all of us who live here in Colrain." Concluding with: "There has never been a more important time for our community to lock arms to move toward a sustainable future" *Please see the end of the Warrant for complete statement. *

The Moderator asked for the floor to express their votes.

An overwhelming majority voted the passing of this motion.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$364,161 and transfer from the Quintus Allen Fund the sum of \$1,850 for a total sum of \$366,011 to be used for the Franklin County Technical School District's annual operating assessment, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-One Dollars (\$364,161), and transfer One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$1,850) from the Quintus Allen Fund, for a total sum of Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand and Eleven Dollars (\$366,011) to fund the Franklin County Technical School District's operating assessment.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: Funding supports the Franklin County Technical School District's annual operations.

Article 5 was moved by Katie Korby. Seconded by Emily Thurber. This Article did have **four** opposing votes but **passed by the majority**.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,808 to be used for the Franklin County Technical School District's annual capital assessment, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Dollars (\$4,808) to fund the Franklin County Technical School District's capital assessment.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This amount contributes to the Franklin County Technical School District's capital projects.

Article 6 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was an introduction during the discussion opportunity. Mike Slowinski introduced FCTS Superintendent, Rick Martin, who stepped up to acknowledge the continuous support for FC TS from the town of Colrain. While there were **three** votes against this Article, the overwhelming **majority passed in favor.**

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,782,901 to be used for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual operating assessment, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and One Dollars (\$2,782,901) to fund the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's operating assessment.

NOT Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: Funding ensures the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's operational needs are met.

Article 7 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was an abundance of discussion regarding the MT budget proposal. Many residents came forth with questions and remarks. Upon counting with cards and asking people to stand yay/nay voting this motion, **this motion does not pass.**

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,379 to be used for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual capital assessment, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$68,379) to fund the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's capital assessment.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This amount is paying debt service on capital projects at Colrain Central School and MTRS.

Article 8 was moved by Katie Korby. Seconded by Emily Thurber. There was no discussion. This **motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,500 from the Assessors' Stabilization Fund to fund the purchase of upgraded assessment software to make it compatible for work with outside assessors and to meet current industry standards, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) from the Assessors' Stabilization Fund to fund the purchase of upgraded assessment software to make it compatible for work with outside assessors and to meet current industry standards.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: Will allow the Town's Assessing Department software to work seamlessly with outside vendor.

Article 9 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. No discussion. The majority voted in favor. **This motion passed.**

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000 from the Technology Stabilization Fund to fund the Town server to cloud conversion project, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) from the Technology Stabilization Fund to fund the Town server to cloud conversion project.

Explanation: Town-wide computer server is at end of life and is no longer supported for MS Office Suite, which is the Town's main computing software.

Article 10 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. **The motion passed** by majority.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$75,000 from Free Cash to pay down the Bond Anticipation Note for the Fire Vehicle, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) from Free Cash to pay down the Bond Anticipation Note for the Fire Vehicle.
Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This will pay down debt service on Town Fire Vehicle purchased in FY26.

Article 11 was moved by Katie Korby. Seconded by Emily Thurber. At the opportunity of discussion, a resident asked why a grant application was not pursued. A selectboard member offered a response explaining the advice given regarding grant application and why this article was presented as such. The motion was voted in favor by the majority. **This motion passed.**

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash to the OPEB Trust Fund the sum of \$30,000 to meet the Town's cost of other post-employment benefits (OPEB), or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) from Free Cash to the OPEB Trust Fund to fund the Town's other post-employment benefits (OPEB) obligation.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This continues to fund the Town's liability for post-employment benefits for Town employees.

Article 12 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. No discussion. **This motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund the sum of \$185,000, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000) from Free Cash to the Town's General Stabilization Fund.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: Adding funds to the General Stabilization Fund helps maintain the Town's financial health and assists in generating interest revenue.

Article 13 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. No discussion ensued. **This motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from the Highway Vehicle Stabilization Fund, or borrow a sum of money for the purchase of a new Highway Department grader, said funds to be used in addition to any funds granted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) through its Grant Central program, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and take all necessary actions to accept and expend such grant funds, provided that a local match is authorized by this vote, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to approve the purchase of a new Highway Department grader for the sum of Four Hundred and Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$460,000), and to fund said purchase by transferring the sum of Two Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$210,000) from the Highway Vehicle Stabilization Fund and expending Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) from a Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) grant through its Grant Central program, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and take all necessary actions to accept and expend such funds and to purchase such grader.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This will allow the Town to purchase a new Highway Department grader *if* the Town receives the grant award and allows for the required match.

Article 14 was moved by Katie Korby. Seconded by Emily Thurber. There was no discussion. **This motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from the Highway Vehicle Stabilization Fund the sum of \$85,000 for the rehabilitation and restoration of 2001 International Chassis for use as a highway vehicle, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000) from the Highway Vehicle Stabilization Fund for the rehabilitation and restoration of the 2001 International Chassis for use as a highway vehicle.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This will allow the Highway Department to build a large truck to use for snow removal operations using the Fire Department surplus vehicle chassis.

Article 15 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. **The motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of an Everest CK 640 Snowplow to be used by the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to transfer the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) from Free Cash for the purchase of an Everest CK 640 Snowplow to be used by the Highway Department.

Explanation: This will fund the purchase of a new snowplow requested by the Highway Department.

Article 16 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. **The motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to **create a special purpose stabilization fund** pursuant to G.L. c.40, §5B for the design, construction, reconstruction, and major repair of Town-owned buildings and facilities; or take any action relative thereto.

2/3 Vote Required.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to create a Facilities Stabilization Fund, which shall be a special purpose stabilization fund pursuant to G.L. c.40, §5B for the purpose of funding

design, construction, reconstruction, and capital repairs of Town-owned buildings and facilities.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: This will allow the Town to create a Facilities Stabilization Fund for the designated purpose identified.

Article 17 was moved by Katie Korby. Seconded by Emily Thurber. There was no discussion. **The motion passed.** YES: 75 NO:1

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to operate the Broadband Enterprise Fund by raising and appropriating or transferring from available funds, the total sum of \$744,618, or take any other action related thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to appropriate the following sums to operate the Broadband Enterprise Fund:

<i>Cost</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Salaries/Wages	\$ 8,000
Expenses	\$557,093
Debt Service	\$162,625
<u>Indirect Costs</u>	<u>\$ 16,900</u>
Total:	\$744,618

and to raise said sums from the following:

<i>Source</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>Enterprise Receipts</u>	<u>\$744,618</u>
Total:	\$744,618

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Explanation: Funding supports the operation and maintenance of the Town's broadband services and allows for the Town to cover the overhead of services provided.

Article 18 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. **The motion passed** in the majority.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote Town to **approve annual spending limits for Revolving Funds** established in the Town Bylaws, pursuant to .G.L. c.44, §53E½, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, or take any action relative thereto.

Authorized Revolving Funds	Department, Board/Committee Agency or Officer	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Plumbing Inspections	Plumbing Inspector	\$3,500
Electrical Inspections	Electrical Inspector	\$3,500
Fire Inspections	Fire Chief	\$3,500
Building Department	Building Commissioner	\$15,000
Dog Fund	Town Clerk	\$15,000

MOTION: Move the Town vote to approve annual spending limits as listed below for Revolving Funds established in the Town Bylaws, pursuant to G.L. c.44, §53E½, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

Recommended by Finance Committee.

Authorized Revolving Funds	Department, Board/Committee Agency or Officer	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Plumbing Inspections	Plumbing Inspector	\$3,500
Electrical Inspections	Electrical Inspector	\$3,500
Fire Inspections	Fire Chief	\$3,500
Building Department	Building Commissioner	\$15,000
Dog Fund	Town Clerk	\$15,000

Explanation: This article sets spending limits to ensure the responsible use of already-authorized revolving funds.

Article 19 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. **The motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the town will vote to **authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, and expend state or federal grants that may become available**, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, and expend any state or federal grants that may become available.

Explanation: This article allows the Town to seek and utilize grant funding sources for various projects and initiatives.

Article 20 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was a remark made from a resident stating grants are a significant help, and how the town needs to be better about applying for such. The Moderator made note of the overall politeness between residents about their opinions. This motion was **voted unanimously in favor.**

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to **authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for construction and/or maintenance of highways** or other permissible expenditures from the Transportation Bond monies (Chapter 90) and authorize the Select Board to accept any monies from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance related work, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the construction and/or maintenance of highways, whether pursuant to G.L. c.90 or any other enabling authority, and to accept any monies from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance related work.

Explanation: This article facilitates the Town's ability to manage and fund highway construction and maintenance projects.

Article 21 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. The motion **passed unanimously in favor.**

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to **authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of Chapter 90 State reimbursement funds** for road repair projects, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of Chapter 90 state reimbursement funds for road repair projects.

Explanation: This article ensures the Town can finance road repair projects while awaiting state reimbursement.

Article 22 was moved by Emily Thurber. Seconded by Katie Korby. There was no discussion. **The motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to **authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements** during Fiscal Year 2027 as permitted by Massachusetts G.L. c.44, §53F, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2027 pursuant to G.L. c.44, §53F.

Explanation: This article allows the Town to manage its funds efficiently through compensating balance agreements. A compensating balance is a minimum balance that an organization agrees to maintain in its bank account as part of receiving favorable loans or other services from a bank.

Article 23 was moved by Katie Korby. Seconded by Emily Thurber. There was no discussion. **The motion passed** by the majority.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to **amend the Town of Colrain Zoning Bylaws to substitute the term “Select Board” for the term “Board of Selectmen”**; to substitute the word “Selectpersons” for the word “Selectmen”; and to substitute the word “Selectperson” for the word “Selectman”; and further affirm that upon the effective date of such amendment, the term “Board of Selectmen” shall be taken to mean “Select Board” and the term “Selectmen” shall be taken to mean “Selectpersons” and the term “Selectman” shall be taken to mean “Selectperson” for the purposes of all laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, or other documents that refer to or are applicable to the Town of Colrain Zoning Bylaws, or take any action relative thereto.

2/3 Vote Required.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to amend the Town of Colrain Zoning Bylaws to substitute the term “Select Board” for the term “Board of Selectmen”; to substitute the word “Selectpersons” for the word “Selectmen”; and to substitute the word “Selectperson” for the word “Selectman”; and further affirm that upon the effective date of such amendment, the term “Board of Selectmen” shall be taken to mean “Select Board” and the term “Selectmen” shall be taken to mean “Selectpersons” and the term “Selectman” shall be taken to mean “Selectperson” for the purposes of all laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, or other documents that refer to or are applicable to the Town of Colrain Zoning Bylaws.

Article 24 was moved by Benjamin Eastman. Seconded by Katie Korby. A count of **72 YES to 1 NO. The motion passed.**

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to approve the warrant article, “Resolution in Support of an ‘Act Establishing Medicare for All’”, or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION: Move the Town vote to approve the “Resolution in Support of an ‘Act Establishing Medicare for All’”, as attached to this Warrant.

Article 25 was moved by David Greenberg. Seconded by Nina Martin-Anzuoni. Discussion, explanation and opinions were expressed. Ultimately, **the motion was passed** by the majority.
