

Town of Colrain  
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting  
Highway Garage  
9 Jacksonville Road  
4:30 PM  
**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD**  
**June 27, 2023**

**Present:** Benjamin Eastman, Chair; W. Thomas Griffin (remotely); Emily Thurber

**Others Present:** Betty Ringwood; Howard Phelps; Kathy Phelps; Valeda Peters; Jane Johnson; Michael Slowinski; Roger Williams; Marybeth Chichester; Don Voner, Verizon Representative; Lynn DiTullio; Ellen Weeks, Personnel Committee; Bella Levavi, Greenfield Recorder; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Chair Benjamin Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that Select Board member, Thom Griffin was participating remotely.

**Verizon Pole Hearing – Job #1A5U7JU – York Rd**

Ben Eastman called the Verizon pole hearing to order at 4:30 pm.

Don Voner, Verizon, explained that there are currently two poles with a long span between them of 265'. One of the poles is a tree with multiple lines attached to it. The tree needs to come down and a new pole needs to be put in because of how long the span is to keep the wires off the road. Kevin mentioned that all the abutters were notified, and none was in attendance. Ben asked about road closure during the replacement. The road will go to one-lane during the maintenance. Mike Slowinski, MLP Manager, asked if a pole license would be required. Kevin and Don will follow-up with Al Bessette at Verizon.

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to approve Petition Verizon Job #1A5U7JU on York Rd, Colrain, MA. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Ben Eastman closed the pole hearing at 4:38 pm.

**Appointments: Ellen Weeks, Personnel Committee Chair – Presentation of First Draft of “Revised Personnel Policies and Procedures”**

Discussion was had regarding the revised Personnel Policies. The Select Board will forward any further questions or comments to Ellen Weeks to be presented at a future meeting.

**Marybeth Chichester – Update from Ad-Hoc Solar Planning Committee**

The Solar Committee has been working with UMass Clean Energy Extension on a solar project and the timeline has significantly changed. Currently, the solar survey is complete, and UMass has a few more edits before sending the results to the Committee. 100 people responded to the survey and the committee was hoping for more responses. UMass is working on a proposed action plan for solar for the Town. The Committee will then work on a proposed timeline for implementation of the action plan and if no significant changes are needed to the action plan, it will be presented to the respective Town Boards. The Committee will also work with UMass on a public forum regarding the entire project with a proposed date in September.

**New Business: Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and the Town of Colrain Regarding the Hauling of Recyclables and Hauling of Disposal of Solid Waste; Hauling and Disposal of Bulky Waste; and Hauling and Disposal of Scrap Metal and Appliances**

Keving commented that the Waste District bid the multi-year hauling contract, and every year the MOU has to be signed by the Board. The new pricing is incorporated into the FY2024 budget.

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to sign the Memorandum Of Understanding by and between the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and the Town of Colrain Regarding the Hauling of Recyclables and Hauling of Disposal of Solid Waste; Hauling and Disposal of Bulky Waste; and Hauling and Disposal of Scrap Metal and Appliances.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Ben Eastman and Emily Thurber signed the MOU.

**Recommendation from Town Administrator to move Marjorie Smith to Permanent Employee Status**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber made a motion to move Marjorie Smith to Permanent Employee Status. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**FY2024 Appointments**

Agricultural Commission:

**MOVED:** Ben Eastman moved to appoint Brian Scranton to the Agricultural Commission for a term ending 6/30/2026.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Board of Health:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to appoint Gary Ponce and Timothy Slowinski to the Board of Health for terms expiring 6/30/2025.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Building Inspector:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Shawn Kimberly as Building Inspector for a term expiring 6/30/2026.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Committee:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Michelle Hillman to the Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Committee for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Conservation Commission:

Emily Thurber read an email from Jenny Blythe expressing interest in being appointed to the Conservation Commission. Ben Eastman recommended not reappointing Carl Herzig.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Jenny Blythe to the Conservation Commission for a term expiring 6/30/2024, David Nims for a term expiring 6/30/2024, Matthew Slowinski for a term expiring 6/30/2025 and Benjamin Beas for a term expiring 6/30/2026.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Council on Aging:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to reappoint Janice Barnes, Russell Barnes, Michelle Hillman, Valeda Peters and Kathleen Phelps for a three-year term ending 6/30/2026 to the Council on Aging.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Emergency Management Director:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint James Lyons as the Emergency Management Director for a term expiring on 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Emergency Response Coordinator:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to reappoint Nicholas Anzuoni to the position of Emergency Response Coordinator for the term ending 6/30/2024.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Franklin County Solid Waste District Representative:

Emily Thurber asked if Steve Daby or Kevin Fox wanted to be the alternate. Ben Eastman suggested that Mike Slowinski be the alternate. He also stated that an individual said that these people (Steve or Kevin) being the alternate would be a conflict of interest. Thom asked how there would be a conflict of interest? Kevin responded that it isn't a conflict and Emily also responded saying that there isn't a conflict, but it can be perceived to be.

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to appoint Michael Shuipis as the representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District and Michael Slowinski to be the alternate with both terms expiring 6/30/2024.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MLP Manager:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to reappoint Michael Slowinski as the MLP Manager for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Fire Chief:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to appoint Nicholas Anzuoni as the Fire Chief for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Fire Station Building Committee:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Nicholas Anzuoni, Douglas MacLeay, Gary Ponce, and Kevin Worden II as the Fire Station Building Committee for terms expiring 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Historical Commission:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to appoint Sarah Davenport and Joan McQuade to terms on the Historical Commission expiring 6/30/2024, Belden Merims and David Nims to terms on the Historical Commission expiring 6/30/2025 and Robert Ramirez and Guy Wheeler to terms on the Historical Commission expiring 6/30/2026.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Personnel Committee:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Valeda Peters to the Personnel Committee for a term expiring 6/30/2024, Kathleen Phelps for a term expiring 6/30/2025 and Ellen Weeks for a term expiring 6/30/2026.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Plumbing Inspector:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to appoint Kyle Hartnett as the Plumbing Inspector and Jeffrey Bache as Alternate Plumbing Inspector, both terms expiring 6/30/2024.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Police Chief:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to appoint Chris Lannon as the Police Chief for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Police Officers:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Tarrah Dempsey, Heather Sonn and Derek Worden as Police Officers all terms expiring 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Representative to Franklin County Regional Animal Control Program:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Kevin Fox as the Representative to Franklin County Regional Animal Control Program for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Town Accountant:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint David Fierro as the Town Accountant for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Representative to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's District:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Thom Griffin as the Representative to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's District for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Electrical Inspector:

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Clinton Dodge and James Slowinski as the Electrical Inspectors for a term expiring 6/30/2024.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Zoning Board of Appeals:

**MOVED:** Thom Griffin moved to appoint to the Zoning Board of Appeals Marshall Lee Denison for a term expiring 6/30/2024, John Peters for a term expiring 6/30/2025 and Howard Phelps for a term expiring 6/30/2026. Howard Phelps did not accept the appointment. Thom Griffin amended the motion to drop Howard Phelps and include Mark Thibodeau for a term expiring 6/30/2026.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Old Business: None**

**Unanticipated: Approve Selectboard Meeting Minutes – 6/13/2023 and 3/28/2023**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of 6/13/2023.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of 3/28/2023.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Broadband Charges**

Mike Slowinski received an email from Thom Griffin regarding broadband charges. The discussion will take place at a future meeting.

**Town Administrator Updates: None**

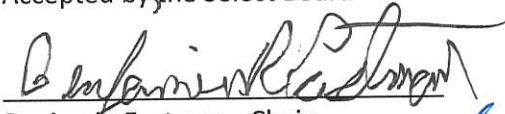
**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 7:02 pm.

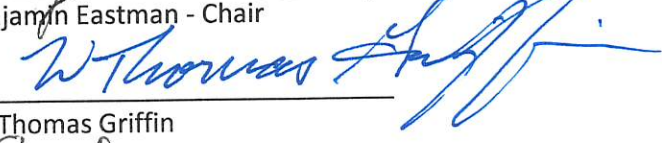
Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**


Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith  
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

  
Benjamin Eastman - Chair

  
W. Thomas Griffin

  
Emily Thurber

**Documents:**

Select Board Meeting Notes

Letter from Albert Bessette, Verizon Right of Way Manager, dated 5/17/2023 re: pole hearing for Verizon job #1A5U7JU

Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Location, including map of proposed pole location on York Rd

Order for Joint or Identical Pole Location

Draft Personnel Policies and Procedures for Town of Colrain, Updated and Revised 2023

Memorandum Of Understanding by and between the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and the Town of Colrain Regarding the Hauling of Recyclables and Hauling of Disposal of Solid Waste; Hauling and Disposal of Bulky Waste; and Hauling and Disposal of Scrap Metal and Appliances

Draft letter from Kevin Fox to Marjorie Smith dated 7/1/2023 re: Permanent Employment Status

Letter from Kevin Fox to Marjorie Smith dated 3/6/2023 re: Offer of Employment

Spreadsheet for FY2024 Appointments

Email from Michael Shuipis dated 5/24/2023 re: FCSWMD FY2024 Appointment

Email from Ellen Weeks dated 6/13/2023 re: Personnel Committee Appointments