

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
October 24, 2023**

Present: Benjamin Eastman, Chair; W. Thomas Griffin; Emily Thurber

Others Present: Steve Daby, Highway Superintendent; David Greenberg; Jane Johnson; Kathy Phelps; Howard Phelps; Jade Mortimer; Jonathan Lagreze; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Chair, Benjamin Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

Appointments: David Greenberg – Request to Locate Free Wood Bank on Town Property

David Greenberg has requested to locate a free wood bank for residents somewhere in Town. The idea is for people to drop off extra cord wood and those that need wood can pick some up. Kevin recommended using a town owned parcel located on Charlemont Rd across from the entrance to the Transfer Station with a Parcel ID of 1010-0004-00000. The Select Board suggested making a requirement to not allow chainsaw use at the site.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the use of the town property Map 101 Parcel 004 for a wood bank.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business: Special Town Meeting Warrant

Kevin Fox informed the Board that the Highway Department is still short staffed, and he asked Steve Daby to get quotes from contractors for snow removal. Steve has received a verbal arrangement with Pantermehl Land Clearing, they were most responsive and the lowest price. The proposed Special Town Meeting would move \$50,000 from Highway Wages & Salaries to a new account named Highway Contracted Services-Snow and Ice Removal. There are excess funds in the Wages account as there is an unfilled position that was included in the budget. Discussion on the applicant who recently applied for the highway position.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the warrant for the special town meeting to transfer funds from highway department wages to highway department contracted services-snow and ice removal in the sum of \$50,000.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Kevin informed the Board that the Special Town Meeting will be at the Colrain Central School on November 14th at 7:00pm.

Request to be Appointed to CPA Exploratory Committee – Lynn DiTullio, David Greenberg

Kevin Fox informed the Board he received an additional request for appointment from Betsy Browning, after the agenda was posted, in addition to Lynn DiTullio and David Greenberg.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to appoint the three aforementioned people to the CPA Committee. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on how to appoint further members.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to allow the CPA Committee to augment their membership as they see fit.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Clinician Co-Responder (CSO) (Jail Diversion Program) Services Agreement

Kevin Fox informed the Board that the agreement before them is to renew the Jail Diversion Program Services Agreement currently in place. Ashfield is the lead town, and the program is grant funded. Chief Lannon has informed Kevin that the program has been very successful.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to have the Chair of the Select Board sign the agreement to stay in the Clinician Co-Responder Services Agreement.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Employee Annual Reviews Discussion

Emily Thurber requested that the Board start discussing the Employee Annual Review process as none have been performed in the past. Kevin recommended a grant program to help with the process. The members of the Board directed Kevin to look into the available grants.

Old Business: None

Unanticipated: Winter Sidewalk Clearing

Thom Griffin mentioned that the article approved at the Town Meeting regarding clearing the sidewalks, will most likely not happen this year as the Highway Department is short staffed. Discussion on possible use of volunteers.

Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes – 10/10/2023

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board from 10/10/2023 as written.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Highway Updates

Discussion on dirt roads and effect of rolling them, like what Steve did in Buckland. Steve informed the Board that rolling them helped the dirt roads hold up better and the roller was well worth the money.

Next Select Board Meeting

Kevin informed the Board that the next meeting will be at the Colrain School at 4:30 and will also be a tax classification hearing. Discussion on tax rates.

Town Administrator Updates:

FY2025 Budget

Kevin sent out the FY2025 budget packets to start that process with the different departments.

Jacksonville Rd Update

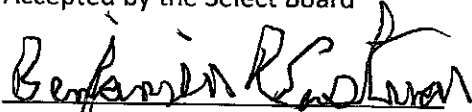
The Town has been awarded the MassWorks grant for the project and has been invited to attend the award ceremony. The project is still in the design phase. The Notice of Intent has been submitted to the Conservation Committee. The engineers have a meeting with the Committee on 11/7.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:41pm.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

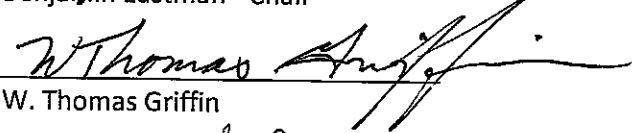
Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board



Benjamin Eastman - Chair



W. Thomas Griffin



Emily Thurber

Documents:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant

3 Price Quote Tally Sheet

Email from David Greenberg dated 10/13/2023 re: Possible Wood Bank on Town Property

Tax Map of Parcel 1010-004-00000

Tax Map 401

Email from Lynn DiTullio dated 10/6/2023 re: Appointment to CPA Exploratory Committee

Email from David Greenberg dated 10/5/2023 re: Appointment to CPA Exploratory Committee

Clinical Co-Responder (Jail Diversion Program) Services Agreement