

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
December 12, 2023**

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

Others Present: David Greenberg; Jane Johnson; Jonathan Lagreze; Betsy Browning; Jill Horton-Lyons; Jade Mortimer; Barbara Griffin; Lynn DiTullio; Nancy Turkle; Mikaela Whitaker; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Chair, Benjamin Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

New Business: Appoint Library Trustee

Kevin Fox explained that Cynthia McLaughlin resigned from the Board, so there is a vacancy. Per Mass. General Law, the Select Board and the Library Board of Trustees can vote to appoint a new trustee for the remainder of the term, as it is an elected position. Mikaela Whitaker submitted a letter of interest to the Board of Trustees, and they voted unanimously to appoint her.

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to appoint Mikaela Whitaker to the Library Board of Trustees to fill out the remaining term of Cynthia McLaughlin.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Set Annual Town Meeting Date

The topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Approve the Following License Renewals:

ABCC Retail: Catamount Country Store Inc.; Pine Hill Orchards

Common Victuallers: Catamount Country Store Inc.; Pine Hill Orchards

Class II and Class III: Marty's Repair (Class II); M&T Auto (Class II); M&T Auto Wrecking (Class III)

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Annual Package Store All Alcoholic Beverages license for Catamount Country Store.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Emily Thurber abstained. Approved.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Annual Package Store Wines and Malts for Pine Hill Orchards.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Common Victuallers license for Catamount Country Store.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Emily Thurber abstained. Approved.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Common Victuallers license for Pine Hill Orchards.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Class II repair license for Marty's Repair.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Class II license for M&T Auto.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the Class III license for M&T Auto Wrecking.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business: None

Unanticipated: Appointment to Board of Health

Emily Thurber asked Barb Griffin why she was interested in joining the Board of Health. Barb Griffin stated that she is semi-retired nurse, has worked in the public health sector and wants to work with the community.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to appoint Barbara Griffin to the Board of Health.
Ben Eastman seconded. **Thom Griffin abstained. Approved.**

Appointment to Council on Aging

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to appoint Robbie Murphy to the Council on Aging.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointment to Ad-Hoc CPA Exploratory Committee

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to appoint Jade Mortimer to the Ad-Hoc CPA Exploratory Committee.

Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to appoint Jill Horton-Lyons to the Ad-Hoc CPA Exploratory Committee.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes – (11/23/2021; 12/14/2021; 11/28/2023; 12/6/2023)

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board for 11/23/2021.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board for 12/14/2021.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board for 11/28/2023.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board for 12/6/2023.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Policy

Emily Thurber suggested talking about the bridge usage policy as it is outdated now that the bridge is open to vehicular traffic.

Special Town Meeting Vote Question

Emily Thurber commented on residents' concerns that the Select Board can override the Special Town Meeting vote and explained that the Board does not have that ability.

At 5:00 pm Vice Chair, Thom Griffin moved to recess until 5:30 pm.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Chair, Ben Eastman called the meeting back in session at 5:30 pm.

Appointments: CPA Exploratory Committee Update

David Greenberg shared a presentation on the Community Preservation Act and what the CPA Exploratory Committee has been working on. The CPA was passed into law in 2000 to provide money to towns to preserve and improve a community's character and quality of life. The main topics the money can be used for are recreational facilities, open space, historical buildings, and low-income affordable housing. He gave examples of the different projects the money could be used for in town. The funds are to be used as follows: 10% historical preservation, 10% community housing, 10% open space and recreation and the remaining 70% on other CPA categories or save it for a future bigger project.

Money is collected as a surcharge on the tax bill, which can range from 0.5% to 3.0% of the net tax after exemptions are applied. There are various exemptions property owners can apply for annually; for example, low-income seniors and \$100,000 deducted from assessed value. The Commonwealth of MA provides a match to the funds the town collects. To adopt the CPA, there would be an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Should it pass, then it would be on the November ballot. Upon approval, the Town would form a CPA Committee which would be made up of five people from specific town boards/committees, and other appointed residents. The committee creates proposals for projects which are then voted on at the Annual Town Meeting.

Thom Griffin commented that the Committee will need to clearly state the exemptions for residents. Discussion on explaining how other towns have used their CPA funds and how to verify that the 10% is being spent appropriately.

Town Administrator Updates: None

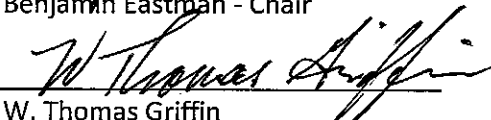
MOVED: Thom Griffin moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:57 pm.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**


Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board


Benjamin Eastman - Chair


W. Thomas Griffin


Emily Thurber

Documents:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from David Greenberg to Kevin Fox dated 11/30/2023 re: Ad-Hoc CPA Exploratory Committee Appointment with Select Board

License Renewal Summary for 2024

Email from Mikaela Whitaker to Kevin Fox and Griswold Memorial Library dated 12/6/2023 re: Letter of Interest to Join Library Board of Trustees

M.G.L. c. 41, § 11

Email from Barbara Griffin to Kevin Fox dated 12/8/2023 re: Board of Health Appointment

Email from Robbie Murphy to Kevin Fox dated 12/11/2023 re: Council on Aging Appointment

Email from Jade Mortimer to Kevin Fox dated 12/11/2023 re: Ad-Hoc CPA Exploratory Committee Appointment