

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

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
August 27, 2024

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Phoebe Walker, FRCOG; Maureen O'Reilly, FRCOG; Jacob Brooks, Enviro Arbor Solutions; Elaine Stanley; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:31pm.

Consent Items:

Review/Approve Warrants and Meeting Minutes as listed below:

Warrant AP2508 in the amount of \$58,164.06

Warrant AP2509 in the amount of \$22,272.91

Warrant PR2502 in the amount of \$24,283.14

Warrant PR2503 in the amount of \$20,439.43

Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2024

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve and the warrants and minutes as written.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

Work to Address Opioid Crisis in the Region and How Colrain Can Benefit; Maureen O'Reilly, Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG Opioid Community Health Educator, Epidemiologist, Cooperative Public Health Service & Phoebe Walker, FRCOG Director of Community Health

Phoebe Walker introduced herself and explained her role at FRCOG. She and the Board discussed the Opioid Settlement funds, how much Colrain was awarded (\$6,066 over 18 years) and how the funds can be spent. The Board of Health, along with the FRCOG, joined forces with 14 surrounding towns because of the small amounts given to each. There are three projects being proposed for a total cost of \$20,068 in FY2025 and are requesting the Board approve spending \$195 from the Town's settlement funds in each of the next two years.

Maureen O'Reilly presented to the Board that the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS) has purchased outdoor naloxone cabinets (two per Town) with Public Health Excellence grants as part of the Rural Communities Naloxone Cabinet Initiative. The cabinets are meant for residents to take naloxone from the cabinet to keep on hand. Nina Martin-Anzuoni spoke with the Fire Chief and Gary Ponce, Colrain Ambulance Association, and are supportive of the cabinets. Discussion on possible location of the cabinets. Katie Korby and Emily Thurber expressed their support for the cabinets. Nina volunteered to be the host for the cabinets; take inventory, restock, etc.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the placement of two naloxone boxes one at the library and one at the foyer of the town office.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to join the regional opioid settlement project as advised by the Board of Health.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Town Approval of Fall 2024 Tree Trimming and Removal within 15 Feet of Power Lines & Poles on Jacksonville Road/Rt. 112; Jacob Brooks, Foreman, Enviro Arbor Solutions

Jacob from Eversource explained to the Board that there are about 30 trees to be taken down along Route 112 and the work should take a couple months. There are a few trees around the slope failure but haven't received permission from owner yet and can't cut the trees without permission. Some of the trees are also on Town property and they requested the Town's permission to cut the trees. The work will require police details, and they will be in contact with the Police Chief. They are hoping to start in the next two to three weeks and most of the trees are from the green bridge to the Halifax, VT line.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the tree cutting on Route 112/Jacksonville Rd and Thompson Rd by Enviro Arbor Solutions.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on leaving the logs cut on Town property and the Board agreed to have EAS leave the logs.

Outdoor Nativity Set on Town Common; Elaine Stanley

Elaine Stanley requested she be allowed to put a nativity set up at the Veteran's Memorial Park from right after Thanksgiving to right after Christmas. Emily would like to see the set before she decides. Elaine further stated that she has spoken with some Veteran's that are in favor of putting up the set and Joan McQuade is willing to store it. Katie added that there are some hotly debated conversations about religious displays on Town-owned land and as long as the Town isn't selective about who puts up displays, opens up to allow anyone to put up displays. The Board decided to put the topic on the next meeting agenda.

Old Business:

Update re: Hiring of Highway Laborer/Equipment Operator Staff

Emily Thurber read Diana Parsons' email update regarding the hiring of a new highway employee. Nate Gilbert and Diana interviewed the two candidates and have recommended one over the other due to having all required licenses, having worked in other municipalities and familiarity with Town practices. Emily further explained that the other candidate was good but didn't have all the required licenses.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to have Diana make an offer to the candidate for the highway laborer position.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

TA Proposal re: COA Foot Clinic Location for Oct/Nov

Maggie Smith read Diana Parsons' update regarding attending the Council on Aging meeting on 9/9/2024 to discuss and listen to the Foot Clinic and other programming options/challenges. She will provide an update the 9/10/2024 Select Board meeting.

Administrator Updates:

None

Public and Board Member Comments:

None

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

- Nativity Set on Common
- Jacksonville Rd Slope Failure Update

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

MassDEP Extension Letter for Colrain Sewer District Collection System

Emily Thurber read the letter from MassDEP approving the extension for the Sewer System Evaluation Survey to December 31, 2024.

Invitation to Colrain Central School First Day Celebration, August 28, 8:30 am-10 am

Ben Eastman and Katie Korby will be at the celebration.

Colrain Fix-It Day, Saturday, September 7, 2024, 11 am-2 pm. FRTA Shuttle Available at Colrain Central School beginning at 10:30 am.

Emily Thurber stated that Fix-It-Day will be at the library and Ben will be set-up there.

Crafts of Colrain Open Studio Tour, November 9-10, 2024, 10 am-4 pm

No discussion.

Executive Session:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:29pm.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

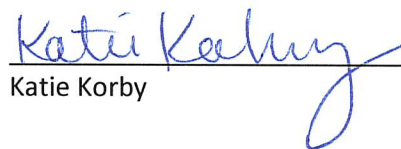
Accepted by the Select Board on 9/24/2024



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

Documents Distributed to the Select Board Before the Meeting in a Packet or at the Meeting:

Updated for Colrain Select Board Meeting From The Cooperative Public Health Service of the FRCOG

Rural Communities Naloxone Cabinet Initiative Program Brochure and Draft Agreement

Opioid Settlement Funds in Franklin County/North Quabbin Presentation by FRCOG

Vegetation Removal Permission Form from Eversource Energy RE: Tree Trimming on Jacksonville Rd

Email from Elaine Stanley to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, dated 8/24/2024 RE: Nativity Set at the Veteran's Memorial Park

Letter from MA DEP to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, dated 8/19/2024 RE: Extension for the I&I Study

Email to the Select Board from Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, dated 8/27/2024 RE: Highway Department Staffing and COA Foot Clinic Location