

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
November 26, 2024**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Jonathan Lagreze; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm. Due to technical difficulties, the hybrid meeting option was not held via Microsoft Teams.

Jacksonville Rd Slope Failure

Emily Thurber read a statement regarding the completion of the repairs to the slope failure on Jacksonville Road.

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of October 8, 2024

Warrant AP2520 in the amount of \$28,777.54

Warrant AP2521 in the amount of \$73,826.04

Warrant PR2510 in the amount of \$33,237.31

Warrant AP2522 in the amount of \$523,127.08

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of October 8, 2024, as written.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve warrant AP2520 in the amount of \$28,777.54, AP2521 in amount of 73,826.04, PR251 in amount of 33,237.31 and AP2522 in amount of 523,127.08.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

Request for Appointment to the Woodlands Partnership Board as Colrain Representative, Jonathan Lagreze, Resident

Jonathan Lagreze commented that he believes in the regionalization of things and landowners getting most out of their land. Colrain has many residents that make a living out of the woods. There is funding available that the Town can apply for, and he would like to be a part of reaching out to the Town regarding what we'd like to see.

Ben Eastman explained that when people are appointed to positions, they need to give the Board feedback and communicate with the Board, good, bad or neutral. Discussion on the process for bringing information back to the Board and holding board/committee members accountable for relaying information to the Select Board.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to appoint Jonathan Lagreze to the Woodlands Partnership board.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business:

Extension to the MOU for the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF), Agreement Expires December 31, 2024

Diana Parsons explained that we had a five-year agreement, and this would be an extension for another 5-years. In years 2-5 the increase would be approximately 3% each year and the increase in price is due to less tonnage being brought into the MRF, in part because Greenfield and South Hadley have gone to single-stream and no longer use the MRF. Jan Ameen recommended that this would be the best option and the MRF is the only dual-stream recycling center in western MA and recommended signing the agreement. Ben presented some calculations he did on the price increase over the next five years. Diana suggested looking into the transfer station fees. The Board did not sign the agreement and asked Diana to invite Jan Ameen to the next meeting.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to table the contract signing until the next meeting for more information. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Request for Paint Stewardship Bill Support Letter from Thomas Irwin, Advocate

Diana Parsons received a request from Mr. Irwin for support from the Board on the Paint Stewardship Bill. The bill would allow retailers to take unused paint back.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to support House Bill H823 "An Act relative to paint recycling". Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Emily Thurber signed the letter of support.

Review MVP 2.0 Application & Vote Support Letter, Due December 4, 2024

Diana Parsons updated the Board that the Town is required to submit the MVP 2.0 application. She is looking to partner with Charlemont based on similarities in size of population and number of seniors, and the focus on seniors and farmers as a vulnerable population. Colrain would have our own separate plan, but would join the team for planning.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to sign a letter of support for the MVP 2.0 application and designate Diana as the authorized signer.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Transfer Station Recommendations – First Review

Diana Parsons presented a draft of the recommendations discussed at a meeting with Jan Ameen, Nate Gilbert, George Billiel and John Tynan, including but not limited to not using the Bulky Waste sheet, added signage about MGL requirements, and sticker purchasing. Discussion on possibility of stores selling stickers and the logistics, selling bags rather than stickers, and rearranging location of the metal bin and bulky waste bins. Diana reiterated that no changes will be made until after the holiday season and more discussions will be had regarding the proposed changes.

Diana further added that the composting grant has ended and there is approx. \$2,500 left. She will be sending another mailer and look at purchasing more compost bins.

Old Business:

Joint Petition for Pole Locations on West Leyden Rd, N Green River Rd and Avery Hill Rd.; Tabled from November 12, 2024; Updates re: poles close to road; attaching Broadband cables and Broadband licenses

Diana Parsons updated the Board that Nate Gilbert met with Eversource, and they looked at all the current poles and new poles that have been staked. There were two or three current poles that will be moved, and six to eight that were on the petition that they moved the stake back from the road. Diana questioned if we would get a new plan and Mike Kane from Eversource said that a new plan wouldn't be done because

the stakes have been moved. Eversource worked with Mr. Lewandoski and will be getting a pole petition for that. They are laying out stakes on East Colrain Rd and Nate is working with Eversource before finalizing the plan and petition.

Mike Slowinski confirmed to Diana that Eversource would pay for the fiber to be moved from the current poles to the new poles that have already been placed. The mid-span poles will be delayed until 2026 and licensing will still need to be done for those.

Diana felt that the Board could sign the petition and confident that Eversource will be more forthcoming in the future. Ben agreed that if Diana, Nate and Mike are happy with the changes, the Board should sign. **MOVED:** Ben Eastman moved to sign the petition of order of joint or identical pole locations for Eversource.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Administrator Updates:

Heath Road Culvert Replacement Project Updates

The detour was set up today and erosion control measures were being set up. David Nims, Conservation Commission, went out today. The culvert is scheduled to be placed 12/12/2024 – 12/13/2024 and will be gravel through the winter. The contractor will come back in the spring to finish the project.

Tax Rate Set & Tax Bills in Process

The tax rate has been set and went down.

Application to North River Damages Fund Grant – Submitted on 11/15/2024

The application was submitted on 11/15 for lower reservoir dam removal and the investigation behind the 55 Main Rd property.

Discontinued Roads

Diana reiterated that the Highway Department only has three people and doesn't have the capacity to add more roads and didn't recommend making any changes right now and adding to a future agenda in the spring.

Emily Thurber talked to Nate, and he asked about the sidewalks in the Veteran's Memorial. Ben Eastman wanted to only do the main sidewalks this year and look at that next year. Discussion on parking for the memorial.

Address TM Vote re Greenfield/Main Rd. Safety Issues

Diana Parsons explained that since 2017 there have been three investigations on the intersection project and there has been no crash data. The Board would like to meet with Highway and Police, which Diana will schedule.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Updates from FRTA Meeting, 11/21/2024

Emily Thurber commented on the following FRTA updates:

- Looking to start a Sunday schedule
- The audit was completed and went well
- Working on a grant with FRCOG to expand the Access Program
- Have funding for improved signage and wayfinding
- Solar panel project with Mass DOT
- Received a Shared Streets and Stops grant for spring/summer 2025

- Received funds to install electric fleet vehicles, chargers and driver training
- Listed the different grants they've applied for and received

Discussion on getting services to Colrain, doing more outreach to the seniors about programs available and the different ride programs (Demand Response, Access Program, Med Ride).

Council On Aging (COA)

Diana Parsons commented that the COA by-law needs to be looked at regarding the number of members. She also commended the members on what they have been doing and thinks there needs to be training on the purpose and responsibilities of the COA and programs available. Emily Thurber commented that she would like to go to the next COA meeting to talk about the Demand Response program.

Contracts -

Ben Eastman explained that the MRF Board doesn't include insurance costs of retirees in their budget, but is looking to change that. Discussion on how the costs could affect the Town budget and assessments.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Address December 24th Meeting Date – Cancel?

The Board agreed to see how the first meeting in December goes and then possibly schedule a second meeting in the month.

Discussion on the Police Dept being on the next agenda and the use of Chris Lannon as a seasonal plow driver and balance between his full-time job, Police Chief duties and plowing. Further, Nate has a possible applicant for a seasonal plow driver.

Annual Select Board Licensing – December 10

No discussion.

Address Bylaws/Votes re ATM and Election Dates

No discussion.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

Letter from MTRSD re: Emergency Repair/Capital Item in FY26 Budget

Diana Parsons explained that the letter was a notice the District must provide when there is an unanticipated capital item.

Opioid Task Force Letter

No discussion.

Executive Session:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:19 pm.

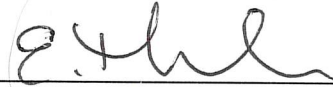
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 11/9/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Amendment #1 to Designated Community Contract between the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Contractor and a Designated Community

Letter of Support dated 11/26/2024 from Colrain Select Board to Aaron Michlewitz, Chair and Ann-Margaret Ferrante; Vice-Chair of House Committee on Ways and Means RE: House Bill H.823 — An Act Relative to Paint Recycling

Paint Stewardship Summary and Supporting Documentation

MA 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, pages 21 and 22

Colrain Transfer Station Policy “Notes” written by Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

Letter to Town Administrators and Select Boards from Bill Lataille, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, dated 11/6/2024 RE: Capital Expenditure Notification for Water Heater Replacement at Mohawk Trail Regional High School

Letter to Colrain Select Board from Opioid Task Force of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region dated 11/12/2024 RE: Opioid Task Force Efforts and Settlement Funds