

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
March 25, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Rick Martin, FCTS Superintendent; Sheryl Stanton, MTRSD & HSD Superintendent; Bill Lataille, MTRSD Business Administrator; Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Library Director; Cheli Mennella and Martin 'Dago' Lydgate-Driggs, Library Trustee Co-Chairs; Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Board of Health Chair; Doug MacLeay, Finance Committee; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 4:33pm, Chair Emily Thurber moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Ben Eastman seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

The Board will reconvene the Open Meeting after the Executive Session.

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of February 11, 2025 – not presented

Warrant AP2537 in the amount of \$145,824.08

Warrant PR2518 in the amount of \$29,853.11

Warrant AP2538 in the amount of \$9,672.81

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

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

Colrain Clean Up, Request from Jonathan Lagreze to use Transfer Station

Diana Parsons spoke with Jonathan Lagreze today and he would like to leave it open ended for trash collection, but last year the Board voted to have it only four weekends.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to have the Transfer Station open for the Colrain Clean Up as requested by Jonathan Lagreze for the four Saturday's in April including April 5, 12, 19, 26 of 2025.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on handling bulky waste.

MOVED: Ben Eastman amended the motion for the bulky waste to be reported to the town for pick up. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Consider Bylaw Changes

Finance Committee

Discussion on the term and appointment of members and the Board agreed to work on the language.

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging by law was never approved by the Attorney General's office when approved at the Town Meeting in 1978. Diana Parsons recommended revoting and removing the last line which references the statute and bring other language up to date.

Unregistered Vehicles

Diana Parsons hasn't proposed any changes, but it is worth looking at. Discussion on the use of fines and what happens if a resident doesn't comply. Discussion on definition of vehicle.

The Board would like to increase to 10 business days and Diana Parsons will put together a list of vehicles and what can happen if fines aren't paid. Emily would like to discuss the complaint process at a future meeting.

Old Business:

FY26 Budget Meetings

Education Budget Presentation – Franklin County Technical School

Rick Martin, FCTS Superintendent, provided a summary of the Colrain assessment in the FCTS budget and noted the large increases to staffing and health insurance. The school is working with MSBA on a design for the school facility and summarized the timeline working with MSBA. Discussion on non-member student enrollment, and potential lottery enrollment.

Education Budget Presentation – Mohawk Trail Regional School District including Colrain Central School

Sheryl Stanton, MTRSD Superintendent, explained that the district has had a strategic plan in place for three years and have extended it. Sheryl also outlined the three goals of the FY2026 budget.

Bill Lataille, Business Administrator, summarized where the funding comes from for the District and the total budget, impacts to the FY26 budget and reductions made to initial budget, outlined 5-Year enrollment, and total and per-town assessment comparisons.

Library Budget Presentation

Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Library Director, Cheli Mennella and Dago Lydgate-Driggs, Library Trustee Co-chairs, presented an overview of the library budget. Including a 2.5% increase to salaries across the board and an additional 2.5% for the Library Director based on performance and trajectory of the library. Discussion on the Crisis Management Support line item and the future capital needs for the spring and allocating free cash into stabilization.

Chelsea updated the Board on the feasibility study progress and the site visit that occurred last week with the engineering company and projected capital expenses in FY2027. Discussion on the energy assessment completed with the Energy Committee.

Board of Health (BOH) Budget Presentation

Nina Martin-Anzuoni explained the Mosquito District costs and tick testing program. She updated the Board that the BOH is working on housing issues and has a couple cases that need to go to housing court and discussion on need for legal counsel. Discussion on "board and secure" funding, abandoned properties and septic and commercial kitchen inspections. Barb Griffin is now on the CPH Board and they are still looking for another member for the BOH.

Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant, effective April 3, 2025; Review List of Articles

Diana Parsons explained the following list of potential articles for the ATM Warrant:

Local Meals Tax

The Town only adopted the hotel tax, not the meals tax. The Board would like to add adopting the local meals tax to the warrant.

FRCOG Charter Changes

No discussion

Town Meeting Date

No discussion

Official Posting Place Website

Changing the official posting place from the bulletin board to the website would mean the Town Clerk doesn't have to keep every agenda and makes posting easier.

Copier Lease

Currently a three-year lease and Diana would like to extend it to a five-year lease because it would cost less, however, needs to be voted on at Town Meeting

Town Clerk from Elected to Appointed

The Board may want to look into changing the Town Clerk position to an appointed position because it can be hard to find qualified people. The change would require a town meeting vote and a vote at ballot.

Administrator Updates:

Update Following Pole Hearing re West Leyden Road; Temporary Step-Up Transformer & Poles at 345 West Leyden Road

At the prior pole hearing it wasn't mentioned that a step-up transformer needs to be installed, which will be temporary. Diana and Nate Gilbert did a site visit, and they felt a new hearing wasn't warranted as it is across the road from River Valley Church and not near any residences.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Doug MacLeay – Finance Committee

Doug requested a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and Select Board to discuss the school budget and present an opinion on the sustainability study and what model to put forth.

Ben Eastman – Letter from Landowner

Ben Eastman received a letter from a landowner regarding road conditions and ice in driveway in handicap spaces.

FRTA Meeting Updates – Chair Thurber

FRTA was to meet with the COA but was postponed to next Monday. They discussed funding and if it could be taken away, outreach for using the services, received new buses from another Transit Authority.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

FY26 Budget Meetings Continued, 04/08/25

No discussion.

Review DRAFT ATM Warrant, 04/08/25

No discussion.

Updates re: Colrain Sewer District Treatment Options

No discussion.

Personnel Policy Changes re: O/T Calculation & Reimbursement for Call-In

No discussion.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 8:50pm

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

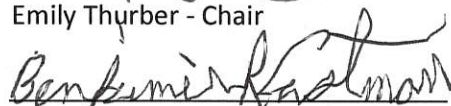


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

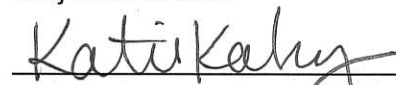
Accepted by the Select Board on _____



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Email from Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, to the Select Board members dated 3/22/2025 re: FY2026 budget and other meeting agenda items

Email between Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, and Jonathan Lagreze dated 3/20/2025 re: Spruce Up Colrain

Current Finance Committee, Council on Aging and Unregistered Vehicle By-laws

List of Potential Annual Town Meeting Articles

Mass.gov article re: Official notice posting locations for public bodies

Ask DLS article re: Elected to Appointed/Combining Roles

DLS Data Analytics and Resource Bureau Notice dated April 2023 re: Adopting Local Option Excise on the sale of restaurant meals GL Chapter 64L

Chapter 30B Procurement Manual Page 20 re: Contract Duration

MTRSD FY2026 Budget Presentation

MTRSD FY26 School Committee Proposed Budget Book

Admin Salary Comparison

Proposed FY2026 Library Budget

Proposed FY2026 Board of Health Budget