

Town of Colrain  
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting  
Colrain Town Office  
55 Main Road  
5:30 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD  
April 8, 2025**

**Present** Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

**Others Present:** Doug MacLeay, David Swiderski, Betty Ringwood, Thom Griffin, Deb Menard – Finance Committee; Kristin Richardson – Colrain Baseball Association; Matt Gilbert – M.G. Home & Lawn; Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

**Executive Session:**

**MOVED:** At 5:35pm, 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.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b> 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:**

Review/Approve Warrants & Minutes

Approve Minutes of 2/11/2025, 2/25/2025, 3/11/2025 and 3/18/2025

Warrant AP2539 in the amount of \$8,906.61

Warrant PR2519

Warrant AP2540

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve the warrants as written.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board for 2/11/2025, 2/25/2025, 3/11/2025 and 3/18/2025 as written.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Appointments and Resignations:**

Request from MA DAR for Annual Nomination of Animal Inspector; Address Annual Stipend & Expenses

Diana Parsons explained the process of nominating the Animal Inspector and the stipend.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to nominate Ken Shearer as the Animal Inspector to be appointed by the MA DAR.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Old Business:**

**FY26 Budget Meetings, Continued**

**Treasurer/Collector Budget Presentation – Operational expenses, debt service, tax title. Q&A and recommendations**

Paula Harrison summarized the following line items:

- Tax Title Custodian (money for demolition of buildings)
- Software costs
- Supplies
- Postage

Paula further explained the Tax Title Revolving Fund and what funds go into the fund and how the money is used and Excess Equity.

**Assessor Budget Presentation – Operational expenses, cyclical inspections, property cards update. Q&A and recommendations**

Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

**Town Administrative Offices & Town Office Pool Budget Presentation – Operational expenses, technology, and building maintenance. Q&A and recommendations**

Diana Parsons summarized the following line items:

- Board/Committee Clerical
- Administrative Assistant wages
- Constable
- Website Support
- IT/Support & Licensing
- Copier leases
- Postage
- Office Telephone
- Professional Development

Discussion on including the ballfield on Foundry Village Rd in the Grounds/Maintenance line item, which the Board agreed to include in the budget.

**Town Clerk Budget Presentation – Operational expenses, Election Costs, Other miscellaneous. Q&A and recommendations**

Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

**Set Next Meeting Date(s)**

A joint meeting with the Finance Committee was scheduled for 4/15/2025.

Discussion on the tractor purchased last year to plow the sidewalks and other possible implements for it.

**New Business:**

**Renew Unregistered Motor Vehicle Special Permit, 5 River Street**

Diana Parsons presented Jamie Hall's request to renew his special permit for unregistered vehicles. Discussion on the special permit process, by-law and other people on the unregistered vehicle complaint list.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to renew the unregistered motor vehicle special permit for 5 River Street for one year.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Vote Start Time for Annual Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 6, 2025; Discuss Other Accommodations**

Discussion on possible times, childcare, holding a pre-town meeting or other informational documentation for residents, and chair setup.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to start the annual town meeting at 6:00pm on Tuesday May 6, 2025. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Further discussion on providing childcare.

**Administrator Updates:**

**None**

**Public and Board Member Comments:**

**Ben Eastman – Building Costs of Colrain Central School**

Ben Eastman requested information on how much is spent on heat and other utilities at Colrain Central School. Discussion on potential future costs of the school building to the Town.

**Requests for Future Agenda Items:**

**Present DRAFT Annual Town Meeting Warrant, 04/15/2025**

No discussion.

**Sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant, 04/22/2025**

No discussion.

**Renew Lease with MTRSD for Colrain Central School, 05/20/2025**

No discussion.

**Personnel Policy Changes re: O/T Calculation & Reimbursement for Call-In, 05/20/2025**

No discussion.

**Updates re: Colrain Sewer District Treatment Options**

No discussion.

**Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:**

**None**

**Dissolve Meeting:**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 7:25pm.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

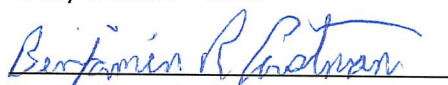


Marjorie Smith  
Administrative Assistant

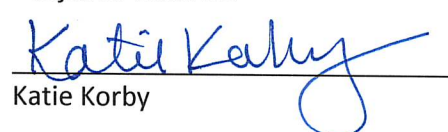
Accepted by the Select Board on 8/12/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

FY2026 Budget Materials

2026 Unregistered Motor Vehicle Special Permit – James Hall