

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
5:00 pm

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
April 15, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Alice Wozniak – Director of Assessing; Thom Griffin, Betty Ringwood, Doug MacLeay – Finance Committee; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 5:02pm, 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:

Warrant AP2541 in the amount of \$894,559.41

Warrant PR2520 in the amount of \$70,300.75

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the warrants as presented.
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

Declare Surplus Property for Disposal; Police Cruiser, Rolltop Desk (Letter Provided per 930 CMR 5.08:10 Retirement Gifts)

Diana Parsons explained that Shawn asked for a letter regarding gifting the rolltop desk to him and the cruiser is ready to declare as surplus.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to declare the out of service police cruiser as surplus property for disposal. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to declare the rolltop desk as surplus property for disposal and to be gifted to Shawn Kimberley the Building Inspector as a retirement gift and it should noted it has a decreased value.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business:

FY26 Budget Meeting

Assessors' Budget Presentation

Diana presented the proposed budget for the assessing department. The general expenses decreased, and all other expenses were proposed to be level funded. Discussion on historical figures for the mapping expenses, Muddy River and utility valuations.

Regarding the stipends for the Board members, Alice explained that the Board of Assessors do the majority of the property inspections particularly for building permits and data collection. Discussion on a possible stipend policy. Diana expressed that she doesn't agree with giving a COLA to stipend positions as they aren't wages.

Town Clerk Budget Presentation

Anna Lavarreda presented the proposed budget for the Town Clerk. Brief discussion on the article for records preservation and wages for poll workers.

Review Final Draft FY26 Omnibus Budget Recommended by TA

Diana reviewed the proposed detailed itemized budget for FY2026 with brief discussion on specific increases, decreases, items being level funded, revolving funds. Diana to follow up with the Police Chief regarding officer salaries and the highway department regarding uniforms. Diana also presented the full budget summary including the assessments, other warrant articles, and stabilization accounts.

Review Draft FY26 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Discuss Public Information Session and Town Meeting Details

Discussion on purchasing a new fire truck and the potential funding source(s). Diana outlined the amount in the fire department stabilization fund, the certified free cash amount and recommended putting a generous amount of free cash towards the fire truck, borrowing a portion and taking the remaining from highway stabilization.

Diana reviewed the draft Warrant, which articles will be included in the budget rather than separate articles, fire truck article, and other special articles being included. Discussion on the crisis management budget line item presented by the Library Board of Trustees and including as a separate warrant article. Diana will follow up with the Library regarding language for the article.

Set Next Meeting Date(s)

The finance committee will schedule a meeting upon receiving the finalized warrant and the Select Board meets at their regular time next week on 4/22/2025.

Administrator Updates:

Quarterly Department Head Meeting

Diana will meet with department heads on Thursday, 4/17, for the quarterly meeting and budget discussions.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Flags on Telephone Poles

Discussion on where flags are stored and the amount that may need to be replaced. Diana Parsons will touch base with the Highway Department regarding the flags.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant, 04/22/2025

Diana will do her best to have all figures finalized for next week, however, may use "sum of money" where the number isn't final.

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 8:51pm.

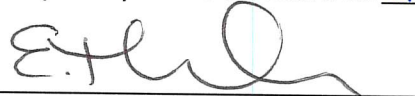
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

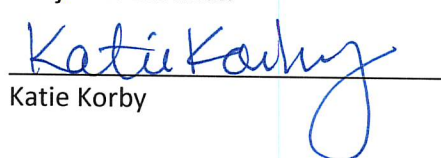
Accepted by the Select Board on 8/12/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Draft FY2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

FY2026 Budget Workbook

KP Law eUpdate: Important Changes to Open Meeting Law Regulations

DLS FAQ dated April 2023: Adopting Local Option Excise on the sale of restaurant meals; GL Chapter 64L

Spreadsheet re: Average Single Family Tax Bill