

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
April 22, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Paula Harrison; Chelsea Jordan-Makely; Kate Barrows; Jade Mortimer; Nick Anzuoni; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

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

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 4:31pm, 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.

Administrator Updates:

Fire Truck Financing

Diana Parsons updated the Board that after further conversations and hesitation from the Finance Committee, they are looking to take funds from fire stabilization, free cash and finance the rest, rather than taking from highway and general stabilization. Discussion on payment terms of financing, use of free cash, and OPEB and funding sources.

Discussion on how the truck will show on the warrant regarding the funding sources. Diana also explained the debt exclusion process. Paula explained the process of borrowing State House Notes.

Consent Items:

Warrant AP2542

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

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

Vote Director of Assessing Contract for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to table the vote on the Assessors contract until the next meeting.
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business:

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

Diana Parsons suggested that the warrant given at Town Meeting include each article, the motions, and a commentary note after each article, which the Board agreed would be great to include. Diana reviewed each article on the draft warrant. Discussion with Chelsea Jordan-Makely regarding the proposed crisis management article. Diana also explained that to change the posting place requires a Select Board vote and doesn't need to go to Town Meeting. Discussion on accepting MGCL Ch. 59, Sec. 21A and the Board decided to leave off the warrant. The Board agreed to place the article adopting the FRCOG charter changes at the beginning of the warrant.

The Board readdressed the funding sources for the fire truck using fire stabilization (\$200M), free cash (\$350M) and borrowing (\$300M) with Nick Anzuoni.

Review Final Draft FY26 Omnibus Budget

Discussion on the MLP Manager wage and the difference between a stipend and a wage. The Board briefly reviewed the highway budget and any current concerns from the Finance Committee regarding the budget.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the FY26 Town Meeting Warrant.
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

The Board scheduled a meeting for 4/29/2025 at 4:30pm.

Administrator Updates:

Administrative Assistant Position

Diana Parsons explained that she had intended to include a larger increase in Maggie's wages and now shows a total increase of 5%.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Jade Mortimer

Jade Mortimer contacted Tim Slowinski regarding posting the Sewer District's Annual Meeting.

She also spoke to Nick Anzuoni about the Fire Department doing a controlled burn near the pollinator garden to combat the Japanese knotweed.

Diana Parsons – Pollinator Garden Status

Diana spoke to the Pollinator Committee being an ad-hoc committee and the potential for making a permanent committee and the possibility of creating a garden at the Town Office.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Unregistered Vehicle Special Permit

Ben Eastman requested to be put on a future meeting agenda for a special permit for his property.

Renew Lease with MTRSD for Colrain Central School, 05/20/25

No discussion.

Personnel Policy Changes re: O/T Calculation & Reimbursement for Call-In, 05/20/25

No discussion.

Updates re: Colrain Sewer District Treatment Options

No discussion.

Police Department Staffing Update

The Board requested this be put on a future agenda.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:09pm.

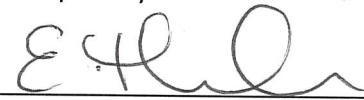
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

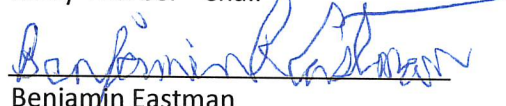


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

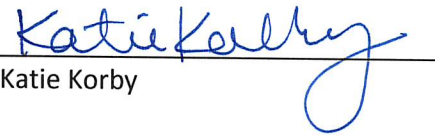
Accepted by the Select Board on 8/12/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Annual Town Meeting FY2026 Warrant

FY2026 Budget Materials