

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:00 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
September 9, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Chris Lannon – Police Chief; Alice Wozniak; Gail Sinistore; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Follow Up from 7/8/25 Meeting re: Police Department Staffing, Chief Chris Lannon

Chief Lannon updated the Board on the current staffing: Derek Worden has left the Town and is now working for Erving, Chris works 25-30 hours a week, Heather Sonn works when she can, and Tarrah Dempsey has been picking up more shifts. He further noted that he is no longer working at Yankee Rowe, which was a mutual agreement between the two parties. Chris suggested hiring one or two more part-time officers should the Board agree to go in that direction.

Diana Parsons urged the Board to think about if they want to do anything differently now in terms of full-time chief and/or full-time officer and what is best for the Town. She further noted that she didn't do an exit interview with Derek, but she felt he had a hard time working under the structure of full-time officer/part-time chief. Discussion on the police budget and wages. Diana explained the potential new growth in the assessments and recommended looking at all the staffing avenues including combining with Heath. Chris recommended a phased approach: phase one would focus on structuring Colrain, followed by a later phase in which a merger with Heath would be considered. Discussion on logistics around merging with another town.

Discussion on Chris's optimal staffing configuration of a full-time chief, full-time officer and part-time officers. Currently Colrain handles 850-1,000 calls/year, not including traffic stops.

Chris also recommended the Board look at adding by-laws for open containers and illegal parking. Discussion on towing vehicles, ticketing, and the procedures.

Discussion on Chris's schedule and keeping the hours at 35 per week and being on duty during the week. Diana will bring back the Police budget and different scenarios, and Chris will provide information on structure of other departments.

Police Cruiser

Chris updated the Board that the cruiser didn't meet the minimum bid of \$10,000. Heath may be interested in it.

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of 6/10/2025, 6/24/2025, 7/8/2025

Emily – need to correct a sentence on the 6/10 minutes.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board of 6/24/2025 and 7/8/2025 as written.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Warrant AP2610 in the amount of \$26,703.60

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve warrant AP2610, AP2611 and PR2604 as presented. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

Accept Resignation of Derek Worden, F/T Police Officer effective September 6, 2025

No discussion.

New Business:

Request from Colrain Fire Association Date and Location of Semi-Annual Boot Drive; Sunday, October 19 from 8 am to 5:30 pm, with a rain date of October 26, same time, to be held in front of Colrain Central School

Kevin Worden I stated the boot drive will run the same as all prior drives.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the Colrain Fire Association to do their semi-annual boot drive; Sunday, October 19 from 8 am to 5:30 pm, with a rain date of October 26, same time, to be held in front of Colrain Central School.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Approve and Sign FY26-FY28 Professional Services Agreement between the Town of Colrain and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for the Cooperative Public Health Service

Discussion on the term of the MOU being three years.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to sign the MOU between FRCOG and Colrain for the Cooperative Public Health Service.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Approve and Sign MOU with CMRK for Textile Recycling Bin at the Colrain Transfer Station

There were complaints that the Salvation Army hasn't been emptying the bin at the Transfer Station from both Colrain and other towns. Jan Ameen, FCSWMD, found another textile recycling group and created an MOU for all the towns. Diana explained the option to do an exclusive or non-exclusive MOU with CMRK.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the MOU between the Town of Colrain and CMRK for textile recycling as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Request for Declaration of Surplus, 2001 International Fire Truck; Discussion of Disposal Process, Chief Nicholas Anzuoni and Deputy Chief Kevin Worden I

Kevin Worden I explained that the new engine is to be delivered in October, and they'd like to post the old engine with the Fire Tech Girls out of Vermont, an organization owned by two sisters, that focuses on fire and ambulance apparatus. They earn a commission, paid for by the seller. The department used them for the '73 Tanker.

Discussion on the commission and some of the conditions listing with the company presented.

Diana suggested have the department put together the details of the truck and price. Discussion on the timeline and the logistics of selling on the site presented.

House Numbering By-Law

Kevin explained that house numbers on houses and mailboxes aren't displayed properly and inhibit safety response times. Discussion on the by-law language. Diana suggested looking at the by-law language first and then the outreach piece.

Vote on Request for Town Endorsement of Study and Support for Deerfield River and its tributaries to be Designated as a National Wild and Scenic River; Receive Responses re Questions - Tabled from 8/12 meeting, Chris Curtiss, Chair, Deerfield River Watershed Committee

Chris Curtiss wasn't able to attend the meeting and provided answers to the questions prior to the meeting, which Diana shared with the Board. Emily is skeptical of signing and mentioned that they can go forward with the designation without the Town's support. Maggie Smith commented on the presentation from the 8/12 meeting and how she perceived it to promote different swimming areas that Town's don't want people swimming at like Sunburn Beach and the Green River. Discussion followed. The Board would like Diana to reach out to the other Town Administrator's regarding if their Boards signed the letter. The Board decided to table discussion until the next meeting.

New Business (cont'd):

Open Special Town Meeting Warrant for Tuesday, November 4, 2025; Review List of Proposed Articles

Diana Parsons outlined the proposed list of by-laws needing updating – Unregistered Motor Vehicles, Non-Criminal Disposition, Council on Aging, Finance Committee and Zoning – and explained the need to reapprove three zoning by-laws at a Town Meeting. The Board agreed to remove the need to revise the Unregistered Vehicle by-law. Alice suggested doing a mailing with the tax bills regarding when changes are made.

Diana further outlined other potential articles.

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to open the Special Town Meeting warrant for Tuesday November 4, 2025. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Schedule Joint Meeting with Council on Aging re: Updated COA Bylaw for Special Town Meeting

Diana recommended scheduling a meeting with the COA regarding the by-law language. Discussion on when and how to go about meeting with the COA. Diana will communicate with Betty Johnson about holding a joint meeting with the Board at 2:00pm on 9/22/2025.

Schedule Joint Meeting with Board of Health/Health Agent to Address Proposed System for Colrain Sewer District; Announce Public Meeting on October 7, 2025, CCS at 6 pm

Diana summarized the upcoming meeting timeline regarding the sewer district and Wright Pierce's responsibilities and presentations. Diana will add to the next meeting's agenda.

Set Schedule for Select Board Monthly Office Hours for FY26

Discussion of potential schedules and informing the community. Diana will put together a notice for the website.

Old Business:

Vote to Adopt Social Equity Plan and Host Agreement Policy re: Marijuana Establishments

Diana briefly explained some of the changes made to the draft. Gail Sinistore questioned if the Town must approve the host community agreements Emily and Diana explained the reasonings why the Town is required to approve Host Agreements.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to adopt the Social Equity Plan and Host Agreement Policy regarding Marijuana Establishments as presented.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Review FY25 Performance Appraisal for Town Administrator; Adopt FY26 TA Goals & Objectives

Diana thanked the Board for submitting their appraisals and Katie compiled all the information and presented it to Diana.

Emily summarized the goals for FY2026. Diana requested an executive session at the next meeting.

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to accept the goals for this upcoming year as stated.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Review Colrain Wood Bank Update; Discuss Next Steps re Fence and Gate

Discussion on logistics for setting up the fence and gate.

Administrator Updates:

Kick-off Meeting re NRD Grant for Lower Reservoir Dam Removal with Town, Fire District, CRC, RCAP & Stantec

Diana attended the meeting. The grant funds are being used for the engineering of the dam removal and surveying behind the salt shed. Surveyors were there today behind the salt shed.

Extension for Green Communities Designation Grant until 9/30/26; Update on Projects

Designation as a Green Community was received in 2018 and an extension was filed and granted. The last project at the fire station – replacing the heat pumps – is underway. They are also submitting a preliminary pre-approval application for rebates for weatherization at the school to see what the cost would be.

Site Visits Conducted at Requests of Residents re: Stormwater Infrastructure

Diana and Nate visited two properties, one on Van Nuys and one on East Colrain, to address water runoff onto residents' properties. The visits went very well and Nate did a great job and offered solutions to the issues.

Alice Wozniak is working on consolidating the filing for all the permits and Board of Health. In conjunction, Diana is working on creating a digital file for these site visits.

August Update on Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Regional School District Sustainability Study

This will be on the next meeting agenda.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Katie Korby – Library Interviews

Attended the interviews and had three great finalists. Diana announced that Val Finkel was appointed as the new Library Director. Discussion on Val's certifications and degree qualifications, which Diana requested from the Trustees.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Meeting with 2D8T Study Committee re Colrain Central School Reuse, 9/23

No discussion.

Joint Meeting with Fin Com re: Special Town Meeting (as necessary)

No discussion.

Joint Meeting with Planning Board; Long Range Planning as discussed in FY25

No discussion.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

None

Executive Session:

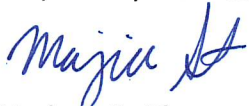
None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 7:16pm.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

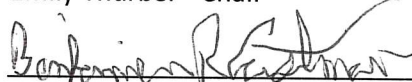


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

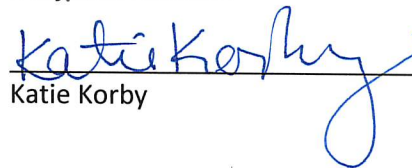
Accepted by the Select Board on 10/14/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Questions and Answers about National Par Service Section 7 Review

Letter of Support dated 8/12/2025 re: National Wild and Scenic River Designation for the Deerfield River

Letter of Resignation dated 8/24/2025 from Derek Worden to Christopher Lannon, Police Chief, and Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

Letter from Colrain Firefighters' Association Inc. re: Boot Drive Request on 10/19/2025

Professional Services Agreement between the Town of Colrain and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for the Cooperative Public Health Service

The Four Cooperative Public Health Services Programs and the Evaluation Measures for Each

MOU between CMRK Inc. and Town of Colrain re: Clothing & Textile Donation Bins

List of Possible Articles for Special Town Meeting, 11/4/2025

Draft Social Equity Plan and Host Community Agreement Policy

2Districts8Towns August Update on Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Regional School District Sustainability Study

Email dated 8/26/2025 from Judy Rust, BERK12 Consultant, re: 2Districts8Towns August Update