

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
October 14, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Janice Barnes, Rusty Barnes, Valeda Peters, Michelle Hillman, Elaine Stanley, Richard Herzig, Amy Herzig, Kathy Phelps – Council on Aging; Jim Martin, Kevin Worden II, Jade Mortimer, Doug MacLeay, Jane Johnson, Madison Schofield (Greenfield Recorder); Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Joint Meeting with Council on Aging Members re: Bylaw Language; Accept Disclosures Per MGL c268A, sec 19, Misc Updates., etc.

Diana presented the current by-law and the COA's proposed language they approved at their last meeting. Discussion on the total number of members and the advantages and disadvantages of having a range to the number. Janice explained the COA's reasoning behind having up to 15 members. Emily and Katie explained the Board's reasoning behind having no more than nine and why less members would be beneficial. Further discussion and comments from the audience on the membership makeup, frustration over the process and the Board's involvement, duties of the COA, and use of COA funds.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the language of the drafted by-law of the Council on Aging consisting of nine members as written.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved. Ben Eastman abstained.**

Disclosures

Emily explained the disclosure and how to fill out certain sections, which Janice will take back to the COA.

Further discussion regarding next steps after the Special Town Meeting.

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of 8/26/2025, 9/9/2025

Warrant PR 2606 in the amount of \$21,289.88

Warrant AP 2615 in the amount of \$14,760.76

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board of 9/9/2025 and 8/26/2025 as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the warrants PR2606 and AP2615 as presented.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

Reschedule Select Board November and December Meeting Dates to November 18, December 2 and December 16 Due to Holidays

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to move the November and December meeting dates to November 18, December 2 and December 16.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Accept Donation, per M.G.L. c 44, 53A 1/2, from Matt Slowinski; Chain Link Fence, Posts & Misc Hardware for the Purpose of Securing Area currently used as the Colrain Wood Bank.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to accept the donation, per M.G.L. c 44, 53A 1/2, from Matt Slowinski for the chain link fence, posts and miscellaneous hardware for the purpose of securing area currently used as the Colrain Wood Bank.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Notice of FEMA Flood Maps Update and 90-day Appeal Period; FRCOG Meeting Scheduled for Review (Thursday, November 13th at 6 pm in the downstairs meeting room at JWO Transit Center)

Diana briefly explained the notice.

Ratify Vote Taken 10/7 re: STM Warrant; Quick Reference Guide & Review Letters Sent to Fire Department Members & Chief pursuant to Chapter 415 of the Acts of 1987 and MGL c 32, s. 1

Diana explained that the Town needs to seek a special legislative act so the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief can continue in the active fire service. Last week, Diana only suggested the act for the Fire Chief and after conversations with the Chief he also recommended including the Deputy Chief.

Nick explained the effect on the specific personnel and the regulations. Diana presented the two draft warrant articles. Kevin Worden II expressed his frustration with the situation and that the department has lost their three key members who are in Town.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve article 3 and 4 of the special town meeting warrant as written. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Nick and Diana clarified that the Fire Inspector can continue as it is under a different exemption.

Old Business:

Review and Vote Special Town Meeting Warrant; Sign Warrant

Diana presented the draft warrant and summarized each of the articles.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the special town meeting warrant.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Administrator Updates:

Letter Sent to MassDOT re: Request for Snow Removal Support on Route 112; Follow up to Meeting with District 1 Director and staff; Received Support Letter from Legislators

No discussion.

MVP 2.0 and Community Liaison Update

The group will be posting a job advertisement for a community liaison, which will be a paid position.

Colrain Sewer District Public Meeting, Date to Be Determined

No discussion.

Update on Highway Superintendent and Equipment/Laborer Operator Hiring

Diana has received one application for Highway Superintendent and two new applications for the Equipment/Laborer Operator and two that were received prior. Nate and Diana have scheduled interviews with the laborer applicants.

The paving on Adamsville Road is scheduled for next week.

Finance Committee Meeting Scheduled for 10/16 at 6 pm re: Recommendations for STM Warrant

No discussion.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Update re: Colrain Wood Bank, Emily Thurber, Chair

Emily Thurber thanked Jade Mortimer for all her hard work and was sorry to see her no longer being involved. She further updated the other members regarding the distribution of wood, needing signage and a mission statement, the gate and future staffing/volunteers.

Discussion on the work-bee in Royalston on Sunday 10/19, organized by Kyle Nartowicz.

Jade Mortimer questioned why the Town assumed ownership of the wood bank and made decisions without informing the committee, particularly about installing a chain link fence. Emily explained that liability applies because the wood bank is on Town property. Diana stated that Shawn from DCR requested Town involvement, and when the group asked to use Town property, the Board voted that the site needed to be secured. She further added that the Board discussed the matter with other committee members.

Update re: SB October Office Hours, Katie Korby, Member

Katie summarized the discussions had during the open office hours with residents. Discussion on next office hours, which Ben will hold on 11/5 from 3-5pm at the Highway Garage.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Joint Meeting with Heath Select Board re: Shared Services for Police & Fire, Special Meeting Scheduled for 10/21 at 5 pm, 18 Jacobs Road, Heath MA

No discussion.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

Opioid Abatement Collaborative Progress Report

No discussion.

Welcome and Celebrate Colrain's new Library Director, Val Finkel, Friday October 24, 4-6 PM at Griswold Memorial Library

No discussion.

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 6:09pm, 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 – Interim Highway Superintendent, and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Town Administrator. 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 not reconvene the Open Meeting after the Executive Session.

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:39pm.

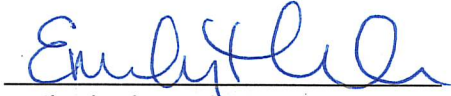
Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 11/18/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Letter to request Select Board Approval to Hold More than One Appointed Position and MGL c. 268A § 19 Disclosure for Betty Johnson, Michelle Hillman, Elaine Stanley, Susan Slowinski, Richard Herzig, Valeda Peters, Kathleen Phelps, Kathy Stienham, Janice Barnes, Russell Barnes

Donation Letter dated 9/16/2025 from Matt Slowinski re: Woodbank

Email from Jessica Atwood, FRCOG, dated 10/8/2025 re: FEMA Floodplain Maps

FEMA Presentation re: Community Coordination and Outreach Meeting Franklin County, Massachusetts Chicopee, Deerfield, Middle Connecticut, Millers, & Westfield Watersheds

FRCOG map comparing the current “estimated” floodplain area and FEMA’s Preliminary FIRM areas

Letter dated 10/8/2025 from FRCOG Planning Staff to Franklin County Municipal Officials re: FEMA Floodplain Maps

Department of Fire Services Commonwealth of MA Quick Reference Guide: Mandatory Retirement Afe for Firefighters in MA

Letter dated 10/9/2025 from Nicholas Anzuoni, Fire Chief, to Joanne Deady re: Notice of Separation from Active Service

Letter dated 10/9/2025 from Nicholas Anzuoni, Fire Chief, to George Randall re: Notice of Separation from Active Service

Letter dated 10/9/2025 from Nicholas Anzuoni, Fire Chief, to Kevin Worden Sr. re: Notice of Separation from Active Service

Letter dated 10/9/2025 from Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, to Nicholas Anzuoni re: Notice of Separation from Active Service

Letter to MassDOT Highway – District One Highway Director dated 9/30/2025 re: Route 112/Jacksonville Rd Winter Snow Removal

Letter to MassDOT Highway – District One Highway Director dated 10/7/2025 from Natalie M. Blais, State Representative First Franklin District re: Route 112/Jacksonville Rd Winter Snow Removal

Opioid Abatement Collaborative Progress Report from FRCOG CPHS