

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
October 28, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Nate Gilbert – Interim Highway Superintendent; Chris Lannon – Police Chief; Mike Slowinski; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:27pm.

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 4:27pm, Chair Emily Thurber moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2): To conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Interim Highway Superintendent. Katie Korby seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

The Board reconvened the Open Meeting after the Executive Session at 5:04pm.

Discussion re: Police Chief position; Request to Review Wages/Salary for Full-Time Position; Joint Meeting in Heath Follow up; Chief Chris Lannon

Diana Parsons updated the Board that Chris Lannon increased the police detail rates to \$70/hour effective 8/1/2025. Emily Thurber questioned if the Board needed to vote to change the rate. Chris explained that there was a vote at one point that if State Police updated their rate, then he had the ability to increase the Town's rate. Discussion on the details for the work on Adamsville Rd and the ability to take a detail when on shift.

Diana summarized what was discussed for next steps after the meeting with Heath. Discussion on Chris's request to move to 40 hours, snow plowing and ability to fill details. Chris also commented that should the Town move forward with Heath, his recommendation is that Colrain be the host town as they would already have the full-time chief.

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to raise the hourly rate for Chief of Police to \$38.46. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on exempt status and salary calculation.

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to base the \$38.46 an hour rate on the 40-hour work week, full-time position. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Chris presented a spreadsheet regarding the administrative tasks as requested by the Board. Chris offered his thoughts on the meeting with Heath.

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of 7/22/2025, 9/22/2025, 9/23/2025, and 10/7/2025
Warrant PR 2607 in the amount of \$48,455.80
Warrant AP 2617 in the amount of \$588,174.34
Warrant AP 2618 in the amount of \$13,078.83

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of 7/22/2025, 9/22/2025, 9/23/2025, and 10/7/2025 as written.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve PR2607, AP2617 and AP2618 as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

None

Old Business:**Council on Aging Conflict of Interest Disclosures per MGL 268A**

Emily reviewed the disclosure from Kathy Steinhem. Diana reported that no additional disclosures have been submitted and recommended waiting until all are received before approving them.

Review Motions with Finance Committee Recommendations for Special Town Meeting Warrant of November 4, 2025

Diana summarized the feedback received from KP Law regarding the motions and the recommendations made by the Finance Committee.

Review Letter re: Donation of Gate from Barnhardt Manufacturing Co.; Accept Donation of Personal Property per M.G.L. C 44, §53A½

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to accept the donation of the chain link fence from Barnhardt Manufacturing. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on the selling of the fire apparatus and Diana will follow up with the Fire Department.

Letter Received from MA DOT; Response to Request for Snow Removal Support of Route 112

Diana summarized that MassDOT will not be helping with Jacksonville Rd; however, the Town can contact MEMA during emergency situations and MassDOT will respond.

Administrator Updates:**Update on Laborer/Equipment Operator Hiring**

There were three applicants, which Nate Gilbert and Diana discussed bringing forth two finalists. She will put together offers and add to the next agenda.

Public and Board Member Comments:**Update re: Work Bee for Wood Bank; Received Specs for Wooden Sign**

Emily gave a brief update on the work bee held in Royalston. She and Tim Daniels volunteered delivering wood and brought a load back for the Wood Bank. Emily read the Wood Bank's Committee's proposed

mission statement to be placed on the wooden sign, as well as for an informational sign. Discussion on the volunteer sign-up sheet and communications.

Mike Slowinski – Article 5 on Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mike Slowinski asked if the Board has discussed including attorney fees to be paid by the owner of 15 Main Rd, which the Board had not. Mike recommended that the Board request that the owner pay the costs, so the Town doesn't pay the expenses as it was a mistake by the owner, not the Town. Diana will speak to the seller's attorney regarding the legal costs.

Mike Slowinski – Broadband Update

89% of occupied dwellings now hooked up with Broadband.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Tax Classification Hearing, November 18, 2025

No discussion.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

Opioid Abatement Collaborative Progress Report

No discussion.

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 5:58pm, Chair Emily Thurber moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2): To conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Town Administrator. KK seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
	Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
	Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

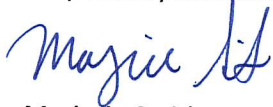
The Board will not reconvene the Open Meeting after the Executive Session.

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:13pm.

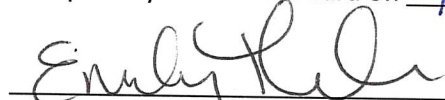
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

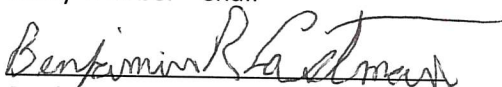


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

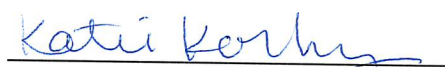
Accepted by the Select Board on 12/2/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Select Board Meeting Notes

Memo to the Select Board from Police Chief Lannon dated 9/21/2025 re: Department Staffing with six attachments: Chief and Officer Salary per Town, Current Colrain FY26 Wages, Proposed Staffing and Wages Scenarios, FRCOG Wage and Salary Survey for FY25

FY26 Police Wages & Salaries Budget Spreadsheet with Proposed Staffing

Planning Phases for the Police Department

Draft FY2026 Special Town Meeting Warrant

MGL c. 268A § 19 Disclosure for Kathy Stienhem

Memo from Barnhardt Manufacturing dated 10/27/2025 re: Gate Donation for Wood Bank

Letter from MassDOT to Diana Parson, Town Administrator, dated 10/22/2025 re: Snow Plowing Rte. 112 to the VT State Line

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