

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD  
November 4, 2025**

**Present** Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

**Others Present:** Nate Gilbert – Highway Superintendent; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

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

**Consent Items:**

Warrant AP2619 in the amount of \$8,130.65

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve 2619 as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Appointments and Resignations:**

None

**New Business:**

**Review FY26 Highway Department Budget; Laborer/Equipment Operator Hiring & Proposed Reorganization**

Diana Parsons presented a spreadsheet showing the current and proposed FY2026 Highway Department budget including the new candidates and potential for a foreman. With the two new hires, increasing Nate Gilbert's salary as the Highway Superintendent, the proposed total salaries are within the current budget figures.

**Old Business:**

**Appoint Nate Gilbert as the Highway Superintendent effective 10/28/2025**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to appoint Nate Gilbert as the Highway Superintendent effective 10/28/2025.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Diana stated for the record that Nate's starting salary for FY2026 will be a total of \$103,000/year, with overtime based on the salary of \$90,000 for snow removal and emergency operations and a total of 5-week vacation accrual rate. Diana expressed concerns from the Treasurer, Paula Harrison, regarding the 5-week vacation accrual rate because it goes against the Personnel Policy. Diana spoke with Town Counsel, who said that an increase in vacation allowance is within the law.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to amend the previous vote to add that the salary will be \$103,000 and overtime for snow removal and emergency situations based on the \$90,000 and bump him up to the 5-week accrual rate.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on paving Adamsville Rd and the police details.

**Review Motions for Special Town Meeting Warrant of November 4, 2025; Assign Motions to be Presented; Misc. Discussion**

Diana presented the warrant that will be passed out at the special town meeting to the residents and the worksheet created for each member of the Board to use at the meeting. The Board decided who would move each motion at the meeting.

Brief discussion on the Council on Aging and Diana's conversation with the Executive Office of Aging & Independence and the Massachusetts Councils on Aging. Discussion on the by-laws being presented at the Special Town Meeting.

**Administrator Updates:**

None

**Public and Board Member Comments:**

None

**Requests for Future Agenda Items:**

Tax Classification Hearing, November 18, 2025

No discussion.

**Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:**

None

**Executive Session:**

None

**Dissolve Meeting:**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:04pm.

Ben Eastman 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:**

FY2026 Highway Department Budget Worksheet

FY2026 Special Town Meeting Warrant with Motions

FY2026 Special Town Meeting Worksheet