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

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD November 18, 2025

Present

Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Alice Wozniak – Director of Assessing; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

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

Tax Classification Public Hearing:

Chair Emily Thurber opened the public hearing at 4:32pm.

Katie Korby seconded. Approved unanimously.

Emily Thurber read the recommendation letter from the Director of Assessing, Alice Wozniak, which advising a single tax rate.

Emily Thurber closed the public hearing at 4:34pm. Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to have a single tax rate. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of 10/14/2025 and 10/21/2025

Warrant PR 2608 in the amount of \$21,781.79

Warrant PR 2609 in the amount of \$21,779.41

Warrant AP 2620 in the amount of \$20,416.45

Warrant AP 2621 in the amount of \$424,049.55

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve PR2608, PR2609, AP2620 and AP2621 as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. Approved unanimously.

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to approve the minutes of 10/14/2025 and 10/21/2025.

Emily Thurber seconded. Approved unanimously.

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

Execute Easement for 15 Main Road as Voted at Special Town Meeting

Diana explained the easement documents needing the Board's signature. The Board signed the easement to be recorded.

Old Business:

Next Steps re: Council on Aging Appointments & Outreach; Conflict of Interest Disclosures per MGL 268A

Diana updated the Board that she has not received any further disclosures from the COA members. She also spoke with the MCOAA trainer, and they can offer training and assistance to the Select Board and COA members. Discussion on continuing communications with the COA, who will attend the next COA meeting, a possible spring senior outreach event for Colrain residents, and boosting the COA webpage. Diana emphasized that while she believes things are generally going well, the social engagement aspect is not fully meeting the needs of Colrain's senior community. She noted that it is the Board's responsibility to ensure more activities and opportunities are explored.

Administrator Updates:

Laborer/Equipment Operator Hiring

Diana updated the Board that there are two new hires: Logan Underwood and Caden Duisenberg. Both will complete an initial 3-month probationary period, with the possibility of an extension for an additional three months. Upon reaching the 6 months and obtaining their hoisters licenses, they will each receive a \$0.50 wage increase.

Announcement of CSD Rural Development Fund Grant (\$72K) and USDA Earmark (\$1 mil)

The Colrain Sewer District received a grant and earmark to go towards the project upon finalization.

MVP 2.0 Community Liaison Selection

Three applications for the Community Liaison position have been submitted to date.

Regional EMS Kick-Off Meeting

Diana attended the kickoff meeting at the Shelburne Falls Fire District and there will be a second meeting in January.

FEMA FIRM Mapping Meeting at FRCOG

Diana attended the meeting and updated that maps presented will become final in at least a year.

Letter re: Legislative Act Request

The letters requesting special legislation for Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni and Deputy Chief Kevin Worden I have been mailed out.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Update from Ben Eastman re Office Hours on 11/5

Ben Eastman shared that it was fairly quiet during his office hours. One resident questioned how to get something on the ballot because they feel the Town Administrator should live in Colrain.

Ben will be attending the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District meeting tomorrow which in part will discuss providing health insurance for the FCSWMD retirees.

Building Use and Website Use Policy

Discussion on how the library is used by different groups, what should be posted on the website calendar/website and creating a building use and website use policy. Diana will add to a future agenda.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

<u>Public Meeting for Colrain Sewer District Next Steps (postponed from October)</u> No discussion.

Schedule Office Hours for Chair Emily Thurber

Emily will hold office hours at the wood bank on 12/6/2025 from 12:00pm-2:00pm.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

Update re: Colrain Community Meeting on 11/17 at Griswold Memorial Library

Diana explained that Judith Roberts held a community meeting.

2D8T Update Meeting, Thursday, December 4, 6:30-7:45 at Colrain Central School

No discussion.

Franklin Regional Housing Authority Annual Report

No discussion.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Discussion regarding prior Board discussions on the timing of lighting the tree on the common.

Executive Session:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:52pm.

Ben Eastman seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith

Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 12 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:

Memo from Board of Assessors to the Select Board dated 11/17/2025 re: Tax Classification Hearing Sewer Easement Agreement for 15 Main Rd, Colrain

Letter to Representative Natalie Blais and Senator Paul Mark dated 11/13/2025 re: Request for Filing Home Rule Petitions – Town of Colrain Special Town Meeting Votes

2District8Towns October Update on the Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Regional School Districts Sustainability Study

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority Annual Report October 2024 – September 2025