

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage/Remote
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30PM
MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
January 13, 2026

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Mike Slowinski – MLP Manager; Jane Johnson; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

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

Review of FY27 Broadband Budget, Michael Slowinski, MLP Manager

Mike summarized his proposed budget, which kept the telephone subscribers the same and six new subscribers for internet. Many of the expenses remain unchanged. His salary is proposed to be a \$1,000 increase to \$8,000. Total expenses are proposed to increase a few thousand dollars with an increase of \$13,406 in retained earnings. Discussion on the increase in salary, number of hours Mike works each week and the Collector expense line item.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve the FY2027 broadband budget given that the collector number is correct.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of December 16, 2025

Warrant AP 2626 in the amount of \$129,941.71

Warrant PR 2612 in the amount of \$30,767.49

Warrant AP 2627 in the amount of \$15,326.80

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025 as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve Warrant AP2626, PR2612 and AP2627 as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Diana Parsons reminded the Board members to sign the warrants in between the meetings, and she is looking into DocuSign for next Fiscal Year.

Appointments and Resignations:

Request for Appointment of Val Finkel, Library Director, to Colrain Mass in Motion Committee

Diana Parsons explained that Chelsea Jordan-Makely was a member prior to her leaving and Val is interested in being on the committee. Ben requested that for any other appointment the person be at the meeting to stay consistent with other appointments.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to appoint Val Finkel, Library Director, to the Colrain Mass in Motion Committee.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business:

Request for Letter of Support for Division of Fish and Game Purchase of 277± Acres of Land in Colrain for Use as Passive Open Space and Recreation; Sign Letter of Support

Diana Parsons explained that Mass Audubon purchased the property and MA Division of Fish and Game is interested in purchasing the development rights, which would make the property tax exempt, and categorized as passive recreational for public use.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to sign a letter of support for the Division of Fish and Game purchase of 277± acres of land for use as passive open space and recreation.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Adopt Sustainability Purchasing Policy effective 1/13/26 to Replace Buy Recycled Policy

No discussion.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to adopt the Sustainability Purchasing Policy effective 1/13/26 to replace the Buy Recycled Policy.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Unregistered Motor Vehicle Enforcement Program for 2026; Sign Ben Eastman Permit Previously Issued

The Board of Health is interested in helping with outreach. Diana also reached out to Jan Ameen regarding a town-wide scrap metal promotion or incentive. Discussion on a letter to residents, Town wide fees and non-criminal disposition. Katie was interested in knowing if any companies do a pick-up program. Discussion on initial fee for a new unregistered vehicle permit. Diana will research a scrap metal vehicle program.

Old Business:

Revisit Offer Received from Town of Heath Select Board re Purchase of Police Cruiser; Update from Fire Chief re Use of Colrain Fire Rescue Vehicle

Discussion on the value of the police cruiser and use of the fire rescue vehicle. The Board requested speaking with Nick Anzuoni to discuss the Fire vehicle. Diana will reach out to the Heath Town Coordinator regarding shared services.

Ratify Fire Department Fees Voted 12/16/25; Set Administrative Fee at 10%

Diana Parsons explained that the fees voted on 12/16/2025 would stay the same and 10% of the fee would be retained by the Town for administrative purposes and the remainder would be paid to the inspector.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to ratify Fire Department Fees voted 12/16/25 and set the administrative fee at 10%.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Administrator Updates:

Update on Police Department Hiring

The advertisement is posted on HireMe Western Mass and there are still no candidates that have applied. Diana suggested that Chief Lannon reach out to Heath to see if any officers would like to work part-time in Colrain as well. He has also spoken with other Chief's in the surrounding area. Discussion on Chief Lannon's hours, daily responsibilities and workload.

Update on Fire Truck Acquisition and Disposition; New Truck in Process, Signed Contract for Commission for Auction Site

The truck acquisition is underway and should be received by early February. It is currently in New Hampshire getting final upgrades. Before the next meeting, Paula Harrison, Treasurer, will have bond documents for the Board to sign. The old truck is listed on the auction site for \$75,000 with a 10% commission.

Colrain Sewer District Internal Update Meeting

On track to have the public meeting on March 3rd. There are two designs which the engineers are comparing. There is a \$1M earmark from the State to help with the funding. Brief discussion on the two designs and the collection system.

MA DOT Grant Central Submitted for Grader and Designs of Charlemont Road Culvert (over Holden Brook) and Small Bridge (over Meadow Brook)

The grant has been submitted for \$250,000 for the new grader and two grants for the design of the culvert and bridge on Charlemont Rd. Discussion on the several bridges and culverts needing repairs and potential funding sources.

Public and Board Member Comments:

None

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Colrain Sewer District Public Meeting, March 3, 2026, 6 pm at Colrain Central School

No discussion.

FY27 Budget Kickoff; Review Process and Schedule; ATM scheduled for May 5, 2026

No discussion.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

Select Board Office Hours for January

Katie Korby will host office hours on 2/4/2026 at the Griswold Memorial Library from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Reports from FCSWMD Program and Executive Director from November

No discussion.

Transfer Station 3rd Party Inspection Report received from FCSWMD with no negative findings reported

Discussion on cans and bottles accumulating at the Transfer Station and non-resident use of the Transfer Station.

Executive Session:

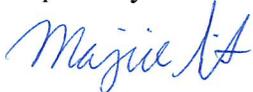
None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:07pm.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

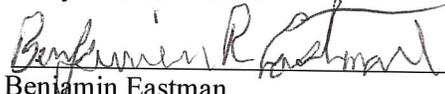


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

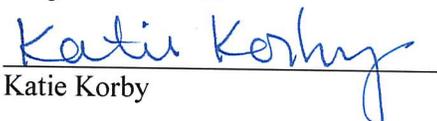
Accepted by the Select Board on 2/10/2026



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Draft 12/16/2025 Select Board Minutes

Letter from Comm of MA Dept. of Fish and Game to Emily Thurber, Select Board Chair, dated 12/22/2025 re: Letter of Support for DFG's purchase of 277 (+/-) acres of land

FY2027 3rd and 4th Quarter Real Estate Tax Bill for Parcel 4070-0014-00000 and 4070-0013-00010

Draft Letter of Support to Christy Edwards, Dept. of Fish and Game, re: DFG's purchase of 277 (+/-) acres of land

Draft Sustainable Purchasing Policy

Permit Allowing the Keeping of More than One Unregistered Vehicle for Ben Eastman

Emails between Hilma Sumner, Heath Town Coordinator, and Diana Parsons, Colrain Town Administrator, dated 12/9/2025 re: Retired Cruiser

Email from Nick Anzuoni, Fire Chief, to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, re: Retired Cruiser

Fire Department Fee Schedule

Unregistered Motor Vehicle By-Law

Draft 12/18/2025 Colrain Sewer District Team Meeting Notes

MA DEP Third-Party Inspection Report dated 12/31/2025

FCSWMD Executive Director's Report for November/December 2025

FCSWMD Program Director's Report dated 11/19/2025

Colrain Police Department December 2025 Update