

Town of Colrain  
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting  
Colrain Highway Garage  
9 Jacksonville Road  
4:30PM  
**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD**  
**January 27, 2026**

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

**Others Present:** Amanda Worden – Colrain Firefighters’ Association; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant;  
Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

**Consent Items:**

Warrant AP 2628 in the amount of \$469,836.79

Warrant PR 2612 in the amount of \$37,604.87

Warrant AP 2629 in the amount of \$83,464.55

Warrant AP 2630 in the amount of \$44,491.64

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve as AP2628, PR2612, AP2629 and AP2630 presented.  
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discussion on Transfer Station Attendant time sheet.

**Appointments and Resignations:**

None

**New Business:**

**Request for Semi-Annual Boot Drive for the Colrain Firefighters Association, February 22, 8 am – 5:30 pm, with a rain/snow date of March 1<sup>st</sup> (same place, same time)**

Discussion on the ending time of the boot drive.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve the boot drive for February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8-5:30 with a rain/snow date of March 1<sup>st</sup> same place, same time.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Letter from Division of Fish and Game, Notification of Land Purchase of 465± Acres in Colrain for Use for Passive Outdoor Recreational Opportunities**

Ben Eastman questioned the purchase and who will own the property, which Diana will investigate.

**Review and Discuss District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Projects to Request from FRCOG**

Diana Parsons explained the DLTA funds, the grants and projects she is currently working on and how they relate to the DLTA projects. Diana recommended the Emergency Services, Fire Service and Police options, which the Board agreed. Discussion on small business/entrepreneurship assistance resources topic.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to submit the request form to FRCOG for the 2026 DLTA and choose the top three projects to be Emergency Medical Services, West County EMS Regionalization, Fire Chief Succession Planning, Fire Service Sharing and Police Service Sharing.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Review FY27 Budget:**

Diana summarized a conversation she had with Finance Committee (FC) Chair, Doug MacLeay, and the role of the FC in the budget process. The FC will meet with the Fire Department, Police Department and Highway Department on February 5<sup>th</sup> and the Administrative offices (Assessors, Town Administrator, Collector/Treasurer, and Library) on 2/12, both at 6:00pm. They will also possibly meet with other boards/committees on 2/19. Discussion on the Council on Aging budget and the disclosures. Discussion on prior years budget process, the transfer station and associated costs and other assessments. The Board agreed to attend the finance committee meetings.

**Timeline and Checklist**

No discussion.

**Set Budget Guidelines and Policies**

No discussion.

**Updated Capital Plan**

No discussion.

**Address Additional Items Proposed for FY27**

Diana requested the Board look to fund a part-time position for an Assistant Treasurer/Collector for succession planning in the Treasurer/Collector position.

**Review Free Cash; Determine Reserves for FY27**

Diana had no recommendations at this time.

**Old Business:**

**None**

**Administrator Updates:**

**Meeting with MA DOT re: Small Bridge Project; Adamsville Road over Sanders Brook**

Diana updated that the bridge design is almost 25% complete, explained the remaining review process, reasons for the delays in the design process and next steps for funding the construction.

**Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Meeting re: Small Bridge Project; Adamsville Road over Vincent Brook**

The bridge design won't be at 25% completion until the summer.

**Status of Special Legislative Acts Voted at STM in November**

Senator Mark's office reported that both have been brought forward to the legislature.

**Public and Board Member Comments:**

**Upcoming Meetings**

Katie Korby – FRCOG meeting on Thursday 1/29

Ben Eastman – FCSWMD meeting on Wednesday 1/28

**Maggie Smith – Oldest Resident and Annual Reports**

Maggie updated the Board to say that she is working on the award for the oldest resident and is beginning to compile the Annual Town Report.

**Emily Thurber – Highway Department Thank You**

Emily thanked the Highway Department crew for all their work on the roads during this last storm.

**Requests for Future Agenda Items:**

**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**

No discussion.

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

There is an update meeting tomorrow at 1pm. Discussion on what will happen now that Natalie Blais has resigned and the non-public nature of the designs.

**Diana Meeting with Robbie Murphy**

Diana summarized the meeting she had with Robbie Murphy regarding the reorganization of the Historical Society and Historical Commission and revitalization of the historic district in the center of Town. Robbie is working on planning a meeting to get many different community groups in the town together to get ideas.

**Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:**

**Correspondence Received Complimenting Police and Highway**

No discussion.

**FCRHA Annual Report for 2025**

No discussion.

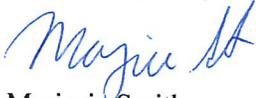
**Executive Session:**

**None**

**Dissolve Meeting:**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:52pm.  
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

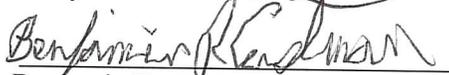


Marjorie Smith  
Administrative Assistant

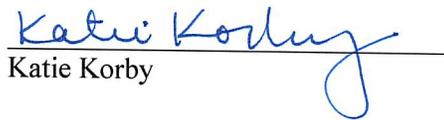
Accepted by the Select Board on 2/10/2026



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Letter dated 1/13/2026 from Colrain Firefighters' Association Inc. re: Boot Drive Request

Letter from Comm of MA Dept. of Fish and Game to Emily Thurber, Select Board Chair, dated 1/14/2026 re:  
Letter of Support for DFG's purchase of 465.21 (+/-) acres of land

Massachusetts Interactive Property Map

FY2026 Tax Bill for Parcel 404000140000; 4040001300000; 4040001200000; 4040001100000

2026 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Request Form

Ask DLS Article Published 5/2/2022: Role of the Finance Committee, Selectboard, and Officers in Drafting and Presenting the Annual Budget to Town Meeting

F&2027 Budget & Annual Town Meeting Checklist

Email dated 1/19/2026 to Chris Lannon, Police Chief, from Tamara Sloan, CSO Clinician, re: Compliment to Police and Highway Departments

FCRHRA 2025 Annual Report