

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
February 10, 2026**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Becky Budd – CRC; Andrew Evans, – RCAP; Tim Slowinski, Carl Herrett – Colrain Fire District; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

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

Review Request to Partner with Colrain Fire District for Lower Reservoir Dam Removal; Eco One Stop Grant Application; Review Town of Colrain Application for the Fire Station Bank Stabilization; Rebecca Budd, Restoration Program Manager, Connecticut River Conservancy, Andrew Evans, RCAP Solutions, and Colrain Fire District Members

Fire Station Bank Stabilization

Becky Budd updated that the initial survey for the bank stabilization project is complete, though additional data—particularly sediment testing—still needs to be collected when conditions allow. The team is progressing toward a conceptual design plan and expects to finish the design alternatives analysis by June. The next step will be applying to the Eco One Stop program to advance the project into the 60% design phase, which includes permitting. Becky briefly explained the grant process. Diana Parsons explained the funding sources for the project.

Lower Reservoir Dam

Andrew Evans explained the funding sources used thus far in the project and what needs to happen next with applying for grants. The design phase will be completed in a couple of weeks. Discussion on the effects of removing the dam and the reason for removal. Becky Budd explained the next phase of the Eco One Stop grant. Discussion on the grant writing, funding and reporting process and when construction could potentially begin.

Becky noted that letters of support are needed for both projects including what each partner will contribute to the project. Diana will start the grant applications and allow Becky and Andrew editing capabilities.

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of 1/13/26 and 1/27/26

Warrant AP2631 in the amount of \$36,799.88

Warrant AP2632 in the amount of \$859,943.87

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to approve minutes of 1/13/2026 and 1/27/2026.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve warrants AP2631 and AP2632 as presented.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

Accept Resignation from Historical Commission member Sarah Davenport

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to accept the resignation from Sarah Davenport from the Historical Commission.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business:

Address Recent Increases to Colrain Municipal Electricity Aggregation

Diana Parsons attended a meeting this week regarding the municipal electricity aggregation program. Diana explained the DASI (Day Ahead Ancillary Services), why an increased rate was requested, and that the member towns voted to approve the increased rate.

Review and Discuss Proposed Change to Town Health Insurance Policy effective July 1, 2026, and Change in Current and Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability if Implemented

Diana explained the Town's historical OPEB funding and her discovery that the Town doesn't cover a dependent upon the employees' retirement if they are younger than the employee. Diana requested the Board implement a policy that the Town pays 50% of both the employee and dependent health insurance upon retirement. The Board decided to discuss the topic with the Finance Committee at their meeting on 2/26/2026.

Review ADA WCAG IT Grant Application and Support Letter for Joint Application with 15 Franklin County Towns

Diana explained we are working on an ADA Self-Evaluation plan and effective 4/26/2027 the Town will be required to comply with the digital accessibility rule and WCAG 2.1 standards. FRCOG is offering a regional grant which Diana wrote a letter of support to participate in the program.

Clarification of Saturday Transfer Station Hours; Review Draft Website Change

Diana explained the closing process at the Transfer Station and summarized different situations that have occurred at closing time surrounding what time the station closes to the public. Diana offered a recommendation regarding the closing time.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to have the hours be 8-4 but stop allowing cars to enter at 3:45 so the attendants can close up in a reasonable amount of time effective 2/14/2026.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business:

Revisit Offer Received from Town of Heath Select Board re Purchase of Police Cruiser

Diana summarized the conversation with Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator, from Heath, regarding the police cruiser.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to accept the offer from the Town of Heath for the purchase of the extra police cruiser.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Administrator Updates:

Highway Employees

One employee was released during their probationary period. There was an improvement plan in place, however, it still didn't work out. Discussion on filling the vacant position. There is also another seasonal employee in the works.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Update re FRCOG Quarterly Council Meeting re Assessments, etc., Katie Korby

Budget meeting with Colrain assessment increasing about \$1,400 or 4% driven primarily by wages and benefits. FRCOG left the HCGIT and moved to the GIC.

Community Forum with Robbie Murphy

Diana explained the initiative Robbie Murphy is working on surrounding the future of Colrain.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee to Review FY27 Highway, Fire and Police Budgets with Department Heads

No discussion.

Joint Meeting with Colrain Sewer District and Board of Health on March 3, 6 pm at Colrain Central School; Review Draft Presentation/Proposal including PER/ER for USDA Submittal

No discussion.

MTRSD Public Hearing on 2/18/2026 at 6:00pm

Brief discussion on the proposed budget.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

None

Executive Session:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

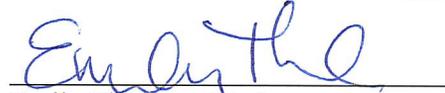
MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:17pm.
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

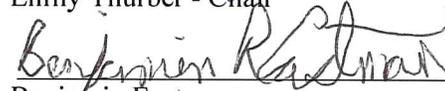


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 2/24/2026



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

ECO One Stop Grant Overview

Draft Select Board Minutes of 1/13/2026

Draft Select Board Minutes of 1/27/2026

Historical Commission Resignation Letter from Sarah Davenport

ISA-NE Day Ahead Ancillary Services Market (“DASI” or “DAAS”) Summary

Email from Parker Elmore, Odyssey Advisors, to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, dated 2/3/2026 re: OPEB Liability

Draft Letter of Support dated 2/4/2026 re: FY26 Community Compact IT Grant Program

Draft Verbiage for Transfer Station Webpage re: Proposed Revision of Closing Procedures