

Town of Colrain  
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting  
Colrain Highway Garage  
9 Jacksonville Road  
4:30PM  
**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD**  
**April 14, 2026**

**Present:** Emily Thurber (Chair); Ben Eastman; Katie Korby

**Others Present:** Elizabeth Erickson (Chair, Pollinator Ad Hoc Committee); Jonathan Lagreze; Jane Johnson; Marjorie Smith (Administrative Assistant); Diana Parsons (Town Administrator)

### **Call to Order**

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM. All three Select Board members were present. Chair Thurber noted the meeting was being recorded.

### **Stairs Behind Veterans Memorial, Wildflowers on Colrain Mountain, and Other Misc. Items/Requests**

Elizabeth Erickson, Chair of the Pollinator Ad Hoc Committee, presented two items for Board consideration.

**Stairs Behind Veterans Memorial:** Clearing invasive plants for the garden revealed deteriorating stairs leading to private property which cannot be safely restored. The Board considered a controlled burn of the brush on the stairs and possibly removing the stair structure. Ben Eastman advised Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni assess the burn feasibility and noted potential restrictions on burning debris, suggesting Highway Superintendent Nate Gilbert might need to remove the stairs before proceeding. The Town Administrator will coordinate with Nick and Nate by email.

**Wildflowers on Colrain Mountain:** Elizabeth proposed planting native wildflowers—seedlings from a community winter workshop—on Colrain Mountain's rocky hillside. Concerns included mowing schedules, visibility, and property boundaries. The Board considered potential sites like Foundry Village baseball field and areas beyond guardrail mowing limits. They asked the Pollinator Committee to use maps and parcel data to select specific locations, which would be reviewed with Nate Gilbert for road maintenance compatibility.

### **Consent Items**

**Warrant AP 2641 in the Amount of \$378,912.83**

**Warrant PR 2620 in the Amount of \$34,540.99**

Chair Emily Thurber moved to approve Warrant AP2641 in the amount of \$378,912.83 and Warrant PR2620 in the amount of \$34,540.99 as presented. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

### **Appointments and Resignations**

No discussion.

## **New Business**

### **Attestation Form for POST Recertification for Police Chief**

Chair Emily Thurber indicated this item should be tabled, as the attestation form was received only that afternoon. The Town Administrator noted the Police Chief had originally sent the form to her but that it is properly directed to the appointing authority—the Select Board. The item was deferred to the following week's agenda.

## **Old Business**

### **Town of Colrain Woodlands Partnership Grant Application**

Jonathan Lagreze, the Board's representative to the Woodlands Partnership, explained the Partnership's focus on economic development and education regarding the region's woodlands. He outlined initiatives like PILOT advocacy for improved state land reimbursement and efforts to promote the area as a National Heritage Region. Jonathan shared his idea for a nature trail behind the library and historical society, along with graveling the society's parking area. Questions arose about grant eligibility for the non-Town land parking area and public access approval from the historical society. The Board discussed using a trail easement agreement as a potential solution. The Town Administrator had contacted the Town of Heath for trail collaboration and planned to check with DCR about trail maps and conditions at Catamount State Forest. The Town Administrator noted the grant deadline is about a month away and will update on the outreach efforts at the next meeting.

### **Address Fire Truck Chassis; Sign Final FY27 ATM Warrant**

The Town Administrator walked the Board through several updates to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for FY27.

Changes were made to the articles in which the Assessor Stabilization Fund was specified for outside assessing work. The free cash transfer to General Stabilization was reduced from \$195,000 to \$185,000, incorporating provisions for fire truck wiring harnesses and hoses. These changes also addressed the fire truck chassis conversion, noting its operational benefits while acknowledging storage challenges. Additionally, a minor formula error was corrected, revealing a Town budget increase of approximately \$4,000, or 0.1%, compared to the previous year.

The Town Administrator also noted that the grader quote may have increased slightly and that grant award notifications may be delayed until June. Finalized motion language will be presented at the next meeting.

The Board also discussed outreach for the Town Meeting date.

Katie Korby moved to accept and sign the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for FY27. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

### **Review Expression of Interest for Colrain Central School Reuse Grant Application for Community One Stop Grant; Review Master Planning Draft Proposal for One Stop Grant Application**

The Town Administrator reported submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Colrain Central School via the Community One Stop for Growth Grant program. Feedback suggested the project aligns with the Municipal Surplus Property Disposition Program, offering up to \$75,000 in technical services instead of direct cash. The focus is on economic development—like housing, mixed-use, or community facilities—not municipal reuse. The grant process could reveal if any reuse is financially viable.

The Town Administrator also noted interest in submitting a separate application for a community visioning and comprehensive plan update, which she described as a needed update to the Town's

master planning documents. She indicated she would return with a formal support letter for Board approval prior to submission.

## **Administrator Updates**

### **Update re: Shared West County EMS Service Meeting on April 13**

The Town Administrator reported on the April 13 West County EMS meeting. Topics included proposed staffing and budget models for a shared EMS service across multiple towns with nonprofit, municipal, and district structures. Considered governance models are district, lead town, and hybrid.

## **Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)**

**Colrain Wood Bank:** Chair Emily Thurber reported on a Wood Bank potluck held approximately two weeks prior. Key discussion points included improving recordkeeping of wood distribution and volunteer hours, developing a task list for site maintenance particularly in light of a volunteer departure, exploring use of Buckland's wood processor, and considering construction of additional sheds given surplus wood supply. Jane Johnson noted a recent load of approximately three-quarters of a cord had been stacked.

The Town Administrator noted she would follow up with Highway Superintendent Nate Gilbert on the status of wood from Eversource line-clearing operations. The Board also discussed outreach to Buckland's Wood Bank to explore further collaboration.

**Street Sweeping:** Ben Eastman inquired about the timing of street sweeping. The Town Administrator noted that preliminary road blowing had been completed, which generated some complaints from residents about material being displaced onto lawns. Regular street sweeping typically occurs in May and is done by an outside contractor on main roads.

**State Road Signs on Route 112:** Chair Thurber noted several Route 112 markers and at least one road sign appeared to have been knocked down by winter snowplows. The Town Administrator indicated she would contact the state DOT liaison to report the damage.

**Roadside Trash Cleanup:** Jonathan Lagreze collected 11 bags of trash along one mile of Main Road, half recyclables and half trash. The Board considered disposal options, and suggested coordinating with DOT for future roadside trash pickups.

## **Requests for Future Agenda Items**

**Joint Meeting with Colrain Council on Aging, May 2026**

**Select Board Reorganization, May 12, 2026**

**Annual Reappointments, June 9, 2026**

**Appointment of Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee**

**New Host Community Agreement (HCA) for NE Craft Cultivators**

The Town Administrator noted NE Craft Cultivators is expanding and adding manufacturing. The Board's 2025 HCA policy with social equity criteria—mandated by the Cannabis Control Commission—applies, though it's less impactful with just one applicant. She suggested exploring partnerships or donations with NE Craft Cultivators, as mandatory impact fees are not required for non-retail, but the Board can accept gifts, aligning with initiatives like trail signage or pollinator projects.

## Response to Colrain Sewer District re: Proposed Collection System Options

The Town Administrator noted that the Colrain Sewer District (CSD) had made several funding requests in recent months and that no warrant article had been included in FY27. She indicated she had reviewed all prior CSD agreements and correspondence and had consulted with Town Counsel. She recommended scheduling a future Board meeting with Counsel and CSD representatives to discuss the Town's position comprehensively.

## Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

Community Meeting Scheduled by NE Craft Cultivators for May 19 at 6 pm at Highway Garage Meeting Room

## Updated Request from Colrain Sewer District re Funding for Repairs

### Dissolve Meeting

Chair Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:23pm. Ben Eastman seconded.  
**Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

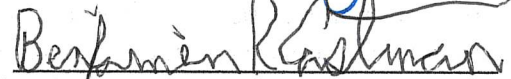


Marjorie Smith  
Administrative Assistant

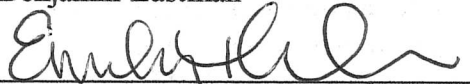
Accepted by the Select Board on 6/9/2026



Katie Korby - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Emily Thurber

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

Email dated 4/13/2026 from Chief Lannon re: POST Attestation

Email dated 3/25/2026 from Jonathan Lagreze re: Woodlands Partnership Grant

Woodlands Partnership Implementation Grant FY2027

Email dated 4/16/2026 from Chris Curtis, VP Deerfield River Watershed Association, re: Letter of Support for DRWA 2026 Woodland Partnership Grant

Draft Letter of Support for DRWA 2026 Woodland Partnership Grant

Draft FY2027 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Draft Expression of Interest: Colrain Central School Reuse Feasibility Study

Community One Stop for Growth Expression of Interest Feedback Report

Colrain Comprehensive Plan, Community Visioning and Comprehensive Plan Update Scope of Services dated 3/4/2026 from FRCOG

West County EMS Discussion 4/14/2026 Meeting Agenda

West County EMS Discussion 11/5/2025 Meeting Minutes and Corresponding Documents

Email from Colrain Sewer District dated 4/17/2026 re: Cost Estimate for Rehab of Collection System