

Town of Colrain  
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting  
Colrain Highway Garage  
9 Jacksonville Road  
4:30PM  
**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD**  
**April 28, 2026**

**Present:** Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby (Chair Emily Thurber was absent)

**Others Present:** Diana Parsons (Town Administrator); Marjorie Smith (Administrative Assistant); Chris Lannon (Chief of Police)

### **Call to Order**

Vice Chair Ben Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Two Select Board members were present. The meeting was recorded.

### **Executive Session**

At 4:30pm, Ben Eastman moved to enter Executive Session in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, §21(a)(1), to discuss the reputation and character, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or addressed the discipline of, or complaints or charges against a staff member or employee. Katie Korby seconded.

**Roll call:** Eastman - Aye; Korby - Aye. **Approved unanimously.**

The Board reconvened in open session immediately following.

The Executive Session adjourned at 5:00pm.

### **Consent Items**

#### **Approve Minutes of April 14, 2026**

#### **Warrant AP 2642 in the amount of \$14,245.72**

Benjamin Eastman moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2026. Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Benjamin Eastman moved to approve Warrant AP 2642. Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

### **Appointments and Resignations**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Invitation from Town of Shelburne PD re: Multi-Town Senior Services**

Chief Chris Lannon updated on the development of a multi-town senior services program in collaboration with the Shelburne Police Department and Tucker Jenkins, garnering support from the Shelburne and Buckland Select Boards, senior centers, the Mary Lyon Foundation, and local fire chiefs. Despite delays from additional components, the program aims for an August launch, and a joint informational meeting is set for July 11th, inviting all Board members and the Town Administrator.

## **Other Police Department Updates**

Chief Lannon prefers that meetings between the Police Department and COA remain structured without civilian ride-alongs and announced plans for a QR code reporting tool and electronic payment options at the Police Department. He reported the resignation of Community Service Officer Tamara Sloan, emphasized ongoing officer training for crisis response, and mentioned discussions on a regional clinician model. A Touch Truck event is planned for June at Colrain Central School, featuring various agencies, and updated license to carry requirements will require new applications after April 1, 2026, to include live fire, defensive tactics, and suicide prevention training.

Diana Parsons noted that the Board intends to reinstate department liaisons in the coming year to improve regular communication between Board members and department heads.

## **Acceptance of Library Grants Pursuant to MGL c 44, 53A; 2026 Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant, \$10,000 and ALA LTC: Accessible Rural and Small Communities Round 4 grant for Installation of ADA Accessible Power Arm and Door Canopy**

Diana reported that Library Director Val Finkel secured two grants totaling \$20,000 — \$10,000 each from the 2026 Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant and the ALA LTC Accessible Rural and Small Communities Round 4 Grant — to fund the installation of an ADA-accessible power arm and door canopy at the library's back entrance. Acceptance by the Select Board is required before funds can be expended.

Katie Korby moved to accept the 2026 Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant and the ALA LTC Accessible Rural and Small Communities Round 4 Grant, totaling \$20,000, pursuant to MGL c. 44, §53A. Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Diana also noted that the Friends of the Library made a gift of \$3,000 for library programming, which similarly requires Board acceptance.

Katie Korby moved to accept the \$3,000 gift from the Friends of the Library for library programming. Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

## **Old Business**

### **Review Motions for FY27 ATM Warrant; Other Misc. Items Relative to ATM**

Diana reviewed the draft town meeting packet prepared for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM), which includes the warrant articles, corresponding motions, explanations, and required vote thresholds. She noted that the motions substantially mirror the warrant articles with one notable exception: Article 14 regarding the purchase of a highway department grader is conditioned upon receipt of a DOT grant, with \$210,000 coming from Town funds and \$250,000 from the grant. The purchase would not proceed if the grant is not awarded.

Diana highlighted that the omnibus FY27 budget (Article 4) reflects an increase of approximately \$4,000 over the figure previously presented, following a detailed review with the Town Accountant that identified minor line item corrections. She noted that this equates to a budget increase of approximately one-tenth of one percent and expressed confidence that it would not generate significant discussion at Town Meeting.

Diana Parsons emphasized the need to directly communicate the fiscal limitations to Town Meeting voters, highlighting the potential for drastic service cuts without new revenue. Katie Korby underscored the importance of community feedback on the future of Colrain Central School, considering the financial impacts of different scenarios. The Board considered school building costs

and ongoing energy efficiency projects, noting that both the Finance Committee statement and a related chart would be available to voters.

### **Administrator Updates**

None

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

None

### **Requests for Future Agenda Items**

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

Diana will coordinate scheduling a separate joint meeting with the Council on Aging, targeting a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in mid-to-late May, prior to the COA's regular monthly meeting.

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

Diana clarified that the May 12, 2026 meeting falls on election day and that reorganization will be scheduled for the following meeting. It was noted that the typical rotation places the member in the final year of their term as Chair.

#### **Annual Reappointments, June 9, 2026**

No discussion.

#### **Appointment of Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee**

No discussion.

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

No discussion.

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

Diana reported that a recent update meeting occurred with the Sewer District, Barnhart, and the Department of Environmental Protection to finalize the implementation plan and clarify Barnhart's role in construction and operation. She suggested deferring the Board's response until the District's plans are more developed, while keeping the item on future agendas. The Board concurred.

### **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**

Diana announced NE Craft Cultivators' community meeting on May 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Highway Garage Meeting Room for their proposal presentation. The Board will address the Host Community Agreement in a future session. She recommended Board members attend for context, as observing would typically not necessitate posting a Select Board meeting, but offered to post if all members plan to attend.

**Dissolve Meeting**

Benjamin Eastman moved to dissolve the meeting. Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

The meeting was dissolved at 6:18 p.m.

**These draft minutes were created using ClerkMinutes, an AI-powered platform that transcribes meetings, identifies speakers, and generates professional minutes.**

Respectfully submitted,

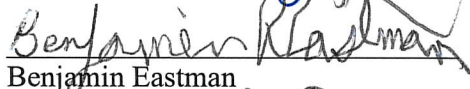


Marjorie Smith  
Administrative Assistant

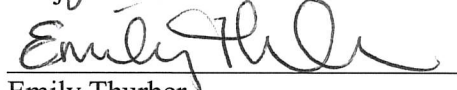
Accepted by the Select Board on 6/30/2026



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 4/23/2026 from Tucker Jenkins, Shelburne Police Department, re: Multi-Town Senior Services Meeting

Draft Select Board Meeting Minutes of 4/14/2026

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Round 4 Grant Acceptance Form

2026 Sustainable & Resilient New England Libraries Grant Acceptance Form

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Round 4 Grant Application

2026 Sustainable & Resilient New England Libraries Grant Original Submission

Annual Town Meeting Packet