

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30PM
MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
June 16, 2026

Present: Catherine Korby, Emily Thurber, Benjamin Eastman

Absent: None

Others Present: Nina Anzuoni (Emergency Management Director); Nick Anzuoni (Fire Chief); Chris Lannon (Police Chief); Jim Slowinski (Wiring Inspector); Janice Barnes, Betty Johnson, Kathy Phelps, Elaine Stanley, Susan Slowinski (Council on Aging); Nancy Turkle (Library Trustees); Joe Slowinski; Mike Slowinski; Diana Parsons (Town Administrator); Marjorie Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Call to Order

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. All three Select Board members were present and the meeting was noted as being recorded.

Consent Items

Approve Minutes – May 26, 2026

Approve Warrant AP2649 in the amount of \$46,177.91

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby moved to approve the minutes from May 26, 2026. Select Board Member Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby moved to approve Warrant AP2649 as presented. Select Board Vice-Chair Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations

Annual Reappointments Remaining – Electrical Inspector, Agricultural Committee, Board of Registrars

Town Administrator Diana Parsons reported that all three reappointments remain pending. Regarding the Electrical Inspector, Diana is awaiting a written legal opinion from Town Counsel regarding the inspector's employment classification under Massachusetts General Law. The three-pronged independent contractor test may no longer be met, which could require the position to be reclassified as a Town employee, with associated implications for workers' compensation, vehicle agreements, liability insurance, and compensation structure. Similarly, considerations for the MLP Manager's classification are under evaluation. The Board agreed to await the legal opinion before proceeding with reappointment, noting the appointment expires at the end of June.

For the Board of Registrars, Diana noted that outreach to the state party representatives is ongoing to confirm whether the previously reappointed member wishes to continue.

Request for Appointments to Hazardous Mitigation Planning Committee

Diana Parsons advised that the Hazardous Mitigation Plan contract has been signed and work is expected to commence shortly after the first of the year. An RFP for a consultant will be presented at the next meeting. The Board proceeded to appoint the required committee members.

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby moved to appoint Diana Parsons, Nina Anzuoni, Nick Anzuoni, Chris Lannon, Nate Gilbert, and Barbara Griffin to the Hazardous Mitigation Planning Committee. Select Board Vice-Chair Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Accept Resignations; Russell Barnes, COA; Nancy Turkle, Library Trustees

Written resignations from both Russell Barnes and Nancy Turkle were received and included in the packet. The Board accepted both resignations and thanked each individual for their service. The open Library Trustees seat was noted as posted, with the appointment to be addressed at a future meeting.

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby moved to accept Russell Barnes' resignation from the Council on Aging. Select Board Vice-Chair Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby moved to accept Nancy Turkle's resignation from the Library Trustees. Select Board Vice-Chair Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business

Requests for Appointment/Letters of Interest Received for Council on Aging; Discuss Next Steps for Appointments

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby provided context on the Council on Aging (COA) matter, noting that the COA bylaw was not legally constituted until a Special Town Meeting formalized it, and that the Board is now working to properly constitute the committee for the first time. She read the list of people who have submitted letters and those current members who have not submitted letters. Several current COA members present verbally expressed interest in reappointment.

Discussion was held regarding the process for obtaining letters of interest from current members. Town Administrator Diana Parsons clarified that because the Board is treating this as a new committee formation rather than a simple reappointment, letters of interest are being requested from all prospective members. The Board agreed to have Administrative Assistant Maggie Smith send a formal email to all current members who have not yet submitted letters.

Concerns were raised by members of the public and current COA members regarding perceived inconsistency in the appointment process and the treatment of long-serving volunteers. The Board acknowledged those concerns while affirming that the intent is solely to follow state guidance and best practices.

The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting in July, prior to July 1st if possible, to conduct the COA appointments once all letters of interest are received.

Demolition of Old Churchill School House, 101 Heath Road

Diana Parsons reported that a quote of approximately \$16,000 was received for the demolition of the partially collapsed structure at 101 Heath Road. Due to uncertainty surrounding hazardous materials — the building cannot be fully surveyed given its partial collapse — Diana indicated a preference to first conduct a hazardous materials survey and then rebid the project. The Board was advised the matter will be returned to a future agenda as it develops.

Old Business

Review Response from Town Counsel re: Colrain Sewer District Collection System; Address Request by Colrain Health Agent, Randy Crochier (FRCOG)

Diana Parsons summarized the letter from Town Counsel (KP Law) addressed to the Sewer District, which concluded that the Town of Colrain does not own or control the collection system. The opinion was based on the history of the 1997 Special Act creating the District, the District's receipt of grant funds, and its ongoing management of the system. Accordingly, Town Counsel advised that approval authority for Health Agent Randy Crochier's request rests with the Sewer District, not the Town. Diana confirmed she would send Randy a copy of the letter and raise the matter at the upcoming stakeholder meeting.

Select Board Member Emily Thurber moved to provide the Sewer District with the letter from Town Counsel regarding ownership of the collection system as presented. Select Board Chair Catherine Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Administrator Updates

Update re: Multi-Town Senior Services Meeting (Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, Ben Eastman, Select Board Vice-Chief, Police Chief Lannon, EMD Nina Anzuoni, attended on behalf of the Town)

The meeting focused on developing a database of senior residents who opt-in to receive outreach during emergency and climate events. Nina emphasized the value of such a localized database, referencing challenges faced during past emergencies such as Tropical Storm Irene. It was noted that a county-wide database was not considered a preferred option for Colrain residents. This initiative is connected to a Franklin County Sheriff's Office co-responder program being developed in coordination with Police Chief Lannon.

FY27 SCF Colrain MTTA Contract Signed for Hazardous Mitigation Plan Update; Consultant RFP Drafted

Diana Parsons confirmed the contract has been signed and an RFP for a consultant will be brought to the next meeting. Diana noted a preference to solicit proposals more broadly rather than defaulting to a FRCOG agreement, given Colrain's unique planning challenges.

Public Records Requests Received and Responses Provided

Diana advised the Board that approximately five public records requests were received in recent weeks. Four have been responded to and one is in progress. All records are being provided electronically at no charge. Diana acknowledged one additional request from a member of the public that had not been counted in the initial tally, and confirmed a response would be provided. Joe Slowinski followed up on his request, which was not included in the initial count, and Diana assured him that a response would be forthcoming.

Set July Meeting Schedule

Diana advised that both she and Maggie Smith will have scheduled time off during July, which conflicts with the regularly scheduled Select Board meetings. Diana proposed holding a special meeting on Tuesday, July 7th to address end-of-year matters that must be completed before July 15th and suspending other July meetings unless circumstances require otherwise.

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby moved that the Select Board meet on Tuesday, July 7th in lieu of the regular July meeting schedule. Select Board Member Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Public and Board Member Comments

Apology & Statement of Regret re: Select Board Meeting 6/9/26, Ben Eastman

Select Board Vice-Chair Benjamin Eastman read aloud a written letter of apology addressed to the Council on Aging for his conduct at the June 9, 2026 Select Board meeting. Benjamin acknowledged his actions were unprofessional and committed to better managing his conduct during meetings.

West County Regional EMS Service Planning, Katie Korby

Select Board Chair Catherine Korby reported on the ongoing West County Regional EMS planning group, noting that local EMS service is described as being in a critical state. A proposed 24/7, 365-day regional EMS coverage model is being explored, with an estimated 3-to-5 year implementation timeline. Discussions are ongoing regarding funding allocation methods among participating towns, including options based on population, call volume, or equalized valuation. Catherine indicated the planning group intends to bring a formal proposal to Select Board meetings in the near future.

Joe Slowinski

Joe Slowinski expressed concern regarding the Library Trustees' public comment policy — which limits public comment to two minutes with no back-and-forth discussion — was adopted in response to his individual dissenting viewpoints and constitutes viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment. Joe noted that requests to be placed on the Trustees' agenda for more substantive discussion had been refused. Town Administrator Diana Parsons clarified the distinction between elected and appointed bodies, noting that elected boards such as the Library Trustees have broader discretion over their meeting procedures so long as they comply with the law. Catherine acknowledged the concern and committed to ensuring equitable treatment in public comment across boards. Former Library Trustee Nancy Turkle, who was present, clarified that the public comment policy was created at the speaker's own suggestion, not in response to him.

Mike Slowinski

Mike Slowinski raised a separate concern regarding disclosure forms previously required of COA members, suggesting that the requirement was based on incorrect information and contributed to ongoing tension between the COA and the Select Board.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

Joint Meeting with Colrain Council on Aging, TBD

The Board discussed whether a formal joint meeting with the COA remains necessary given the extensive prior discussions at Select Board meetings. It was agreed that the COA would discuss the matter at their June 22nd meeting and communicate whether a joint meeting is needed. The Board agreed that COA appointments will be taken up at the July 7th special meeting once all letters of interest are received.

Joint Meeting with Library Trustees for Appointment of Member Per C. 41, s11, June 23, 2026

Diana confirmed the joint meeting with the Library Trustees is scheduled for June 23, 2026 at 4:00 PM, noting the Select Board's portion of the meeting is allotted approximately 30 minutes and is limited to the appointment agenda item.

End of Year Transfers Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 33B

Diana noted that the Finance Committee will meet on June 23rd to complete their portion, after which the Board can vote on end-of-year transfers at the July 7th meeting.

Town Administrator Review & FY27 Goals & Objectives

Diana indicated this review will be scheduled shortly after July, in keeping with normal practice.

Tucker Jenkins; MOU re: FCSO Co-Responder Initiative, August 2026

Diana confirmed that Detective Tucker Jenkins has requested a spot on the August meeting agenda to present the MOU related to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office co-responder initiative, which would replace the current co-responder program expiring July 1st.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items

No items discussed.

Executive Session

Town Administrator Diana Parsons confirmed that the Executive Session previously scheduled under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) is not required and will not be convened.

Dissolve Meeting

Select Board Member Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting. Select Board Vice-Chair Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

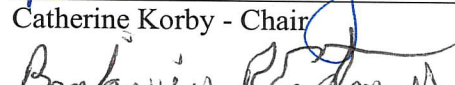
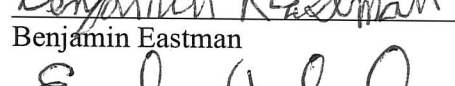
The meeting was dissolved at 6:08 PM.

These 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 8/16/2024


Catherine Korby - Chair

Benjamin Eastman

Emily Thurber

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

Draft Select Board Minutes of 5/26/2026

Select Board Appointments Spreadsheet – Agricultural Commission, Board of Registrars, Wiring Inspector, and Council on Aging

Email dated 6/16/2026 from Matt Shearer re: Agricultural Commission Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/15/2026 from Matt Shearer for Agricultural Commission Appointment

Council on Aging Appointment Recommendations dated 5/1/2026

Letter of Interest from Melinda Herzig re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/4/2026 from Michael Slowinski re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/9/2026 from Doni Beauregard re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/2/2026 from Joel McCloud re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/3/2026 from Glenda Wood re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/10/2026 from Jan Jones re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/9/2026 from John Yannis re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/15/2026 from Betty Johnson re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Interest dated 6/16/2026 from Gail Sinistore re: Council of Aging Appointment

Letter of Resignation dated 6/11/2026 from Russell Barnes from Council on Aging

Letter of Resignation dated 5/6/2026 from Nancy Turkle from Library Board of Trustees

Letter dated 6/15/2026 from Gregg Corbo, KP Law, to Pat Geary, Colrain Sewer District, re: Colrain Sewer District Collection System

Email dated 6/15/2026 to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, from State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), US Dept. of the Treasury re: Acknowledgement of Receipt of Closeout Report from US Dept. of the Treasury, SLFRF

Federal Financial Report