

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

MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
September 8, 2026

Present: Chair Catherine Korby, Select Board Member Benjamin Eastman, Select Board Member Emily Thurber

Absent: None

Others Present: Nick Anzuoni (Fire Chief); Jim Slowinski (Electrical Inspector); Chris Lannon (Police Chief); Michael Slowinski; Joe Slowinski; Justin Korby; Laurie Francis; John Yannis; David Greenberg; Diana Parsons (Town Administrator); Marjorie Smith (Executive Assistant)

Call to Order

Chair Catherine Korby called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM, noted that all three Select Board members were present, and stated that the meeting was being recorded. She also announced a temporary change to the meeting format so that public comments would be taken earlier in the agenda and generally limited to three minutes.

Update Re: Fire Alarm Panel At Colrain Central School, Fire Chief Anzuoni, Jim Slowinski, Electrical Inspector

Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni and Electrical Inspector Jim Slowinski updated the Board on the school fire alarm panel, noting two failed strobes during inspection and concern about future parts availability for the aging system. The Board did not take action, but indicated it wanted more technical information in writing, including whether failures were in the strobes or panel, whether replacement parts can still be sourced, and whether the Town should delay any major investment until there is more clarity on the school's long-term future.

Readdress Surplus Police Cruiser As Shared Fire Chief Vehicle (Tabled From 8/25), Fire Chief Anzuoni

Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni explained the operational need for a chief's response vehicle, including radios, emergency lighting, and storage for tools, medical and rescue gear, cones, saws, and seasonal equipment. The Board did not act on the request and instead asked for more information, including how often the existing squad vehicle is used, related maintenance history, and whether sharing a surplus cruiser with Heath would be more cost-effective than maintaining the current arrangement.

Readdress Implementation Of Informed Response Program (Tabled From 8/25); Appointment Of Police Administrative Assistant, Police Chief Lannon

Police Chief Chris Lannon reviewed the proposed informed response program materials and emphasized privacy protections and limitations on how submitted information would be used. The Board approved implementation of the program and related documentation, and Chief Lannon said he would provide updates as the program is rolled out.

Select Board Member Thurber moved to approve the implementation of the informed response program, including all related documentation. Chair Korby seconded. Approved unanimously.

Chief Chris Lannon then reported on interviews for the Police Administrative Assistant position, stating that four strong local candidates had been interviewed and that Lydia Barrett Miller was the recommended choice for the 10-hour-per-week nonexempt position at the previously established rate. The Board approved the appointment subject to a conditional offer, probationary period, and required background checks, with one dissenting vote expressing concern about the longer-term implications of adding the position.

Chair Korby moved to approve the hiring of Lydia Barrett Miller to the Police Administrative Assistant position. Select Board Member Thurber seconded. **Motion approved, 2-1.**

Public And Board Member Comments (Votes Will Not Be Taken)

Mike Slowinski - Lilacs at Veteran's Memorial Park and Fire Alarm Panel at CCS

Mike Slowinski requested that the lilac removal at Veterans Memorial Park be placed on a future agenda for discussion, questioned how the prior response had been developed, and asked that all involved parties participate in resolving the issue.

Mike also commented on the Colrain Central School fire alarm system, stating that only two of more than 200 components had failed annual testing, arguing that the issue pointed to the need for a different vendor rather than full system replacement, and expressing the view that replacement parts should still be obtainable.

Joe Slowinski – Public Comment Period and COA

Joe Slowinski objected to the Chair's temporary policy limiting back-and-forth during public comment and urged the Board to allow more public engagement. He sharply criticized the Board's handling of recent Council on Aging matters, stating that residents had repeatedly come to meetings seeking answers and had not received them. He argued that the process had been disrespectful to those attending meetings, questioned the basis for prior conflict-related concerns, and asserted that the Board's actions were contrary to the will expressed at Town Meeting.

Joe also referenced a letter from a newly appointed Council on Aging member, describing it as divisive and inappropriate, and defended longtime residents Richie and Amy Herzig, stating that he viewed the public criticism directed at them as unfair. He further contended that the Council on Aging's vote on the service incentive grant had occurred without complete information and that, in his view, rejecting the grant under those circumstances was understandable.

Joe requested that the Board place Council on Aging matters on a future agenda for a dedicated public discussion with sufficient time for questions and answers so that residents could better understand what had occurred. The Board took no votes during public comment. Chair Catherine Korby stated that discussion about placing matters on a future agenda could occur afterward, and later in the meeting Select Board members discussed balancing public participation with the need to keep meetings focused and timely.

Consent Items

Approve Meeting Minutes 8/19

Approve Warrant AP2709 FY27 In The Amount Of \$15,994.75

Approve Warrant PR2704 FY27 In The Amount Of \$25,690.00

Chair Korby moved to approve Warrant AP2709 FY27 in the amount of \$15,994.75 and Warrant PR2704 FY27 in the amount of \$25,690.00 as presented. Select Board Member Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments And Resignations

Request From Michael Slowinski To Readdress Appointment To COA (Tabled From 8/25)

Chair Korby stated that the Board would continue to table new Council On Aging appointments while awaiting responses from Town Counsel and the Executive Office of Aging & Independence regarding broader Council On Aging questions. No action was taken on Michael Slowinski's request.

Accept Resignation From Council On Aging From Susan Slowinski (Tabled From 8/25)

The Board accepted Susan Slowinski's resignation from the Council On Aging and expressed appreciation for her service.

Chair Korby moved to accept Susan Slowinski's resignation from the Council On Aging. Select Board Member Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Request To Appoint Robert Slowinski To The Hazardous Mitigation Planning Committee

Town Administrator Diana Parsons explained that Robert Slowinski had agreed by email to serve on the Hazardous Mitigation Planning Committee and that his role as Planning Board Chair made him a useful addition.

Chair Korby moved to appoint Robert Slowinski to the Hazardous Mitigation Planning Committee. Diana Parsons noted the project term would run through completion. Select Board Member Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business

Notice Of DCR Proposed Land Acquisition & Certification Of Announcement Re: Exhibit A; Review Open Space Map

Town Administrator Diana Parsons presented notice that the Department of Conservation and Recreation may acquire an interest in a parcel in Colrain for conservation and recreation purposes as part of the H.O. Cook State Forest. Clerk Emily Thurber read the certification of announcement into the record, and Diana also reviewed an open space map showing the extent of permanently and temporarily protected land in the Town and voiced concern about ongoing state land acquisition without adequate local support or maintenance.

Results Of Mass In Motion Age-Friendly Community Survey For Over 55 And Under 55

Town Administrator Diana Parsons reported that the Town received 160 completed surveys, including 139 from residents over age 55 and 20 from those under 55, which she described as a strong response rate. She highlighted concerns about older residents living alone, future transportation needs, and the continuing need for an accessible location for Council On Aging and related programming; the Board supported making the results publicly available.

Old Business

Update From MCOA Re: Service Incentive Grant & Next Steps

Town Administrator Diana Parsons reported that she and Chair Catherine Korby met with MassCOA leadership after the Council On Aging vote and were encouraged to explore whether the service incentive grant could still move forward through another mechanism. The Board did not act, but recommended waiting for responses from Town Counsel and the Executive Office of Aging & Independence before determining next steps.

Readdress Policy Re: Trailer Size Limits At Transfer Station

The Board revisited whether to set a specific trailer size limit rather than relying only on Department of Transportation standards. After noting staff concerns about traffic flow, maneuvering space, and efficiency at the transfer station, the Board set a 15-foot trailer limit and directed that the rule be added to the regulations and posted.

Chair Catherine Korby moved to limit trailer length to 15 feet for the transfer station. Select Board Member Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Town Administrator FY26 Review As Compiled

Chair Catherine Korby stated that not all Board members had completed or distributed their review materials in time for discussion. The Board agreed to table the Town Administrator FY26 review to the next meeting.

Review FY27 Goals & Objectives

Town Administrator Diana Parsons briefly summarized draft FY27 goals, including a multi-year financial plan, better grant and project tracking, continued Council On Aging work, major infrastructure planning, and staffing continuity in small departments. The Board did not finalize the goals and agreed to continue review at the next meeting, with interest also expressed in inviting the Town Clerk to discuss election administration support needs.

Administrator Updates

RFP Awarded For MVP 2.0 Seed Project Implementation

Town Administrator Diana Parsons reported that the Town awarded the MVP 2.0 seed project implementation contract to Dodson & Flinker following review of proposals. She said the firm's proposal was more competitive, more locally grounded, and directed a greater share of funds to project implementation rather than travel or consultant expense.

Request To Speak At Press Conference For Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office, Hazardous Mitigation Plan Award From MTTA, 9/10 In Adams MA

Town Administrator Diana Parsons informed the Board that she had been invited to speak on behalf of Franklin County communities at a press event in Adams regarding federal infrastructure and hazardous mitigation funding. The Board congratulated her on the invitation and supported her participation.

Requests For Future Agenda Items

Request From Buyers/Developers For Meeting Re: 270 Greenfield Road, 9/22/26

Town Administrator Diana Parsons confirmed that a meeting with the buyers and developers regarding 270 Greenfield Road would be scheduled for September 22.

MTRSD Request For Meeting Re: Update 2D8T, 9/22/26

Town Administrator Diana Parsons confirmed that Mohawk Trail Regional School District representatives would also attend the September 22 meeting to provide the 2D8T update. The Board indicated it also wanted to discuss the school budget outlook and timing implications of pending votes.

Joint Meeting W Finance Committee

Town Administrator Diana Parsons reported that a joint meeting with the Finance Committee would take place on September 22, with the Finance Committee convening early to reorganize following a resignation. Board members requested that EMS regionalization information and other FY28 budget planning topics also be included in that future discussion.

Invite Town Clerk, Emma Coburn, re: September Primary, Ballot Box Vote

The Board discussed inviting the Town Clerk to a future meeting to review election procedures and ballot box decisions ahead of upcoming elections.

Correspondence And Select Board Informational Items (Votes Will Not Be Taken)

Colrain 9/11 Memorial Flag Lighting Event Plan For Friday, September 11, 2026, 5:30 pm

The Board reviewed planning for the September 11 memorial flag lighting event, including expected attendance, parking, and logistics. Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni indicated that a plan was in place and that coordination had occurred with relevant personnel to prepare for a large turnout.

Colrain Aggregation – Basic Service & Third Party Supply Mailings

Discussion of the Town's electricity aggregation program, including a new mailing to residents on basic service and a note that the aggregation rate had again become favorable relative to Eversource.

Ben Eastman - Public Comment Period

The Board discussed the current public comment format and whether agenda language should better clarify that comments on agenda items are welcome during the public comment period. Board members expressed support for keeping meetings efficient while also ensuring that residents feel heard and involved in local government.

Consent Items (Continued)

Approve Meeting Minutes 8/19

The minutes were not approved with the initial consent items because Board members had not reviewed them at that point. The Board returned to this item later in the meeting and approved the August 19 minutes, with one abstention from a member who had not attended that meeting.

Select Board Member Thurber moved to approve the Select Board minutes of August 19, 2026.
Select Board Member Eastman seconded. **Motion approved, 2-0-1.**

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Korby moved to adjourn the meeting. Select Board Member Thurber seconded. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

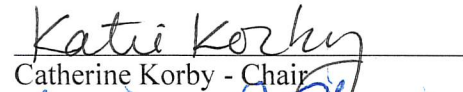
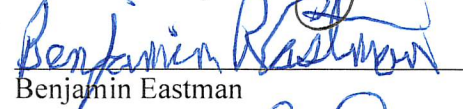
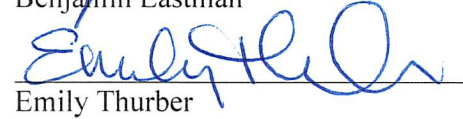
These minutes were created using ClerkMinutes, an AI-powered platform that transcribes meetings, identifies speakers, and generates professional minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Marjorie Smith
Executive Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 10/13/2024


Catherine Korby - Chair
Benjamin Eastman
Emily Thurber

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

Draft Intermunicipal Agreement Between the Town of Colrain and the Town of Heath for Shared Equipment and Vehicle Use

Letter to Residents from Chief Lannon re: Informed Response Program

Informed Response Form

Colrain Police Department Police No SO-1: Confidentiality Policy for Informed Response

Memo from Chief Lannon to Select Board dated 9/8/2026 re: Request for Approval to Hire Administrative Assistant

Draft Select Board Minutes for 8/19/2026

Email Correspondence between Diana Parsons and Bobby Slowinski dated 9/2/2026 re: Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Email with attachments from George Arthur, DCR, to Select Board dated 8/11/2026 re: Acquisition of Approx 50 acres of land

Department Head Performance Appraisal Self-Evaluation for Diana Parsons dated 9/2/2026

MA in Motion & Age Friendly Community Survey Results

Email Correspondence between Diana Parsons (Town Administrator), Jan Ameen (FCSWMD), Jim Scheffler (MA DEP), John Tynan (Colrain Transfer Station) from 1/2025, 4/2025, 5/2025, 6/2025, 9/2026

Colrain Aggregation – Basic Service & Third Party Supply Mailings