

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
May 14, 2024**

Present: Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Derek Worden, Police Officer; Chris Lannon, Police Chief; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Former Chair Benjamin Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Appointments:

Tom Scanlon – Scanlon Associates – FY 23 Independent Audit Results

Tom Scanlon was unable to attend. Discussion tabled to a future meeting.

New Business:

Selectboard Re-Organization

Discussion on which member to be chair, vice-chair, and clerk.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to have Emily Chair, Ben Eastman as Vice-Chair and Katie as Clerk. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Unanticipated:

Nancy Turkle – Library Trustee

At the last Select Board meeting it was voted to have Town Counsel come to the Annual Town Meeting and ask him specifically about the warrant article and if a town vote can overrule the Library Trustees authority. Nancy explained that the Trustees would like the answer in writing from Town Counsel. Kevin and Emily explained that Town Counsel is prepared to answer the question and when asked will say that the warrant article is directive and should the vote pass, it will not overrule the Library Trustees authority.

New Business:

Request for Permit to Allow more Than One Unregistered Vehicles on a Premise – 69 Adamsville Rd

Ben Eastman removed himself from the conversation as a Select Board member. Kevin Fox explained the request to allow more than one unregistered vehicle on a premise and that the property owner was requesting to have the permit be in someone else's name. He also recommended denying the permit as the permit can't be in anyone's name except the property owner. Ben Eastman questioned if the permit could be in his mother's name (property owner), but he be the first point of contact. Emily Thurber agreed that the permit would need to be in the property owners name. Ben will ask his mother to attend a meeting.

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to deny the permit for the unregistered vehicles at 69 Adamsville Rd. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved by majority. Ben Eastman recused.**

Selectboard ATM Warrant Article Recommendations

Article 1 – Report of Election of Officers

No action taken.

Article 2 – Reports of Town Officers

No action taken.

Article 3 – Compensation of Elected Officers

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve the compensation of elected officers of the Town for the FY2025 budget.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 4 – Town Operating Budget

Discussion on highway department wages, contracted services line items and making amendments at Town Meeting.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved for the town operating budget that we have no recommendation.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 5 – Establishment of Revolving Accounts

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to authorize the establishment of the revolving funds for certain town departments of a recommendation.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 6 – Authorize Select Board to Apply for, accept, expend any state and federal grants

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to authorize the select board to apply for accept and expend any state and federal grants that may become available as an approval.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 7 – Franklin County Technical School District Annual Operating Assessment

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to recommend the Franklin County Technical School District annual operating assessment sum.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 8 – Franklin County Technical School District Annual Capital Assessment

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to recommend the Franklin County Technical School District annual capital assessment.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 9 – Mohawk Trail Regional School District's Annual Operating Assessment

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to not recommend the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual operating assessment.

Emily Thurber seconded. **One In Favor, One Opposed, One Abstention.**

Article 10 – Mohawk Trail Regional School District's Annual Capital Assessment

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to recommend the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's annual capital assessment.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 11 – Capital Projects at Colrain Central School

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 11 the capital project at Colrain Central School.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 12 – Capital Projects at Mohawk Trail Regional School

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 12 capital project at Mohawk Trail Regional School.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 13 – Statutory Charges and Core Service Assessment of the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 13
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 14 – Cooperative Purchasing Program Service Assessment of the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 14.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 15 – Emergency Planning Service Assessment of the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 15.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 16 – Franklin County Regional Council of Government’s Cooperative Public Health Service

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 16.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 17 – Regional Animal Control Officer

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 17.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 18 – Franklin Regional Retirement System

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 18.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 19 – Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 19.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 20 – Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran’s Service District

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 20.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 21 Operating and Capital Costs of the Franklin County Regional Dog Control and Adoption Center

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 21.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Recommendations for the warrant articles continued after the 5:00pm appointment.

Appointments:

Derek Worden-Full-time Police Officer Candidate Interview

Derek Worden explained his reasons for wanting to work full-time for the Town; been here part-time since 2017, completed road training, crisis intervention, works with the court, the town needs a full-time officer, built relationships with the school staff, be a good fit for the Town, wants to be in a full-time position and currently does many day-to-day operational tasks.

When asked about interactions between full-time and part-time officers, he’s never seen or had any issues with that dynamic and doesn’t foresee any immediate issues or anything that can’t be resolved. He would also plan to stay on as a part-time officer in Gill for the immediate future.

Ben commented that he was on the initial screening and Derek gave him a good feeling, he knows his job and how to react in stressful situations.

Chief Lannon commented that Derek shows respect for the town, by traveling from Northfield. Shown interest in a lot of different training resources (school resource officer and crisis intervention), and has his own skill set to get the job done. There have been no formal complaints against him and is continuing with the Bridge Academy and will be full-time qualified by 6/30/2024. Regarding during the day communications, Derek will have more responsibility and currently follows the rules in cases when the Chief needs to be notified. Discussion on daily schedule and working in the school.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to hire Derek Worden as a full-time officer with proper negotiations. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business:

Selectboard ATM Warrant Article Recommendations - Continued

Article 22 – Operation and Maintenance of Colrain Broadband Network

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 22. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 23 – Police Administration Account

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 23. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 24 – Restoration and Preservation of Town Records

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 24. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 25 – Highway Department Snow Removal Equipment and Trailer

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to not recommend Article 25 the highway dept snow removal equipment. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 26 – Accrued Compensated Absences (Vacation) Due

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 26. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 27 – New Office Space at the Town Office

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 27. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 28 – New Police Cruiser – Transfer Funds from Free Cash

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 28 for the new cruiser. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 29 – Town Clerk Poll Place Scanner and Tabulator

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 29 the poll scanner. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 30 – Engaging a Consultant to Assist with the Development of an Employee Performance Evaluation Tool

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 30. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 31 – Purchase New Police Cruiser – Transfer Funds from Police Stabilization

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 31. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 32 – IT Related Items

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 32.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 33 – Transfer of Funds from Free Cash to Stabilization Funds

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 33 as the chart shows.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 34 – Authorize the Select Board to Accept and Expend “Chapter Monies”

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 34.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 35, 36, 37 Mohawk Trail Regional School District – Regional District Agreement Amendments

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 35, 36, and 37.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 38 – Accept the Provisions of G.L. c.44, Sec. 54(b) to Invest Trust Funds in Accordance with G.L. c.203 – Prudent Investment Rule

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 38.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 39 – Participate in Activities of the Mohawk Trail Partnership aka Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 39.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 40 – Deed in Liew of Foreclosure – Parcel ID 4030-0044-00000

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve Article 40.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 41 (Amend Protective Zoning Bylaw Short Term Rental of Residential Properties), Article 42 (Amend Protective Zoning Bylaw Floodplain Overlay District), and Article 43 (Amend Protective Zoning Bylaw Regulation of Solar Energy Systems)

The members of the Board made no recommendation on Articles 41, 42 and 43.

Article 44 – Citizen’s Petition – Plaster Busts at the Griswold Memorial Library

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to make no recommendation for Article 44.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 45 – Citizen’s Petition – Installation of a Stop Sign at Main Rd/Rte 112 South Intersection

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to have no opinion on Article 45.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Article 46 – Citizen’s Petition – Adoption of MA Community Preservation Act

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved that there is no opinion on Article 46.
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business:

None

Unanticipated:

None

Town Administrator Updates:

None

Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes – (5/2/2024, 5/3/2024, 5/7/2024)

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve the minutes of 5/2/2024, 5/3/2024 and 5/7/2024 as written. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 6:03 pm, Chair Emily Thurber moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Ben Eastman seconded.

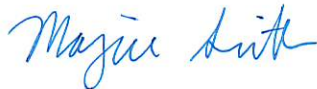
Roll Call Vote: Emily Thurber	<u> Aye </u>
Benjamin Eastman	<u> Aye </u>
Katie Korby	<u> Aye </u>

Approved unanimously.

Returned to open session at 6:46pm.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:46pm. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

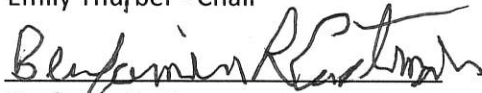


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

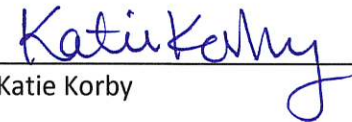
Accepted by the Select Board on 5/28/2024



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Select Board Meeting Notes