

Town of Colrain  
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting  
Colrain Highway Garage  
9 Jacksonville Road  
4:30PM  
**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD**  
**February 24, 2026**

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

**Others Present:** Pat Geary, Christa Snyder, Matt Lovett – Colrain Sewer District; Randy Crochier – FRCOG; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**Receive and Review Presentation re Colrain Sewer District Long Term Solution Study and Draft PER and ER for USDA Earmark; Formulate Questions/Answers for Public Information Session (Joint Meeting) on March 3, 2026, Patrick Geary, CSD Commissioner, Matt Lovett, CSD Commissioner, Randy Crochier, Colrain Health Agent**

Diana Parsons summarized the reasoning for the upcoming meeting on 3/3/2026.

Randy Crochier summarized the proposed plan for the sewer district septic design and doing a repair to the system versus new construction. Discussion on the collection system and possible repairs, who is responsible for the cost of the repairs and when the sewer district takes ownership of the collection system.

Discussion on the logistics of the meeting next week, Pat Geary's "asks" of the Town during the process, and Title V regulations. Matt Lovett outlined issues that have never been fixed since the collection system was installed. Pat explained the most significant issue (pipe on High St leading to the Barnhardt property not pitched correctly). Discussion on the proposed plan and the potential operator of the system.

**Request for Mailbox Replacement, Orrin Isles, Resident, 465 Jacksonville Road**

Orrin Isles presented pictures and explained the damage and repairs he's made to his mailbox. He expressed his dissatisfaction with how he was spoken to by the Highway Superintendent.

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to replace the mailbox for Orrin Isles, at 465 Jacksonville Road.

Discussion on the logistics behind replacing the mailbox and other complaints. Ben expressed concern with replacing the mailbox. Diana recommended the Board table the topic and speak with Nate about the issue. Discussion on other options to resolve the issue.

No second. **Motion failed.**

The Board tabled the topic and charged Diana with speaking with the Highway Superintendent about how to resolve the issue.

**Review FY27 Administrative Budget Materials; Review Request for Assistant Collector Treasurer Position and Discuss Proposed Shared Position; Update re: FY27 Health Insurance Costs, Paula Harrison, Collector Treasurer**

Diana Parsons and Paula Harrison explained Paula's future retirement, how the assistant position came about, the reasons for the position and summarized the job description. Discussion on funding the position, certification of the assistant, the bond rating, hours and shared nature of the Assistant Treasurer/Collector position, and the future of the administrative position. Ben suggested a way to present it to the public.

Paula summarized the two health insurance plan options that the IAC will be voting on and the Executive Committee recommendation.

**Request for Support Regarding ‘Medicare for All’ Resolution and at Annual Town Meeting, David Greenberg**

David Greenberg summarized the history of the ‘Medicare for All’ Resolution and his request for the Board to put it on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Emily recommended David pursue the citizen’s petition rather than the Board put it on the warrant. David briefly explained the resolution. The Board agreed to not support placing the resolution on the warrant, but rather David pursues the citizen’s petition.

**Consent Items:**

Approve Meeting Minutes of 2/10/26 and 2/12/26

Warrant AP 2633 in the amount of \$147,814.54

Warrant PR 2613 in the amount of \$37,604.87

Warrant PR 2614 in the amount of \$47,857.90

Warrant PR 2615 in the amount of \$34,848.24

Warrant PR 2616 in the amount of \$33,880.24

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve the meeting minutes of 2/10 and 2/12/2026.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to approve warrant AP2633, PR26313, PR2614, PR2615, and PR2616 as presented.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Appointments and Resignations:**

**Accept Resignation of Harold Wheeler from the Colrain Historical Commission**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to accept the resignation of Harold Wheeler from the Colrain Historical Commission.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**Request for Appointment to the Colrain Historical Commission, Robbie Murphy, 289 Jacksonville Road**

Emily Thurber read the email from Robbie Murphy regarding her reasons for requesting to be appointed.

**MOVED:** Ben Eastman moved to appoint Robbie Murphy to the Historical Commission for a term to expire 2027.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

**New Business:**

**None**

**Old Business:**

**None**

**Administrator Updates:**

**None**

**Public and Board Member Comments:**

**None**

**Requests for Future Agenda Items:**

**Joint Budget Meetings with Finance Committee, 2/26/26 and 3/12/26**

**Joint Meeting with Board of Health and Colrain Sewer District, 3/3/26, 6 pm at Colrain Central School**

**Representatives from Colonial Power Municipal Aggregation (3/10/26) to Address Questions re Rate Increases as of 3/1/26**

**Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:**

**Police Department Progress Report for January 2026 provided by Chief Lannon**

**Executive Session:**

**MOVED:** At 6:20pm Chair Emily Thurber moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline of, or complaints or charges against a staff member or employee. Ben Eastman seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:** Emily Thurber – Aye, Ben Eastman – Aye, Katie Korby – Aye. **Approved unanimously.**

The Board will not reconvene the Open Meeting after the Executive Session.

**Dissolve Meeting:**

**MOVED:** Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 7:04pm.  
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

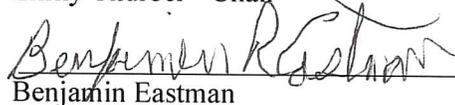


Marjorie Smith  
Administrative Assistant

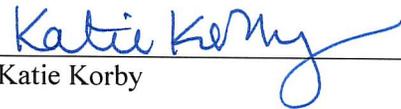
Accepted by the Select Board on 3/10/2026



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Draft Long Term Solution Study by Wright-Pierce dated 2/4/2026

Email from Pat Geary, Colrain Sewer District, to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, dated 2/13/2026 re: Requests of the Town for the Long Term Solution for the Sewer District

Six Pictures of Orrin Isles Mailbox located at 465 Jacksonville Rd

Memo from Paula Harrison re: Assistant Collector Treasurer Position

Collector of Taxes FRCOG W&S Survey FY2025

Treasurer FRCOG W&S Survey FY2025

MCTA Wage and Salary Survey for Assistant Treasurer/Collectors

Draft Assistant Collector Treasurer Job Description

FY2027 Plan Renewal: HCGIT Voting Options for IAC Members Handout

Health Insurance Premiums Just Keep Going Up, Worsening Affordability Crisis Globe Article dated 11/28/2025

Funding Universal Health Care in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Report dated January 2026

Letter of Interest for Appointment to the Historical Commission from Robbie Murphy dated 2/8/2026

January 2026 Police Department Update