

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
November 20, 2023**

Present: Benjamin Eastman, Chair; W. Thomas Griffin; Emily Thurber

Others Present: Steve Daby, Highway Superintendent; Paula Harrison, Treasurer/Collector; Chris Larabee, Greenfield Recorder; Michael Shuipis; Mike Slowinski; Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

Chair, Ben Eastman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Appointments: None

New Business: Review Applications for Highway Department Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer Position

Kevin Fox explained that the first applicant, application received in October, was offered to come in for an informal conversation regarding the position in January per the Board's direction. The second applicant, application received a week before the Special Town Meeting (STM), was offered the same opportunity. Steve Daby is concerned with both applicants the lack of longevity at other employers. He also informed the Board that the contractors are still available to help and Jonathan Graves and Chief Lannon will help if available. Discussion on how long it would take to onboard a new employee.

Discuss Possible Special Town Meeting

Thom Griffin and Emily Thurber stated that this is a safety issue and that the warrant should be rewritten, and another STM conducted. Discussion on feasibility of hiring a new employee and then holding another STM to reappropriate money back to Wages account.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to call a special town meeting to transfer \$50,000 from highway department wages to contracted snow plowing services.

Thom Griffin seconded.

Discussion:

The proposed date is December 7 at 7:00pm at the Colrain Central School. Discussion on the transmission for the 5500, which they are still waiting on parts. Emily requested the Finance Committee attend the STM and Michael Shuipis agreed. Michael further commented that having two applicants could result in the same outcome at the next STM. Further discussion on meeting with the two applicants and waiting until January to meet with them. Mike Slowinski commented that the two processes (hiring a contractor for immediate help and hiring a new employee) are not mutually exclusive and rushing to hire a new employee is not a good idea. Further discussion on potential of reappropriating money back to wages should a suitable candidate apply.

Approved unanimously.

Old Business: None

Unanticipated: None

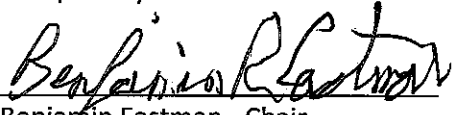
Town Administrator Updates: None

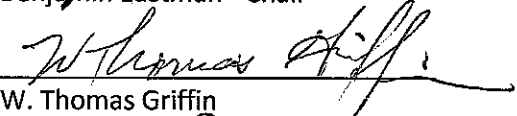
MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:17 pm.
Thom Griffin seconded. **Approved unanimously.**


Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board


Benjamin Eastman - Chair


W. Thomas Griffin


Emily Thurber

Documents:

Select Board Meeting Notes

Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant