

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

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
September 24, 2024**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Amanda Worden, President Colrain Firefighters Association; Kevin Worden II (remotely); Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

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

Consent Items:

Meeting Minutes of August 13 and 27, 2024

Warrant AP2512 in the amount of \$646,212.21

Warrant PR2505 in the amount of \$21,481.13

Warrant AP2513 in the amount of \$10,862.83

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to approve the minutes of August 13th and 27th and Warrants AP2512, PR2505 and AP2513 as written.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Public Hearing:

Nuisance Dog Hearing:

At 4:35pm, Chair Emily Thurber opened the Dog Hearing according to MGL Ch. 140 sec 157 regarding the complaint against two nuisance dogs, Biggie and Milo.

Ben Eastman recused himself from the hearing.

Emily Thurber swore in Sara Boisvert, Christa Snyder, Pat Geary, Officer Kyle Dragon, Officer Heather Sonn, and Mike Slowinski.

Kyle Dragon explained that he did not handle the case, the complainant dealt with Officer Sonn. He confirmed that both dogs are currently licensed and up to date on vaccinations.

Christa Snyder read the letter she sent to the Select Board, which included her statement of the incident and request for the dog hearing.

Sara Boisvert gave her statement regarding the incident and explained to the Board that she has come up with a plan to ensure her mother, Martha Richardson, is not alone with the dogs, which includes her or her partner being at the home with the dogs when in Martha's care, as she has some cognitive disabilities. Sara has also explained that some of the prior incidents with the dogs getting loose were due to a faulty latch on the fence. The fence company took a several months to get the latch fixed. Sara further explained that her sisters are also helping with Martha's care and can watch the dogs when Sara or her partner are not there.

Mike Slowinski stated that the dogs seem to get out only when Sara and her partner are not home, only her mother. He has led Milo home with no issues; however, Biggie could be problematic.

Officer Sonn stated that this was the first reported incident that the dogs have gotten out and that there is a good safety plan in place and hasn't been told that the dogs have gotten out since. Officer Dragon also stated that there are no other previous records about the two dogs.

Pat Geary questioned the latches. Sara answered that the company installed new outside fence latches and hardware to the gates on the deck.

Emily Thurber asked for Officer Dragon's opinion on the solutions. Officer Dragon agreed that corrective measures have been taken and no other occurrences of the dogs getting out has happened. He questioned what happens if Martha must be left alone with the dogs because she or her sisters are unable to be at the house. Sara answered that her mother is at a point where she can no longer be left alone, she is currently not working and taking care of her mother full-time.

Katie Korby is supportive of the plan.

Emily questioned the option of an invisible fence. Sara stated that she tried it with Milo and was unsuccessful and she hadn't tried it with Biggie.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to close the nuisance dog hearing at 4:46pm.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved. Ben Eastman Recused.**

Officer Dragon explained that before the Board can deliberate on any orders they need to declare the dogs a nuisance, dangerous or dismiss the complaint.

Sara presented documentation with the fence company and her veterinarian, which Emily and Katie reviewed. Discussion on the definitions of nuisance and dangerous.

Emily Thurber and Katie Korby deemed Biggie and Milo as nuisance dogs on condition that the dogs be contained when outside and with the conditions Sara put forth including not leaving the dogs alone with Martha. Diana Parsons stated that she will issue the order and send a copy to the complainant, owner and Animal Control.

New Business:

Colrain Firefighters Association

Amanda Worden explained that the Association is looking to do the Boot Drive on October 27 from 8:00am – 5:30pm with a rain date of November 3rd.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the boot drive on October 27th in front of the Colrain Central School with a rain date of November 3rd.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Diana explained that the CFA currently has a lease agreement with the Town agreeing that they purchase the equipment and the Town leases from the Association with a dedicated use by the Fire Department to have the equipment on the Town's insurance. Ben Eastman questioned whether the title to the ATV restricts road use. Discussion on registering the Polaris with a municipal plate and using the ATV on the road.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to sign the lease agreement between the Town and the Association for the lease of the 2018 Polaris Ranger ATV.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to sign the lease for the 2018 Polaris Ranger and Emily as the Town Representative sign the lease.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Emily Thurber and Amanda Worden signed the lease.

Appointments and Resignations:

Request for Appointment to Cultural Council, Helen Olson, Sarah Jarman

Diana Parsons explained that Nancy Turkle recommended the two appointments. She further explained that Sarah Jarman is not a Colrain resident, and the Cultural Council guidelines allow non-residents to be appointed.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to appoint Helen Olson and Sarah Jarman to the Cultural Council. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Request for Appointment to Board of Registrars, Joseph Slowinski

Discussion on the make-up of the Board of Registrars, regarding political affiliation of the members. The members of the Select Board decided to table the appointment until Joe Slowinski could attend a meeting.

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to have Joseph Slowinski appear at a meeting to represent himself to be on the Board of Registrars.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

New Business:

Request for Film Permit for Two Roads Film, LLC, Production Co. Agent, Krista Minto

Krista Minto introduced herself and explained the background of the film. They will be filming on Mark and Sarah McKusick's property and are requesting to film a driving scene on Jacksonville Road. Diana explained that she reached out to the Fire, Police and Highway Departments, and Chief Lannon recommended potentially stopping north and southbound traffic intermittently at scheduled 15-minute intervals, which would require police details, electronic signage, and determining an appropriate staging area for the film crew. Krista was amenable to the 15-minute intervals. Discussion on use of Fairbanks Rd and the next steps in the film permit process.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the permit contingent on working out the specific conditions of date and time and traffic control with Diana and Public Safety Officials.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business:

Update re: TA Proposal for COA Foot Clinic Location for October & November

Diana Parsons updated the Board that she decided to keep the location of the Foot Clinic at the Fire Station for the month of October. The COA agreed to not schedule appointments for November until there is a plan in place. Diana will explore conversations with the Heath Town Administrator regarding Heath's facilities. Discussion on the foot clinic and involving the Board of Health in terms of the current and possible future locations.

Update re: Colrain Community Wood Bank for 2024-2025 Heating Season

Diana Parsons communicated with Wood Bank group over the weekend and will finalize details with Laurie Francis tomorrow, 9/25/2024, regarding the grant application and the Wood Bank in general.

Administrator Updates:

Remote Meeting Room Set-Up & In Testing Phase

No discussion.

Onboarding Highway Department Employee & Promotion for Current Employee

The new employee, Joel, started on Monday 9/23. Diana passed along Lee's gratitude for the increase in salary and promotion to the Board.

Ben Eastman stated that Pantermehl is selling the plow truck they used last year and will not be plowing for the Town, however, Scott Denison has shown interest.

New Police Cruiser Ordered

No discussion.

Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study – Feedback Needed

Diana Parsons explained that the study group is looking for feedback and will forward the information to the Board. The draft study was released August 13th for public comment, which will end October 12th. They are looking for each municipality to sign a letter of support. Diana will add this to the next Board meeting agenda.

Public and Board Member Comments:

Jane Johnson

Jane questioned the name of the new employee on the Highway Department and if he lives in town. Diana answered that his name is Joel Paszko and does not live in Colrain.

Jade Mortimer

Jade introduced the Board to Jane Johnson and explained her volunteerism including being responsible for the whiskey barrels outside Town Hall and the Fire Station and commended her efforts for picking up roadside trash. Discussion on Pollinator Garden.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Joint Meeting with Heath Select Board to Receive 2D8T Update (District Consolidation), 10/22/24 at 4:30 pm

No discussion.

Transfer Station

Diana Parsons would like to invite John Tynan and Nate Gilbert to a future meeting regarding John's concerns about the Transfer Station, including traffic flow, cash handling, bag sticker purchasing, and people taking items from the Transfer Station. Discussion on the Community Compost Grant.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

Crafts of Colrain Open Studio Tour, November 9-10, 2024, 10 am-4 pm

No discussion.

Executive Session:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Ben Eastman moved to dissolve the meeting at 6:06pm.

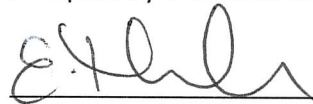
Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

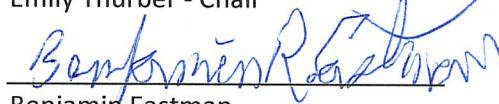


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant


Accepted by the Select Board on 11/12/2024



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

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

Letter from Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, to Sara Boisvert dated 9/16/2024 re: Nuisance Dog Hearing

Copy of MGL Ch. 140 Sect. 157: Nuisance or Dangerous Dogs; Orders for Remedial Action; Appeal; Violation of Order

Colrain Police Department Incident Report dated 8/13/2024 re: Animal Complaint

Animal Control Officer Animal Bite Report dated 8/13/2024 reported by Officer Heather Sonn re: Bite to Christa Snyder

Report of Bite by a Domestic Animal dated 8/13/2024 reported by Baystate Franklin Medical Center re: Bite to Christa Snyder

Text Conversations between Fliks Fencing and Sara Richardson dated 6/6/2024, 8/23/2024 and 12/21/2024

Letter of Reference from South Deerfield Veterinary Clinic dated 9/20/2024 re: Biggie and Milo

Letter from Colrain Firefighters' Association, Inc. to the Select Board dated 9/10/2024 re: Request for Boot Drive

Draft Lease Agreement between Town of Colrain and Colrain Firefighters' Association, Inc. re: 2018 Polaris Ranger

Email from Helen Olson to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, dated 8/14/2024 re: Appointment to Cultural Council

Email from Sarah Jarman to Diana Parsons, Town Administrator, dated 9/20/2024 re: Appointment to Cultural Council

Film Permit Application for Two Roads Film, LLC dated 9/16/2024