

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Sawyer Hall  
January 12, 2016

Called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese. Also present: Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator and for others see sign in sheet.

**Reviewed Agenda:** Add to Appointments: Ken Gilbert, Fire Chief 7:15 p.m., and Al Canali, WiredWest Rep. at 8:30 p.m.

**Ken Gilbert, Fire Chief:** Discussed E911 Letter and enforcing non-compliance. According to Heath's bylaw, the police dept. is responsible for enforcement. A full listing needs to be compiled. Several areas in town need to be remedied where E911 numbers differ from actual address numbers. Rt. 8A is another area where confusion occurs. Repair work on Fire Dept. ceiling tiles has begun. Roof rot was discovered when removing old tiling. Ken will get a price for repair. Photos were encouraged. Discussed SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) equipment. The current equipment is 14-24 years old and needs to be upgraded. Cost is roughly \$3,000 each for old upgrades or \$6,200 for new or \$96,000 for 15 units. If other towns use new equipment, the old packs may not be compatible. Discussed lease/purchase and budgeting. An application for grant funding is in process and may assist with financing. If Heath is not in compliance with MA Fire Codes, there may be liability risk. Ken suggested an appointment with a representative to review the SCBA equipment. Board members will review website and determine whether an appointment is needed.

**7:38 p.m. Ken Gilbert left meeting.**

**Heath Education Initiative Task Force Update:** Ken Roche, Budge Litchfield, and Deb Porter provided an update on the work of the Task Force. They have met twice. A power point presentation has been prepared and will be presented to School Committee on Wed., 1/13 at 7 p.m. Reviewed presentation. A suggestion will be made that Colrain set up a similar task force. Need to proceed quickly with the assistance of the District. A website may be developed to share information to all towns. It is critical to initiate conversation for ideas to flow in a creative, and pro-active manner. The amendment to the Regional Agreement that was approved last spring allows for the conversation/exploration of long and short term options. Primary focus is on education. Select Board members will attend the School Committee meeting.

**8:25 p.m. Budge Litchfield, Ken Roche, and Deb Porter left meeting.**

**Al Canali, WiredWest Rep.** Al explained information recently received from MBI regarding RFPs and status of matters related to broadband regional project. The cooperative model, which MBI opposed, helps facilitate collective ownership. Otherwise the risk is spread out to individual towns rather than the cooperative, WiredWest. MBI has not offered a solution yet. Discussed need to send a response to MBI asking that the RFP process be delayed because too many questions still remain unanswered. Need to address debt exclusion and MBIs requirement of this vote. Heath's borrowing authority according to MA DOR is adequate. Discussed track record of MBI and concerns about overruns. Two of the four CAIs in Heath were neglected and not connected. The Board will compose a letter with assistance from Don Freeman to be sent no later than Friday of this week. Wireless is not an option for Heath as it has been proven through studies that it does not work effectively in this geographic location.

**9:20 p.m. Jan Car left meeting and Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, and Al Canali left at 9:25 p.m.**

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 12/8/15 Select Board Meeting as amended.*

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 12/15/15 Select Board Meeting as submitted.*

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Sean Neill to serve on the Agricultural Commission.*

**Mail/ Email:**

1. Various emails regarding borrowing for Safety Complex project (11 pages). Kara will find out how to pay for legal opinion from bond counsel and proceed. How was the previous invoice to Janey Bishoff paid?
2. Email forwarded from Cal Carr re: Safety Complex. Kara will draft a letter for the committee to edit and send to Rep. Paul Mark.
3. Notice from FRCOG re: Mass in Motion. Kara will add again to mail next week for review.
4. Various emails, etc. re: Tanner Permit (7 pages). The Board would like to meet with treasurer to find out if payment plan in compliance with bylaw. Is bylaw in compliance with statute?
5. Email from National Grid – notice of public hearings
6. Proposal from Hampshire Power (see separate contracts if interested). *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to sign on to a fixed, 12 month price for town electricity through Hampshire Power.*
7. Various emails re: School Budget Proposal FY17 (5 pages)
8. Emails re: Emergency E911 numbering system (4 pages)
9. Email from Colonial Power
10. Various emails re: MBI/WiredWest (3 pages plus Draft RFP, Review by Jim Drawe, Response from Town of Charlemont, and Town of Washington, and email from Bob Viarengo
11. Email from Jan Ameen re: debris in bin. Kara will follow up.
12. Email from Sheila re: Task Force appointees
13. Email from Bill Gran. On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to accept Bill Gran's resignation from Energy Advisory Comm. with regrets. The Board would like volunteers to help with meet the requirements for Green Communities Initiative through the Dept. of Energy Resources. Grants are available for designees.
14. Email from Sheila re: REPC
15. REPC highlights from Tim Lively

**Other Separate Documents:**

16. Hampshire Power Contracts for review
17. Town Coordinator Report
18. Accountant's Cash Reconciliation Dec., 2015
19. Invite to K&P reception, 1/22/16

**DOCUMENTS TO REVIEW:**

- MBI RFP documents
- Colonial Power Documents for Municipal Aggregation. Need to ask about those customers who are ineligible because they are currently signed on with another supplier.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

- MBI/WiredWest RFP review and comments/Al Canali, 8:30 p.m.

**SIGNED:**

1. Transfer Station 3rd Party Inspection Report and Corrective Action Form

Next meeting scheduled for January 26, 2016 at 7 p.m.

***On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:26 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna  
Town Coordinator