

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
January 6, 2015

Called to order at 7:01 p.m by Sheila Litchfield, with Bill Lattrell, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

Reviewed Agenda: Added to Appointments: Ed Grinnell, Dog Matter, 7:15 p.m.

7:08 p.m. Ed Grinnell, Animal Control Officer, arrived.

Dog Matter: Ed Grinnell was updated on matter. The Select Board helped to prepare him for upcoming hearing. Ed reminded the Board that a fine of \$25/dog shall be assessed for licensing late. Previous fines have been waived in an effort to encourage compliance but this has not helped. Need an accurate and true listing of dogs owned or kept by owner. Looked at recent complaint that was submitted. Discussed the importance of having any complaints in writing. Ed will attend hearing with Officer Mattson on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

7:24 p.m. Al Canali arrived and Ed Grinnell left shortly after.

7:40 p.m. Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, and Jan Carr entered meeting.

WiredWest: Al Canali attended to give update on WiredWest bond issue. Don Freeman had attended a recent meeting that was set up for Finance Committees. He left the meeting feeling more informed and had a better outlook on the project. Discussed bond issue and whether any other towns faced a similar situation. Al will research similar scenarios and find out success rate. Discussed payment of interest on bond. Discussed how valuations have decreased 6.5% and lack of internet access may be a key reason. Verizon is no longer offering DSL to new customers. Reviewed an informational sheet/presentation that Al prepared for the public and he will submit a piece to the Herald. WiredWest has a direct mail option planned. Al feels campaign should begin now. He would like to have the opportunity to share information at the upcoming Special Town Meeting, and smaller group meetings in people's homes – goal is to contact all households in town. Facilitators will be needed and the focus will be on people with varying levels of service. Projected assessment is currently based on all Towns supporting the project. If only a portion of WiredWest communities pass this at Town Meeting, assessments will be adjusted and will increase. Sheila reminded everyone that April 28 is the last day to finalize the warrant so an article must be submitted by that date. Al feels positive about community supporting this project. The Board thanked Al for his work.

8:54 p.m. Al Canali left meeting.

Finance Committee:

- Select Board reported that Gov. Deval Patrick approved a CIC award for the Town of Heath in the amount of up to \$2 million matching grant for the Safety Complex Building project. Discussed and formulated questions for Tim Dodd at the Executive Office of Administration and Finance. Kara will follow up in the morning.
- Tax Rate: Don researched tax rate calculation and recap. He found that the figure used for local receipts has been the same for the last several years. When he inserted actual number, he came up with a different projection. He requests a consultative process should take place when completing these forms and developing the local receipts figure prior to submission to the DOR. The drop in

valuation affected the tax rate this year. Bill reminded everyone that the actual tax bill is the critical figure, not the rate.

- Discussed free cash. Finance Committee will look at departmental budgets to determine areas of under spending.
- Don will meet with Mike Smith to discuss vehicle replacement schedule.

9:26 p.m. Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, and Jan Carr left meeting.

Mail/ Email:

1. Email and copy of contract and Attachment A from Tim Dodd, Executive Office for Administration and Finance regarding Municipal Complex Building Project
2. Email from Sheila regarding Heath Herald article
3. EUpdate from Kopelman & Paige – minimum wage increase
4. Email response from Cathy Buntin regarding Shelburne Buckland Senior Center
5. Email response from Megan Devine regarding order for printed copy of Selectmen Handbook
6. Email from Town Accountant regarding Machinery/Maintenance Highway account
7. Email response from Zack Blake, DOR regarding assistant assessor recommendation
8. Heath Nurse monthly report
9. Email from George Durante regarding Executed Contract for Massworks grant & copy of signed contract
10. Letter from Atty. General's office regarding settlement with Verizon and reimbursement to Heath (\$6)
11. Announcement for Conflict of Interest trainings (webinar). Due every two years for all employees/board/committee members

Other Separate Documents:

12. Town Coordinator Report
13. Latest FY16 Budget Spreadsheet
14. Dog Complaint and letter from Town Clerk regarding Dog Matter

SIGNED:

1. Weekly Warrants
2. Acceptance and Release – Additional Business Listings from AG's office (VERIZON)
3. Elevator Estimate (installation of Two Escutcheon Tubes)
4. Letter to Camille Freeman
5. Letter to Boards of Charlemont, Hawley, and Rowe re: Charlemont Ambulance

Other Business:

DOR Follow-up & TAP Workplan Status: Sheila and Margo Newton met and worked on draft of job description that will be reviewed by full Board of Assessors for input. Still waiting for the Assessors to offer feedback on job description.

All Boards Meeting: A meeting will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7 p.m. in Community Hall.

Municipal Complex Building Committee: Brian reported that the Committee had a positive meeting with Senator Benjamin Downing on Friday, Dec. 19, 2014 at Sawyer Hall. The Town has received a grant in the amount of \$2 million from Patrick Administration. The Town must match 50% of the cost of final project. Appropriation of a match will be voted on at Annual Town Meeting.

School Committee: Board considering appointees to fill spot opened upon the passing of Andrew Draxler.

Review Minutes:

On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 12/30/14 meeting minutes as amended.

Signed Documents. *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to accept proposal from Eagle Elevator Co. to install two escutcheon tubes in elevator to prevent entrapment at the cost of \$598.35 to be paid from Sawyer Hall Maint./Util. account.*

On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for January 13, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator