

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Heath School
January 13, 2015

Called to order at 7:02 p.m by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

Reviewed Agenda: Added to Appointments: Al Canali, 7:30 p.m.; Added to Other Business: Schedule Budget Hearings, Heath School Door Repair. 1/6 meeting minutes will be reviewed at next scheduled meeting.

Budget Hearings: After reviewing FY16 budget requests, the Select Board would like to meet with Accountant to discuss Audit Stabilization; the Assessors to discuss proposed, new position, legacy issues and status, mapping, and general budget request; Board of Health to discuss revised job description for Clerk; Highway Supt. to discuss budget request; Animal Control Officer (will inquire next meeting). Need to determine Special Projects for FY16.

7:32 p.m. Gloria Fisher, Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, Don Freeman and Al Canali entered meeting.

School Door: Discussed repair needed for Heath School entrance doors. Currently, left door doesn't open due to concrete blocking door. This doorway is tied into alarm system, and both doors need to be functional so it is critical to repair. The concrete has heaved and needs to be ground down. The long term fix is to make repairs to prevent the frost heaving. The doors are included in the 5-year repair schedule. Principal Glazier is asking the District to rent equipment to grind the concrete and take from FY15 budget. He has contacted the Select Board because he feels the School Committee has not addressed the issue. Finance Committee offered reserve fund, if needed, which could be replenished at upcoming STM.

WiredWest: Al Canali, Representative for Heath, distributed some spreadsheets with cost breakdown to build last mile of fiber network. He explained the costs as presented and stressed that these are only estimates. He shared that the most up to date figure for Heath is \$1.269 million. The Town would need an authorization to borrow from voters in May, and possibly a debt exclusion approval (*By approving a debt exclusion, a community calculates its annual levy limit under Proposition 2½, then adds the excluded debt service cost. The amount is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt only and may increase the levy above the levy ceiling (in any year, the real and personal property taxes imposed may not exceed 2½ percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property unless the community passes a debt exclusion.*) Al shared that the current plan is to only pay interest for the first three years on money borrowed. WiredWest plans to use the \$40 million from State to fund years one and two to pay interest only and reduce borrowing. Heath, according to the estimates, would pay \$6,345 for years one and two combined. By year three, revenues may be enough to cover operational/maintenance expenses. The more people who sign on; the more potential revenue. Discussed different ways to approach project – possibly grouping towns as a package. Discussed bond payments/length of bond. Al feels very positively. He will reach out to WiredWest Executive Comm. for article language and meet schedules, etc. Small, Q&A/info. meetings (Kitchen Table Conversations) will be part of the campaign. Al will be asking residents to donate time/space in an effort to educate the public about this project. He also shared he is available anytime for questions.

8:18 p.m. Bob Bourke arrived and Al Canali left meeting.

Municipal Complex Committee Matching Grant from the Commonwealth: Don Freeman calculated some estimates for project's impact on tax rate using total valuation. Discussed financing options. The

Committee began with a robust number and they are working to reduce costs. There is a committee meeting Wed. night to discuss the recently received 50% matching grant from the state of up to \$2 million as a result of the committee's requests to legislators. Additional grants cannot be used towards match but could be used to reduce overall costs. All agreed this is an incredible opportunity to remedy the town garage/fire building problem. Don't want to reduce costs so much that the result is not suitable for what is needed. Land purchase may be considered part of match. Project could also include, in addition to building, salt shed, and/or a radio communications tower. Funding is available. Discussed regionalization of fire services. There are no cost effective studies or formal meetings that have taken place to fully consider this option. This project, as well as WiredWest, needs public informational meetings. An authorization to borrow and perhaps a debt exclusion vote will need to be considered at Annual Town Meeting. The committee feels it's important to keep costs down whilst working to generate an effective design that will serve the town for the next 50 or more years. Discussed how to inform residents and gain support. Committee will work on how to discuss and disseminate information to residents through public meetings, etc. Considered simplifying name from Municipal Complex Building Project to Highway/Fire Building Project.

9:05 p.m. Bob Bourke left meeting and Finance Committee members left shortly after.

Mail/ Email:

1. Email from Bill Lattrell regarding ambulance task force
2. Resignation letter from Kathy Inman
3. Letter regarding increase in Chap. 90 money
4. Email response to Sheila from Judy Willis
5. Email from Don Freeman regarding calculations for Town Meeting and worksheet (MCC)
6. Email from Sheila regarding WiredWest
7. Email chain with Eric Glazier, Ken Rocke and Don Freeman
8. Email from Tracey regarding pay for employees who could not work due to water problem at Town buildings
9. Health Insurance rates for FY16
10. Excerpts from Smoke Showin' magazine on MA training and minimum legal requirements for firefighters, etc.
11. Email responses from Tim Dodd, Exec. Office of Administration and Finance
12. Email from Dave Howland regarding grant for Safety Complex
13. Updated list for STM
14. Letter to Stan Rosenberg from Town of Colrain regarding WiredWest
15. Notice from Greenfield District Court regarding continuation of dog matter
16. Email from Margaret Freeman regarding Solarize Massachusetts incentives

Other Separate Documents:

17. Town Coordinator Report
18. Updated FY16 Budget spreadsheet

Other Business:

Appointments: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to accept Kathy Inman's resignation from Finance Committee with regrets.*

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted to nominate Jan Carr to fill the vacancy on Finance Committee to serve until May, 2015.

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Budge Litchfield to fill vacancy on Heath School Committee to serve until May, 2015, and to appoint Calvin Carr to serve on Municipal Complex Building Committee.

Dog Matter: Kara will obtain from Town Clerk a certified letter with compilation of fines/fees waived.

Officer Mattson and Ed Grinnell will bring to court. All licenses are due again in March – will include in letter.

Temporary Winter Help: *On a motion by Brian, and seconded by Sheila, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Brian Drummey as Temporary Winter Help to serve part-time, as needed for clearing walkways and steps at Town Hall and Community Hall at \$12.83/hour.*

Sr. Center Exercise Class: Claire Rabbitt may hold exercise class. Kara will post signs for people instructing them not to drink the water. Bottled water and sanitizing wipes have been provided.

EMS Service Zone Plan: Kara will check in with Jeff Simmons on status of application.

SIGNED:

1. State grant for Municipal Safety Complex
2. MA DEP Certification for the Operation of a Transfer Station
3. Letter of support for FRCOG Partnership for Youth application for funding from MA Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative Initiative

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for January 20, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator