

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
February 9, 2016

Called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. Also present: See sign in sheet attached.

Pole Hearing: Sheila continued the hearing with Verizon that began 1/26/16. David Pasch was in attendance from Verizon and reported that all issues have been cleared with pole #54.5 on Jacksonville Stage Road. All plans remain the same. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve new pole locations as presented with one absence.*

Hearing closed: 6:48 p.m.

Mass DOT Public Hearing, State Route 8A (Jacksonville Stage Road/Rt. 8A) Over Mill Brook Project File no. 607671 called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield.

Mike Bastoni, Bridge Project Manager for Mass Highway/ Director in Boston, Karen Axtell, MassDOT Right of Way Rep., Mark Devylder, Bridge engineer, Mike Rizzo, Design Engineer, Walter Mantani, Transcriber were present. A hand out was provided and presented. This is a fully funded project through federal and state funds. There are two permanent easements and eight temporary easements. Mr. Bastoni provided a power point presentation on the project. This bridge has been deemed functionally obsolete, structurally deficient and the railings have failed. Advertisements for this project will go out summer, 2017 with construction in spring, 2018. Mike Rizzo added information on construction phase. Road will be closed for approximately 2-3 weeks with a detour (6 mi.). Discussed easements. Opened hearing to public for questions.

Hearing closed at 7:31 p.m.

Board of Selectmen: Called to order at 7:53 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. See sign in sheet for additional attendees.

Reviewed Agenda: Add to other business: WiredWest update; minutes from 1/26/16 meeting to be reviewed at next scheduled meeting; Three Town Landfill; Winter Road Treatment

WiredWest: Art Schwenger reported that he attended a meeting last Saturday. Funding is on hold by MBI and they are undergoing a ten day review period to study the finances of entire project. Awaiting determination by State – sustainability is one of their concerns. WiredWest is negotiating with MBI but at an impasse on ownership aspect of fiber to the home project. MBI has not offered an alternative yet. MBI may reach out to Towns directly the goal of WiredWest remains to bring affordable and sustainable service to all who want it. Discussed wireless and again affirmed that it does not work in these areas. Discussed costs expended thus far. Middle mile build out was expensive, adding service to towns that were already served or underserved towns were missed. Towns may be asked to appropriate more money for the build out. Discussed whether a new vote was needed and discussed further delays. Everyone agreed that broadband fiber to the home is the most productive economical tool for this part of the State and remains a priority for Heath.

8:25 p.m. Al Canali and Art Schwenger left meeting.

Suzanne Hannay/John Palmer: Chapter 61 property has been in the process of transferring to a new owner. It needs to be removed from Chap. 61 and Board of Selectmen needs to determine whether or not to exercise Right of First Refusal. Deferred taxes shall be calculated and paid by seller. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously that Heath has no interest in acquiring Lot 1, 7.157 acres on Royer Road owned by John Palmer and Suzanne Hannay.*

Heath Education Initiative Task Force: A link has been placed on town's website. Meetings are taking place each Thursday evening or as posted. Board of Selectmen encourages a public informational meeting to discuss with parents whom are very concerned about possible negative options and impact if tough decisions are made.

Highway Dept./Road Treatment: A series of concerns from a few residents regarding road treatment have been reported. Some messages have been posted on social media that share inaccurate information about road treatment in Heath. Because misinformation may be spread, Bill Lattrell, Mike Shattuck, and a representative from Baystate Roads will meet to discuss and gather correct information so that it can be shared with the public via town's website. Sand was discussed. It is the most degrading to the environment. Towns are trending away from use of sand as it is detrimental to watershed areas and requires annual sweeping and proper disposal. The environment, cost, and safety has to be balanced. A fact sheet will be prepared to ensure whole crew is informed and the public is educated. Many folks compliment the treatment and condition of roadways during storms.

Discussed Bridge repairs. Sadoga is almost at 25% completion stage so a public hearing will soon be scheduled. This will be a full replacement.

Other Business:

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to add a statement to the Assessor Administrative Asst. job description as follows: "Position may not be filled by a member of the Board of Assessors." This was a recommendation by DOR/DLS Technical Asst. Services and Massachusetts Ethics Commission. Needs additional approval from Board of Assessors.

Land Purchase for Public Safety Complex: Kara will ask Andrea Woods of FRCOG to draft RFP for land sale on Bray Road, assessed value \$42,000.

Insulation Estimate for Sawyer Hall: Carson Ovitt provided an estimate to insulate Sawyer Hall. This will be added to special projects FY17.

Compressor at Heath Fire Dept.: Generator was running because no power to building. A second call came through with same problem. Ken replaced some fuses and it seemed to repair the problem. Ken will research pricing on a replacement if needed.

Mail/ Email:

1. Response to Board of Assessors from Town Clerk re: Asst. Assessor
2. Dog Complaint
3. Email from Janey Bishoff with breakdown of services
4. Email from Bill Lattrell re: meeting with Mike Smith and Mike Shattuck, and various emails regarding road treatment
5. Emails from Debbie Cavalier re: 32 Shawnee Drive and 7 Cheyenne
6. Email from Kerrie McNay re: School Hearing
7. Email from Mark Reich re: Land purchase and sale
8. Email from Bill Hoyerman re: landfill and related emails
9. Article from Recorder Area towns get food safety grants (incorrect reporting)
10. Emails re: Solar Program

11. Email from Kris Nartowicz re: debt
12. Email from US Dept. of Commerce re: 2016 Government Units Survey
13. Proposal for insulation from Carson Ovitt
14. eUpdate from Kopleman & Paige
15. Letter from MTRSD School Committee
16. Article from Boston Globe re: Small, rural towns in Western MA and Bob Bourke's comment

Other Separate Documents:

17. FY17 Budget Spreadsheet 2-4-16
18. Revised DEP Post Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Permit
19. Verizon Pole Hearing documents

SIGNED:

20. FY16 EMPG Grant in amount \$2,220 – missed one area.

Next meeting scheduled for February 16, 2016 at 7 p.m.

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna
Town Coordinator