

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
February 22, 2011

Called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Tom Lively with Brian DeVriese and Sheila Litchfield present. Also present, Town Coordinator Jenna Day and Town Treasurer Kristi Nartowicz.

The agenda was reviewed and three additions were made: a review of the tax rate process, budget update from the fire department and budget update from the Assessors. The January 25th minutes were removed from review.

The Selectboard performed the review of the Treasurer. She has had such good reviews in the past and the group believes that nothing has changed in her performance. She updated the Selectboard on the tax title taking process. She needs to hire a title search review on one property. She will do at least one action in the spring.

7:15 p.m. Finance Committee members Don Freeman, Ned Wolf and Jan Carr and Dave Gott entered the meeting.

The Treasurer reviewed her budget for Fiscal Year 2012. The debt payments were reviewed: it is the last year for the 2009 highway truck, there is one more year on the school note, FY12 will be the first year for the loader and the 3-Town Landfill Mitigation payments. All employers have seen an increase in unemployment insurance. The Health Insurance number was corrected to \$75,583.08

7:30 p.m. Kristi Nartowicz left the meeting. Margo Newton, Police Chief arrived.

Margo reviewed her budget. The communication and transportation budget line is decreased by \$500.00. She was able to work with the State and they provided their secure communications for free. There are no more Community policing funds available from the State.. She stated that her budget is based on three officers. She has seen an increase in calls from child services and she has been called to the Heath Elementary by the principal. She makes visits to Heath Elementary at various times throughout the year. She provided the Selectboard with a report on activities. They appreciated the information and want to add meeting/reporting to the police chief job description. Annual reviews of her officers are due as well and the Selectboard would like to receive copies of their reports for the personnel files.

8:10 p.m. Margo Newton left the meeting. Joanne Blier and Michael Buoniconti of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District arrived.

Michael updated the Selectboard to the budget process to date. He explained that the elementary school principals all meet and looked at a budget that would serve the students first. If you look at Heath's Elementary school breakdown the discussion for the future of the school as he sees it is whether to maintain class configuration or does the school move to tiered instruction that is skill based with groups changing throughout the day. He has asked Jeanine Heil to look into this.

Brian questioned whether the district is using the correct numbers to calculate Heath Elementary cost per-pupil. Michael disagrees with the census numbers. He also stated that the preschool numbers will be covered. The preschool is now 3 days for 4 hours a day. The Mohawk School District may be putting forward a warrant article for Heath to finance a free pre-school.

He explained that the driving factor was not the cost per-pupil, but the budget preparations created the best education for all the students.

Sheila would like the district to get budget numbers to the towns earlier. The regional agreement outlines the budgeting timeline.

8:58 p.m. Joanne Blier and Michael Buoniconti left. Bob Gruen arrived. Claire Rabbitt arrived at 8:27p.m.
9:04 p.m Bob Gruen and Ann Pacino left the meeting.

The Town Nurse budget was reviewed. Claire presented on area comparisons for nurse salaries. She is requesting an increase incrementally over two budget years to go from \$20.60 an hour to \$30 an hour. She is requesting an increase in her budget line to include the purchase of an Epi-pen which expires after a year. She does use a Council on Aging Grant to also purchase some of the supplies.

9:17 p.m. Claire Rabbitt and Becky Allen left.

The new Fire Budget was reviewed. All the proposed changes from a previous meeting were included in the new budget sheet.

The new Assessors budget was reviewed. It included the price for a 3 year contract on an Interim Reval.

The setting of the tax rate was discussed. The Assessors will be submitting data to the state in early April.

Brian made a motion to adjourn open meeting and enter into executive session for reason number six (to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body); to invite the Finance Committee and to return to open meeting. Roll call vote: Tom, Aye; Sheila, Aye. The motion passed unanimously. Executive session was convened at 9:45p.m.

10:15p.m. The Selectboard meeting returned to open session. Don Freeman, Jan Carr, Ned Wolf and Dave Gott of the Finance Committee left the meeting.

Mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

Brian made a motion to approve the town coordinator to work an additional 8 hours a week for 4 weeks. Discussion of there being enough money in the salary line to cover this addition ensued, with an affirmation there was enough. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Brian made a motion to accept the request from Dave Freeman to tap town maple trees pending a written request. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

The Selectboard established a policy for the Agricultural use of Town Property. Use of land is subject to the Selectboard on and a first come, first served basis.

Brian made a motion to accept the November 30, 2010 minutes as amended. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Brian made a motion to accept the December 7, 2010 minutes as amended. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Brian made a motion to accept the December 14, 2010 minutes. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

10:55 Brian made a motion to adjourn. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenna Day, Town Coordinator