

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Community Hall
February 3, 2015

Called to order at 7:05 p.m by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. See sign in sheet for other attendees.

Reviewed Agenda: No Changes.

Reviewed Minutes: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board, with one abstention, voted to approve the minutes of 1/13/15 Select Board meeting as amended.*

Dog Matter: Sheila Hobbie attended tonight to express her concern that dogs owned or kept by Ron Woodard have been loose and entering her yard. The Board urged Ms. Hobbie to complete a complaint form and submit to the Town Coordinator. Ms. Hobbie was updated on court action taken on related matter.

7:20 p.m. Sheila Hobbie left meeting.

FY16 Accountant Budget Hearing: Tracey Baronas included a line for audit stabilization in her FY16 Budget Request. Discussed the possibility that Heath will have to conduct an audit due to receiving CDBG grant and acting as lead town for CDHC funds. Tracey explained that for FY15 the threshold is \$500k and for FY16 the threshold will increase to \$750k. She added that it is good business practice to conduct an audit if a key employee leaves (e.g. tax collector). The Board will work with Finance Committee to put some money away in stabilization for audit at the next annual town meeting.

7:29 p.m. Tracey Baronas left meeting.

WiredWest: Joe Markarian, hired by FRCOG to help towns understand the financing options and impacts of the regional project of bringing fiber to residents/businesses, and Jim Drawe, Treasurer of WiredWest, attended tonight and offered a presentation on financial aspects of the last mile broadband project. A handout was distributed that outlined the cost over many years and how it will impact Heath taxpayers. Jim explained the varying costs of the project including mobilization costs, make ready costs (35% of project), and construction of network. He narrowed down tonight's focus on costs specific to Heath. Jim shared that costs are driven by likely customers which he referred to as 'premises.' Each premise requires a certain number of fiber miles as well as poles to connect. Jim talked about the network from town to town and associated costs. Using Jim's model, if 40% of the number of "premises" sign on, the project is considered viable at no cost to the Town after year six, although there is no guarantee. This model is based on the assumption that the 32-35 towns participate. At 60%, profits will be generated and distributed back to the towns. Soon, a letter, contract, and brochure will be mailed to 20,000 households. The \$49 sign on fee will be escrowed and applied to first month of service. By Annual Town Meeting, when a 2/3 vote for authorization to borrow and perhaps debt exclusion will be needed, the data will be available indicating whether the project is viable. With costs of service of \$49 for basic internet package, and \$25 for full service telephone with free long distance to US/Canada, one can calculate the savings that will off-set any increase on tax bill. Towns considered most profitable will be connected first so that revenues will begin to generate. Al offered to set up a full demo at the Heath School for 2/24 STM. Informational meetings will be scheduled as well.

Reviewed Minutes: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 1/20/15 Select Board meeting as amended.*

Mail/ Email:

1. A couple of email updates from Mike Smith.
2. EQV breakdown for Heath
3. Heath Nurse report. Kara will check with Claire to be sure she's budgeted for vaccines.
4. Letter from Sr. Center Consortium in Shelburne Falls, meeting Feb. 4 at 4:30 p.m. to share membership details. Kara will attend.
5. Scrap metal revenue
6. Sr. Center report
7. Emails from FCSWMD – Landfill Inspections, Clean Sweep dates, Springfield MRF revenue table. Kara will add \$150 to budget for transfer station inspection increase.
8. Email from Mark Smith – fee for remote support annually is \$54. Board authorized payment from Technical Support Town Hall account.
9. Email list from Sheila regarding meeting with Assessors. Bill and Brian will meet with Assessors on 2/9 (rescheduled due to weather). Kara will phone Ethics Commission.
10. Memo Kara sent to Assessors
11. CDBG Quarterly report
12. Post Office Income report for 2014 -- \$20,642.04 was paid to Heath from USPS.
13. Meeting announcement for MTRSD FY16 Budget meetings
14. Note from Dale at FC Retirement Board – meeting 2/25 at 8 a.m. 3% COLA proposed
15. Inquiry to Ethics Commission
16. Budget Public Hearing, MTRSD 2/18/15, 7 p.m.
17. Email from Bob Bourke regarding Bray Road land. Discussed. If funding for Public Safety Building project passes at ATM, the Board will consider putting the Bray Road property on the market to offset costs. ***On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Kara to order an appraisal from Levitch Assoc. for the town-owned property on Bray Road, not to exceed \$691.***

Other Separate Documents:

1. Town Coordinator Report
2. FY16 Budget Spreadsheet

Other Business:

FRCOG Assessment: Bill attended a FRCOG Board meeting and shared that Heath's assessment will lower a bit for FY16 (roughly \$1,300) due to change in retirement program.

All Boards Meeting: Sheila will prepare an agenda for 3/3/15. Annual Reports are due on 2/27.

Safety Building Project: Brian shared that the committee worked to reduce building plan by two bays. Bob Bourke will create a pamphlet.

SIGNED:

1. Treasury Warrant
2. Training Compliance Certification for Heath Post Office
3. STM Warrant – 2/24/15

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for February 10, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator