

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Sawyer Hall  
March 29, 2016

**Called to order** at 7:01 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. See additional attendance sheet attached.

**Reviewed Agenda: Add to Other Business:**

- Ken Roche, Heath School Comm. Rep. to discuss proposed amendment to regional agreement
- Community Hall Committee
- Al Canali, WiredWest Rep.

**Ken Roche, Heath Education Initiative Task Force:** Ken discussed the proposed changes to the regional agreement. The Education Initiative Task Force has met regularly. They do not feel that it is in Heath's best interest to pass this amendment – it undercuts the basic idea of regional agreement when it was formed. All Towns must agree to substantive changes and reducing it to 2/3 weakens the agreement. There is no history of problematic issues in the past. Dialogue is critical between towns. Ken will speak to voters at ATM on this position. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to Not Recommend article 1) an article to amend provisions relating to the procedures for amending the regional agreement that reads, "To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT effective July 1, 2016 by striking the following language contained in Section XIV (B)."* The Finance Committee, and the School Committee Representatives are unified in NOT recommending this article. They voted to move the remaining articles to the annual town meeting warrant without a recommendation. Kara will send a letter to the MTRSD School Committee letting them know of this action. Also, a meeting will be scheduled to review the proposed changes and FY17 school budget – TBD. Thank you to Ken.

*On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Nina Marshall, Brian DeVriese, and Mary Sumner to serve on the Heath Education Initiative Task Force.* Thank you to Bill Lattrell for his input so far on this Task Force. Bill shared that it has been an amazing experience with a great group of powerful, thoughtful, experienced individuals.

Discussed ways in which to reach out to residents to share information on this topic. Task Force will discuss.

**Budget Hearing, Town Treasurer:** Kris Nartowicz shared that she has asked that \$50,000 towards Tropical Storm Irene at STM. Several loans will be paid off in FY17. Discussed salary increase request. Kris shared that there is open enrollment for Life Insurance currently.

**Brownfields Program:** Bill and Karen Brooks will attend a meeting for Ledges Road property and to learn more about the program. Existence of hazardous materials will be determined before action taken. Phase I: there is some confusion on property line borders. Assessors may be able to resolve. Land may need to be surveyed. Private individuals are unable to obtain grants if hazardous materials are evident. If substantial contamination, could be costly. Discussed how to proceed if property condemned. Kris will check – she cannot locate on owner but if attorney can show due diligence, there is an end point.

Kratt property: Waiting until June 26 to take further action.

Thank you to Kris.

Clark Rowell, UniBank Financial Advisor: Discussed process of requesting a hearing with the MA Financial Oversight Board (MFOB). Clark recommends this as the simplest way to resolve this issue with debt capacity. He says it should not be a problem. He did however say that it was a peculiar situation. If the grant or funding comes through, and the borrowing evolves into a USDA loan, the debt capacity will be restored. This is a result of outdated general laws. Discussed statutory debt limits and Chap 44, Sect. 7 vs. Sect. 8. Rural Development loans are outside the statutory debt limit. Broadband is as well. Municipal Modernization Act may improve some of these rules. The Chair of Selectboard will attend the hearing in Boston. Clark Rowell will attend on behalf of Heath as well. Discussed increasing debt capacity to \$6 million. As soon as loan is signed, it all disappears with no negative impact to the Town. School projects often cause towns to push over their debt capacity. Heath's is a straightforward request. Clark will begin the process and write the letter (2-4 pages) for the application. Will try to get this done before ATM.

***On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Clark Rowell to prepare proposal and application for MFOB hearing.*** Thank you to Kris, Tracy, and Clark Rowell.

Discussed Stan Rosenberg's conference and who will be attending from Heath. WiredWest is meeting to draft a proposal to send to Gov. Baker. The new, revised business plan looks promising. Ideally, a letter to the Governor should be sent prior to the conference with Stan Rosenberg. Important to keep all options open. Will add mention of recent visit to Heath by Lt. Governor and her acknowledgement that she was aware of the need for broadband.

8:23 p.m. Finance Committee left meeting.

**Minutes:** *Will review minutes of 3/15 at next scheduled meeting.*

**Special Town Meeting Warrant:** Discussed article pertaining to Assessors and Kara will prepare an explanation sheet.

**Other Business:** Kara will schedule a meeting with Assessors and Tax Collector for April 5 to discuss software and mapping.

Impact of Zip Codes on other departments: Assessors shared that they sense some impact and they were asked if the Town loses money as a result.

Safety Policy: Needs revision and approval. Investigation is on-going. Looking at ways to identify preventive maintenance items. Discussed notification of safety issues – if known, must be relayed to supervisor. This will be added to safety policy and personnel policy.

Community Hall Committee: Brian was notified that the Community Hall Committee has not met in two years. Kara will provide the Chair with a list of appointees and a reminder that the group needs to meet to discuss needs of building, etc.

**Mail/ Email:**

1. Email from Bill re: Task Force
2. Email from Sheila re: Ken Rocke
3. Emails re: public hearing Sadoga Bridge. Kara will reach out to the Rabbits to let them know about the hearing and send them a notice.
4. Email from Budge Litchfield re: regional agreement (forwarded on March 18 for your review)
5. Email from Russ Kaubris re: Tech School Budget (see flash for docs)
6. Email from Karen Totman re: warrant articles (see flash for docs)
7. Email from Town Accountant re: year-end memo
8. Email from Town Accountant re: Year-end pay
9. Email from Sheila confirming Doug Wilkins' approval of articles

10. Email from Mark Reich re: Warrant article for Assessors
11. Email from Robyn re: same warrant article
12. WiredWest related emails (19 pages)
13. Email from Eileen Tougas re: pooling water at Comm. Hall. Discussed. Bill will ask Mike to look at it, may need additional black top to raise up grade and divert water to street. Kara will respond to Eileen.
14. Emails from Brian re: land sale and purchase. Kara will reach out to Andrea Woods.
15. Emails re: Safety Complex (7 pages)
16. Email from Ken Gilbert re: trees at HFD
17. Email from Kara to Mike Shattuck re: same trees
18. Letter from Colrain re: assessment
19. Letter from DEP re: grant program. We've again applied for \$500 (cleaning products, blue bins, and reusable bags)
20. Note from Nurse
21. Emails re: Brownfields program/Bill Lattrell (6 pages). Need BOS and BOH to meet regarding project.
22. Email from Gloria forwarded from Amy Donovan re: pricing for e-waste (forwarded to Mike Shattuck)
23. Corrected Notice of Filing, public hearing, and procedural conference for DPU

**Other Separate Documents for review:**

24. Town Coordinator Report
25. MTRSD Warrant articles
26. MTRSD marked up Regional Agreement
27. FY17 Budget Spreadsheet 3-15-16
28. Margaret Hobbie submitted a *petitioned* warrant article to rescind the borrowing for the Safety Complex that was approved at last year's ATM, article 36. Kara will pass on to Hilma for verification of signatures.

**SIGNED:**

- Treasury and Payroll Warrants
- FY17 Fuel bidding document for FRCOG. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to authorize FRCOG to bid on behalf of Heath for FY17 fuel oil and diesel needs.*

Next meeting scheduled for April 5, 2016 at 7 p.m.

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:43 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna  
Town Coordinator