

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SAWYER HALL
March 13, 2012

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Tom Lively, with Brian DeVriese and Sheila Litchfield present. Also present, Town Coordinator, Kara Leistyna

Reviewed Minutes: Brian motioned to accept minutes of 03/08/12 Select Board meeting as submitted. Brian seconded. Vote was unanimous, with Tom Lively abstaining. Motion carried.

Reviewed Agenda: No changes.

Brian motioned to change Select Board meeting scheduled 3/27/12 to Wednesday, 3/28/12. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Brian motioned to tentatively re-schedule the All Boards Meeting to Tuesday, October 16, 2012. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Mail/ Email:

1. Nomination of inspector of animals 2013. Kara will ask Bob Tanner if he would like to continue as Animal Inspector.
2. Elevator Bids beginning 7/1/12. The Board will opt into the Cooperative Bidding with FRCOG.
3. Draft letters to Peter Niles, MA DOT, regarding Dell Bridge and the Assessors regarding Clerk position. Kara will send letter to Alice on behalf of Board. Letter to Peter Niles will be reviewed further.
4. MMA note regarding unemployment insurance
5. Response from Ben Downing regarding Steering Committee for Franklin Conservation District
6. Notice from Labor Dept. with updates on unemployment statistics nationwide.
7. STAM Meeting, April 12 in Shutesbury
8. Note from Smith Voc regarding tuition rate

7:18 p.m. Mike Smith entered meeting.

7:31 p.m. Finance Committee (Don Freeman, Janice Carr, David Gott, Jeff Simmons and Ned Wolf) entered meeting.

Highway/Fire Joint Budget Hearing: Joint hearing commenced with the Fire Dept. Budget Proposal for FY13. The Turnout Gear replacement schedule will be implemented this year furnishing gear for two firefighters per year at \$4,000 per firefighter. There are currently 18 firefighters in the department. Supplies' line item was reduced from \$15,000 to \$13,000. Supplies include hose, tanks, compressor, etc.

Highway Dept. Budget Request was reviewed. Mike Smith, Superintendent, proposed hiring a new employee as a full-time maintenance person who would be responsible for simple mechanical maintenance, roadside mowing, acting as back-up driver. The salary for this additional employee accounts for the majority of the increase percentage this year because it offsets other expense line items. Discussed its effect on overtime. Mike feels it would not affect it very much. BOS concerned with adding another employee and the cost to the Town in terms of benefits and long-term responsibility. Briefly discussed possibility of contracting with a maintenance 'service.' Mike does not feel this would save any

money. Maintenance of equipment is time consuming. Ideally, Mike would like someone hired and dedicated to maintenance so other staff could be out doing road work. Other issues discussed were a new truck and replacement schedule. Mike feels to repair the current truck (replace dump body) would be roughly \$35,000 and to purchase new, an estimated \$138,000. Other items discussed were highway miscellaneous expense account; increasing costs of gas and oil and Wildlife Damage Control line item specifically reserved for maintenance of beaver devices currently installed on Town owned culverts. Mike will provide two budget proposals – one with the proposed new employee and one without so the Board and Finance Committee may compare. Kara will re-schedule performance reviews as time does not permit tonight.

8:24 p.m. Mike Smith left meeting and Jim Barry, Green Communities Western MA Regional Director, and Planning Board (Cal Carr, Jo Travis, Dino Schnelle and Bob Viarengo) arrived.

Green Communities Presentation: Jim Barry from The Green Communities Designation and Grant Program, an initiative of the Green Communities Division, provided a presentation on how this program works with municipalities toward qualification as a Green Community. Jim outlined, in detail, the five criteria that need to be satisfied in order to qualify as a Green Community. 1) As-Of Right Siting; 2) Expedited Permitting Process; 3) Energy Use in Town; 4) Purchase Only Fuel Efficient Vehicles; 5) Require new buildings to be more energy Efficient. Once designated, Heath could obtain funding through Green Community grants to support all, or a portion, of the cost of the following:

- studying, designing, constructing and implementing energy efficiency activities including, but not limited to, energy efficiency measures and projects;
- procuring energy management services;
- adopting energy efficiency policies; and,
- siting activities and construction of a renewable energy generating facility on municipally-owned land

To receive official designation as a Green Community, Heath must complete the “Designation Application” and submit it to the Division for review. Once the Division has completed its review, it will notify the Town whether or not it has been designated a Green Community. Designation Application Deadline: May 29, 2012 by 5:00pm. Jim was thanked for his presentation. Planning Board plans to follow up.

9:20 p.m. Don Freeman, Jeff Simmons, Janice Carr, Ned Wolf, David Gott, Jim Barry, Cal Carr, Jo Travis, Dino Schnelle and Bob Viarengo left meeting.

Town Coordinator Report: Brian motioned to participate in the FRCOG elevator maintenance bid for a new 3-year contract beginning July 1, 2012. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

- Tom will phone Dan Hall at DEP to check on status of sampling at Three-Town Landfill.
- Discussed the recent repair work on Sawyer Hall. Tom will arrange for touch up painting which will complete the project.
- Briefly discussed the FY13 Cherry Sheet, specifically Veteran’s Benefits. Sheila noted that legislators should know that our benefit requests have increased substantially.

Warrants signed. Also, signed FEMA paperwork for reimbursement.

Brian moved to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator