

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SAWYER HALL
March 20, 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, Jan Carr, David Gott, Ned Wolf, Don Freeman and Maureen Mullaney, Transportation Program Manager, FRCOG.

Maureen Mullaney: Everyone introduced themselves to start the discussion on bridge funding. Tom explained the issues that Heath faces with Sadoga Rd. Bridge and Dell Bridge and the future of other bridges in town. Maureen, who researched the bridges in Heath prior to the meeting, reiterated the reports from Mass DOT. She reported that three out of five Federal Aid bridges in town are considered 'functional.' The Dell Bridge is considered 'functionally obsolete,' meaning it is sound but does not meet the demands of modern transportation (loads and heavier vehicles). The Sadoga Rd. Bridge is considered 'structurally deficient,' and therefore closed. Money from the state, according to Maureen, is prioritized and given first to structurally deficient bridges. Unfortunately, out of the \$121 million, \$71 million is dedicated to larger bridges such as the Gill-Montague Bridge and Coolidge Bridge in Northampton. The remaining \$50 million covers all bridges under construction in the given year. Maureen reported that 20 bridges out of 500 in need will be funded. One local bridge has been given priority – the Clesson Brook Bridge on Rt. 112. Maureen explained that the Dell Bridge was never considered an 'active' TIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) project. The bridges in Heath are town owned and therefore, Heath is responsible for maintenance and replacement. The State prioritizes when condition falls into a serious deteriorated state. Maureen is happy to be liaison with the Town and with Mike Smith and help open up options but the Town does need to appropriate money to fund the repairs/ replacement. She will also confirm classification of the Dell Bridge. Maureen was thanked for her time.

7:40 p.m. Maureen Mullaney left meeting. Don Freeman, David Gott, Ned Wolf and Jan Carr left, too.

Reviewed Agenda: No changes.

7:40 p.m. Kristi Nartowicz entered meeting
Performance Review conducted for Treasurer, Kristi Nartowicz.

Reviewed Minutes: Brian motioned to accept minutes of 03/13/12 Select Board meeting as amended. Brian seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Mail/ Email:

1. FY2013 Budget Issues and Procedures from DOR Division of Local Services
2. Got Drugs? Flyer – Free Collection Day 4/28, 10-2
3. Email from Ted Harvey announcing award for Regional Kennel Program
4. Public Hearing Notice 4/5/12 for Planning Board
5. ByLaws Update from Planning Board
6. Kopelman and Paige, P.C. Memo to Municipal Clients. No action required.
7. Letter from BCEGS Building Codes Dept. regarding FCCIP/Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
8. New Otters' menu
9. MA Housing Partnership 2011 Annual Report

10. Initiative Petition regarding transfer station hours for ATM Warrant. Town Clerk will verify signatures.

7:50 p.m. Eileen Tougas entered meeting.

8:13 p.m. Don Freeman, Jan Carr, David Gott, Ned Wolf re-entered meeting for Joint Budget Hearing chaired by Don Freeman.

Community Hall Budget Hearing: Reviewed budget proposal. All level funded. Eileen feels they will need the entire proposed expense account line because COA (Council on Aging) grant funding will be less next year. Distributed Eileen's proposal for storage shed. The Board and Finance Committee reviewed. Discussed storage needs and the recommendation of the Space Needs Task Force. Discussed ways to eliminate unneeded items rather than storing them. Eileen shared that the COA will be funding cabinets for canned goods storage. It was pointed out that the shed is a temporary building on pressure treated timbers and can be moved if needed elsewhere. Eileen was thanked for her careful preparation of proposal which will be taken into consideration.

8:44 p.m. Eileen Tougas left the meeting and Hilma Sumner entered.

Budget discussions continued. The revolving account for the Dog Officer was debated and tabled until Don can further research whether it's needed. Hilma shared that the account is for taking in fees and paying reimbursements to Dog Officer. The library receives the balance from the sale of the licenses/dog tags minus Town Clerk fees. Other revenues are generated from fines, fees for boarding, etc. It is an easy, legal means to take fees in and pay expenses out that have been paid by individuals. Further discussion on the matter was tabled.

Town Clerk Budget Hearing: Don Freeman thanked Hilma for coming in to discuss budget proposal. The group reviewed a detailed budget request which Hilma provided. A new computer is needed and Hilma feels the remainder of FY12 expense account will cover the cost; a new fire proof file cabinet is needed as well. Hilma's budget proposal included a salary increase. The Board explained that the Town Job Classification System would be applied. Hilma was asked to update the job description given all forms pertaining to evaluation process. Stipends will be reviewed together at one time. Briefly discussed need for Hilma's feedback on draft of dog Bylaw. Hilma will email her additions to Kara. Hilma was thanked for her time and was told that her proposal will be taken under advisement.

9:50 p.m. Hilma Sumner left meeting.

Joint Budget Meeting continued. Discussed the three warrant articles submitted by the Firefighters and the dollar value of each article. Kara will contact MIIA for figures. Brian motioned to accept the initiative petition regarding transfer station winter hours. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried. Town Clerk will verify signatures.

10:00 p.m. Finance Committee left meeting.

Town Coordinator Report:

- Brian motioned to dedicate 2011 Annual Town Report to Douglas Stetson. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried. Sheila will follow up.
- Kara will call Jerry Ferguson to re-level the generator at Community Hall.

Warrants signed. Also, signed FEMA paperwork for reimbursement.

Brian moved to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator