

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Community Hall
March 25, 2014

Called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield with Bill Lattrell, Brian DeVriese present.

Reviewed Agenda: Added to Other Business: Incident in Assessor's office. WiredWest and vote on ATM warrant, postponing Art. 3 vote.

Review Minutes:

On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of 3/11/14 meeting as amended.

Discussed preparation for ATM: Would like to create a handout reminding people that they can contribute to the Read-Carpenter Award, the Hands Across Heath fund, the Animal Fund and Books for Children (mentioned in Heath Herald and Independent).

Mail/ Email:

1. Finance Committee's Tax Rate Calculation Draft
2. Email from Claire R. regarding purchase of thermometer
3. DPU notice of public hearing and request for comments 4/15/14 6 p.m. Northampton and email from Ken Elstein. This plan allows for Town residents to participate in lower cost electrical rates. Kara will attend public meeting on Tuesday, April 15.
4. Pictures from Mike of newly painted tractor
5. Copies of support letters sent to MA Dept. of Housing and Community Dev. From legislators for CDBG grant application
6. Note from Bob Gruen regarding School Comm. meeting
7. Invoice and emails regarding Annual Town Report. Select Board approved paying Canali Design \$750 for layout and design of Annual Town Report.
8. Response from Town Counsel on Cemetery Article. Kara will ask Town Counsel for suggested wording for warrant article and confirm that Town employees will not be working on cemetery. A private contractor will maintain lawns similar to the other cemetery jobs in town.
9. Response from Becky Allen regarding increase in Health Agent service for Heath
10. Email from Sheila regarding bylaws and related correspondence
11. Email from accountant regarding Year End Info.
12. Emails from Mike Smith (hard copies)

7:40 p.m. Finance Committee members entered meeting and Mike Smith, Highway Superintendent entered shortly after.

Highway Dept. Discussion:

- Recent truck repair is necessary at a cost of \$6,900. Assessors' Overlay Surplus account has enough to cover this cost at STM. Truck has been working fine until now.
- FY15 Summer Projects: Materials' budget is only \$16,000. \$280,000 available in Chap. 90 money. Looking for guidance from Finance Comm. and Board of Selectmen. Don suggested appealing to legislators. Road work will be hot-in-place recycling. Should Town appropriate more materials?

- Mike was asked to update Road Survey previously done by FRCOG. Also to quantify the magnitude of problems – cost estimates for summer work which Mike hopes to include Number Nine Road (hot-in-place), Groll and West Branch Road and Stone Hill road.
- Continuing Ed. Requests: Discussed need for CEUs for Hoisting Engineers. As of May 1 all licensed MA Hoisting Engineers will be required to obtain 4 hours of continuing education per year per license. In order to be legal, Heath highway employees need to hold a 2A and 4G hoisting license. GCC offers a program for \$195 per student per license and other organizations offer training as well. Cranes 101 will come out for training at a rate of \$100/student/license – for Heath it would cost \$200 per person. A 20 person minimum is required. To sum, CEUs cost \$200, Hoisting License \$60 (renewal) and CDL \$85 (every four years). Mike is asking for some type of reimbursement to be considered for ATM. This year, Mike is the only one who needs CEU. He asks that the Town pay for license, CEUs and DOT Physical – Mike will check on schedule for renewals, physicals, etc. as it stands for each highway employee.

8:20 p.m. Mike Smith left meeting.

FY15 Budget Review/Meeting with Finance Committee:

- Reviewed ATM Warrant:
 - Article 1-14 okay.
 - Art. 15 needs amount filled in. Hilma provides this.
 - Art. 16-18 amounts need to be confirmed.
 - Art. 19-10 okay
 - Art. 21 Remove word “highway”
 - Art. 22 okay
 - Art. 23 is a 2/3 confirm if vote needed to establish a stabilization account.
 - Art. 24 okay
 - Art. 25 needs further consultation with Town Counsel
 - Art. 26 okay
 - Art. 27 eliminate and transfer from Free Cash to fund (put on STM warrant)
 - Change amounts for stabilization funds to \$25,000 and \$65,000 as applicable
 - Art. 28 okay
 - Art. 29 (Board of Selectmen reviewing bylaw revisions and Town Counsel would like to review)
 - Art. 30 okay

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the ATM warrant with the exception of Articles 15 and 25.

- Finance Committee voted for COLA in the amount of 1.5%.
- Discussed Town Coordinator salary.
- WiredWest: Discussed meeting that Bill and Kathy attended. Towns will be asked to accept liability for WiredWest loan for build-out of network. No proposal will be ready for ATM this year. Board of Selectmen will talk to moderator about seeking permission of ATM to consider a proposal at a future STM. Heath’s liability could be between \$600,000 and \$1million. There are a lot of questions about how liability will affect Town’s borrowing ability for the 20 year term of loan.

9:40 p.m. Finance Committee left meeting.

Continued to Review Mail/Email:

1. Nomination of Animal Inspector form (only nomination is needed and then nominee signs). ***On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Margo Newton and Ed Grinnell as Animal Inspector.***
2. Copy of Public Hearing notice for Dog Hearing
3. Email from Bill Lattrell and Al Canali regarding meeting with WiredWest
4. Email from Joanne Blier – Please add the appropriate reference to the law to the warrant article as required in your town (not sure what this means)
5. Letter from Charlemont regarding ambulance service. They would like suggestions and input on compromised EMT service. Select Board will meet with Mike Smith, Tim Lively and Jeff Simmons.
6. Information on MASS buys from Hilma – conference in Worcester April 30th
7. Notice: Conservation Assistance / Small Communities Grant, now accepting applications

Other Business:

1. **Status on Dog Issue:** Reviewed Dog Hearing notice and letter.
2. **Update on Feasibility Study:** A meeting will be held Tuesday at the E.O.C.
3. **Town of Heath General Bylaws – review:** Sheila will arrange to meet with Hilma.
4. **Incident in Assessors' Office:** Need to determine next step with problematic person who has been told that advance notice is required prior to visiting Town Hall. This request was made due to hostile behavior exhibited in the past towards a municipal employee.

Signed:

1. UniBank Agreement for Online payment
2. Notice of Dog Hearing

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian DeVriese, Secretary