

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
April 28, 2015

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Bill Lattrell, Brian DeVriese, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. Also present: Joe Mercaldi, Heath Resident and Heather Row, Heath Resident.

Reviewed Agenda: Will review meeting minutes from 4/21 at next scheduled meeting; Doug Wilkins will be late tonight (8:30-9:00 p.m.)

Salt Shed: Joe Mercaldi lives on Branch Hill Road near the Highway Dept. He shared that there appears to be some salt still seeping into soil from the back and sides of the shed. A conservation issue is pending and he has not completed a replication plan. He would like Salt Shed addressed. Mike Smith will be asked to look into it. Trees may be affected but tests may need to be conducted to determine if there is contamination. The Board will take this matter under advisement and discuss further.

7:12 p.m. Joe Mercaldi left meeting and Betty Nichols, Don Freeman, Gloria Fisher, Jan Carr, and Ned Wolf entered meeting.

Reviewed Minutes: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously with one abstention to approve the minutes of 3/24/15 Select Board meeting.*

Tax Collector: Betty Nichols presented some tax collector salary comparisons of nearby, similar towns. She also noted some changes to her job description. Recently, during her annual performance review, Betty requested a salary increase off set by demand fees. Rather than supplementing her salary with fees, Betty would like to turn them over to the town, and receive the difference as part of her salary. Betty offered that fees could be raised from \$5 to \$10 which requires a Town Meeting vote. The Finance Committee and Board agreed to consider this change on next year's warrant. The rollover of fees to the Town requires a bylaw change. The wording will be given to Hilma Sumner for inclusion in bylaws for 2015 Annual Town Meeting approval. The Board agreed to increase the tax collector salary line on Art. 3 to \$15,000 which will then be offset by the rollover of demand fees. Betty was thanked for her work.

7:38 p.m. Betty Nichols left meeting and Bob Viarengo entered meeting.

WiredWest/Broadband: There have been a lot of changes and new information in the past few days. Many questions remain unanswered. Heather Rowe shared that she has thoroughly reviewed the WiredWest projections and watched the video. She said that in terms of financing the project will be considered a 'start up.' She added that projections and balance sheet need work. They have done a lot so far, but more clarification is needed. A pamphlet was mailed out by Crocker Communications, Inc. offering choice to potential subscribers. Sheila reached out to Crocker Communications. She shared why two different warrant articles were presented for inclusion on warrants. The article penned by MBI offered flexibility, whilst the other article commits the Town to WiredWest; the Town commits assets to WiredWest. If the MBI article is used, it does not preclude the Town from choosing WiredWest but allows flexibility. There remains myriad of unanswered questions. Bond Counsel is not figured into the plan and the Town, despite efforts, has not received satisfactory answers to questions/concerns. The vote on the project must be taken prior to June, 2016. This allows some time to get more information. Dept. of Revenue shared that if questions are not answered, they recommend to wait on a vote. WiredWest still needs to become a legal entity and then approach the Town with an agreement, and apply for funding through MBI on behalf of Towns. Discussed the Leverett project. The broadband issue requires further

study. The Board fully supports this effort but would like to put it on hold and ask voters to revisit the vote at a Special Town Meeting or the next Annual Town Meeting. Sheila asked WiredWest to ask other towns to wait on vote as it feels too risky right now. Lack of fiber is a critical issue. The Board decided to remove the warrant article and will explain to voters why. To be continued. Sheila will share this decision with Al Canali, Heath's representative to WiredWest.

8:23 p.m. Hilma Sumner arrived.

Budget Meeting:

- Reviewed ATM warrant draft articles; made changes for final version.
- Discussed compactor replacement project and cost to complete. A borrowing article to complete the project was added to the warrant. Students from the FC Tech School will assist and Highway crew will as well.
- Discussed COLA. Board and Finance Committee agreed on 1.7%. *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to propose a 1.7% COLA for Town Employees.*

9:20 p.m. Finance Committee members Don Freeman, Gloria Fisher, and Jan Carr left meeting.

ATM Business:

- Hilma shared that she is giving each registered voter an orange tag to where identifying themselves as voters.
- Hilma also shared that she will announce the FC Tech School Special Election at ATM. This vote will take place June 23.

Town Coordinator Report and Other Business:

1. Mike Smith would like to purchase AED's for Town as well as Narcan for opiate overdose and Epinephrine for emergency personnel. These purchases may be covered in current budget.

Mail/ Email:

1. Emails between Don Freeman and Kara Leistyna regarding ATM questions
2. Email from Bill Arrigal, DOR – list of financial advisors (on flash drive)
3. List from Sheila – items to discuss with moderator
4. Email with agenda items/discussion points and responses (action)
5. Email from Mike. Truck repairs needed (see TC report)
6. Various WiredWest related emails
7. FCSWMD notice of Bulky Waste Day
8. Email from Claire Rabbitt regarding deed transfer (North Cemetery). Need deed transferred prior to mowing season.
9. Email from FC Tech school regarding special election
10. Email from Judy Willis regarding Vote to Pass Over Regional Agreement Warrant Article pertaining to Rowe
11. Supt. response to letter from Shelburne Select Board
12. Letter from Shelburne Select Board
13. Letter to the Editor from Buckland School Comm.
14. Town Counsel's opinions on various questions. Kara will get message to BOH regarding change in Clerk appointment for FY16. Per DOR recommendation, a Board should not be appointing one of their own to serve as Clerk. Currently, Karen Brooks serves as Clerk and BOH Chair.
15. Email from Bob Bourke regarding Safety Building Project. Brian will speak with Reinhardt Associates and explain that the model they created is not what was requested and unsatisfactory.
16. Email from Bill Lattrell regarding bridge railings (to Mike Smith)

17. Email from Town Accountant regarding INR Equipment purchase. Claire may use Hands Across Heath interest balance as well as balance in MediManagement Grant. Nurse's expense line for FY16 was increased to cover balance.
18. Email Town Accountant sent to MJ Adams with question on recent deposit
19. Email from Hilma Sumner
20. Accrual report (balance)
21. Email response from Don Freeman to Hilma Sumner re ATM

Other Separate Documents:

1. Town Coordinator Report
2. FY16 Budget Spreadsheet
3. Draft of ATM Warrant
4. Transfer Station Compactor Project checklist for budgeting
5. Account transfers for FY15 and balance information (spreadsheet)

SIGNED:

1. Treasury Warrant

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:40 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for May 5, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator