

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Community Hall
April 1, 2013

Called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Tom Lively, Margo Newton, Police Chief, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

Reviewed Agenda: No changes.

Dog Status: Tom shared that he attempted a preliminary discussion of installation of kennels at the Woodard property. He spoke with Linda Woodard and then Ronnie arrived. Tom noticed two dogs on a run out back in violation of the order. Tom questioned this method of securing the dogs and Ronnie responded with hostility towards Tom and the Selectmen. Tom interpreted this as a threat and left.

The Board inquired with Margo how to address a threat of this nature. She will explore options for legally addressing a threat. The Board would not like anyone to visit 146 Colrain Stage Rd. without being accompanied by another officer. Margo agreed to bring Officer Mattson. Kara will obtain, from the South Deerfield Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Hospital, verification of the condition of the dog that was attacked and extent of bites.

7:35 p.m. Brian DeVriese entered meeting.

Reviewed Order of Decision and discussed sending a follow up letter by Friday. Need to re-schedule a preliminary inspection. Kara will inquire with Town Counsel regarding the situation and the alleged threats and how to proceed. Margo advised Tom to document the interaction and send his affidavit to her. She will also meet with Ronnie and tell him she will not hesitate to file a criminal complaint should he continue to make threatening remarks.

7:49 p.m. Margo left meeting and Finance Committee entered shortly after (Don Freeman, Gloria Fisher, Kathy Inman and Ned Wolf)

Joint Budget Meeting with Finance Committee:

- Finance Committee reported that they reconsidered, after a lengthy discussion, their previous recommendation for Town Clerk and instead propose \$17.36/hour salary with 3% COLA at 15/hours per week. The job has not changed and therefore there is no justification for an increase. Select Board agreed.
- Discussed 3% overall COLA (with exceptions of positions currently paid over grade)
- Highway Salaries not resolved yet. Discussed options for adjustment. After a momentary break, Finance Committee returned and reviewed all salaries. Select Board and Finance Committee agreed to increase the lowest paid highway position 6% to bring it to competitive level in addition to COLA for a 9% total increase (\$15.81/hour)
- Discussed use of EQV or tax rate of comparable towns to determine comparable towns (project over the summer)
- Discussed Building Maintenance Coordinator position. Reviewed classification rating and determined position will be grade 9 with rate pay of \$17.03 (including 3% COLA).
- Discussed stipends for Animal Control and Animal Inspector. Raised ACO to \$2,000. Also pondered options for combining role with police dept., etc.
- Gloria agreed to meet with Margo to prepare for Town Meeting (increase in hours for Police Dept.)

- COA: Reiterated Val's request. Discussed options for meals program. Added \$1,000 line item to article 3 and request on Warrant for revolving account that will be funded by donations for meals (\$2/meal).

9:10 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.

Mail/Email:

- Copy of survey sent to Postmaster from USPS. Charlene getting more information.
- Example of dog bite form submitted by Sue Gruen – *Report of Bite by a Domestic Animal*.
- Dog Bylaw Revision from K&P
- Email from Finance Committee regarding Town Clerk increase.
- List from Sheila - Items for Discussion regarding Article 3
- Roselli, Clark & Associates invoice for Audit – need to authorize payment (\$2,000 remains in the FY12 Audit account)
- Town Coordinator report

Signed: Warrants

On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Tom Lively, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator