

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SAWYER HALL
April 3, 2012

Called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Tom Lively, with Brian DeVriese and Sheila Litchfield present. Also present, Town Coordinator, Kara Leistyna and Michael Smith, Highway Superintendent.

Reviewed Agenda: Added discussion of ballot question regarding Transfer Station hours with Town Clerk.

7:15 p.m. Performance Review conducted for Highway Superintendent & Fire Chief, Michael Smith.

7:30 p.m. Val Kaempfer entered meeting.

Board briefly discussed the initiative petition asking for a change in winter transfer station hours. Val offered her opinion on the matter. Board of Selectmen's main concern is that the users of the transfer station need to have their say and suggested a ballot question rather than Town Meeting vote. Val agreed that the issue could be put on an unbinding ballot question if time permitted and she would withdraw the petition. The ballot option, rather than a Town Meeting vote, would allow for more residents to weigh in on the matter.

7:45 p.m. Don Freeman, Jeff Simmons, David Gott and Ned Wolf of the Finance Committee entered the meeting for Joint Budget Hearing chaired by Don Freeman.

Budget Review, Highway Dept.: Budget reviewed commenced with Highway Dept.'s request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund to Machinery Maintenance account for payment of towing and repair bill to Briggs Automotive in the amount of \$2,841.93. Finance Committee would like to use the FCSWMD Escrow Account to cover shortfall. Further discussion took place regarding proposal to hire a highway dept. mechanic. A comparison to other towns by looking at crew size, number of roads may be helpful. Mike feels this is a more complicated analysis because then one would have to assess condition of equipment and what towns currently hire mechanics vs. those that do not. Hiring a new employee is a commitment and the Select Board feels the case is not compelling enough to bring to voters this year. Roads are in good shape, no one has complained that things aren't getting done. There are always more tasks to be completed but the initial feeling is that it is not a good time to burden the taxpayer. This issue can always be revisited next year. The Board would like to look at the whole budget picture before committing to a decision.

Mail/ Email:

1. Response from Eileen Tougas regarding Town Report Printing.
2. Town Coordinator's memo regarding appropriations and STM sent to all.
3. Notice of Chapter 87 Regional Information Session.
4. Letter from Governor regarding Chap. 90 Apportionment for FY13.
5. Note from Regional Dog Kennel announcing Regional Dog Officer.
6. FCSWMD note regarding Prevailing Wage.
7. Accountant's Year End memo.

Other items requiring action:

1. Invoice from Glen White for \$332.99. On a motion from Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to pay Glen White's invoice, as submitted, in the amount of \$332.99 for the repairs to boiler in Sawyer Hall.
2. FRCOG Furniture Giveaway. Kara will attend Friday morning to see if there is a fire proof file cabinet and file folders.
3. On a motion from Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to accept with regret the resignations of Jan Carr and Eric Grinnell from the Historic Commission.
4. Notice of Municipal Hearings Officer Training.
5. On a motion from Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to accept with regret the resignation of David Gott from Agricultural Commission.

8:25 p.m. Alice Wozniak & Jan Ameen, FCSWMD entered meeting and Mike Smith left.

Assessors' Budget Hearing: Assessors have proposed level funding except for \$850 decrease to line item for mapping. Discussed Assessor Clerk salary increase requested and reduction in hours. The Board asked Assessors to make any needed changes to clerk job description. Alice feels her request was personal and not one that included the whole Board of Assessors. Tom explained the Town Job Classification System and that the Board of Assessors needs to weigh in on any changes to the Clerk position. Val agreed and said she needs to review the job description and discuss as a Board. Alice feels her request will not bear on the budget.

8:40 Val Kaempfer and Alice Wozniak left the meeting.

Jan Ameen/ PAYT Discussion: Jan Ameen, Executive Director for Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) joined the meeting to present information on Pay As You Throw (PAYT) system and how it would benefit Heath. She shared that the direct savings to the town would be about \$17,000. Heath could use a grant through DEP to purchase the stickers. Jan explained that the amount of trash fluctuates with the economy. There is less trash when people have less money. With PAYT, most towns use a sticker on a 33 gallon unit (bag). There are pros and cons of both. Bags are often poorly made and cost 22¢/each whereas stickers cost 3-5¢ each. Stickers are easier to store than bags. When budgeting trash disposal, the town can offset this expense with sticker income. The town still has to pay for hauling but there is an overall savings. Discussed ways to transition to PAYT. Addressed how to dispose of larger items that don't fit into a bag. Jan suggested a regularly scheduled bulky waste day or using a bulky waste box that could be provided if needed. Discussed composting and how that reduces trash. Jan offered to help.

9:00 p.m. Hilma Sumner and Bob Tanner entered meeting and Jan Ameen left at 9:10 p.m.

Town Clerk / Dog Bylaw Discussion: Hilma feels the town is "getting into risky business to start accruing vet bills on an animal." She recommends establishing a separate humane fund that takes in private donations from people, similar to the medical/nursing fund. She proposes eliminating mention of vet expenses in the bylaw and that the Dog Officer should not take animals to the vet. Then, the humane handling of some circumstances was discussed. A suggestion to seek guidance from MSPCA was made. Also, a possible agreement could be established with a local veterinarian. Need to confirm state rules and liability issues.

10:00 p.m. Hilma Sumner, Bob Tanner and Finance Committee left meeting.

Town Coordinator Report:

1. Kara presented response from Town Counsel and comments on Annual Town Meeting warrant draft.
2. Kara presented response from MIIA regarding FD articles for ATM.
3. Briefly discussed Police Monthly Report and estimated cost for new police cruiser in the amount of \$35,966.95.
4. Carpenter Prize Plaque: Kara ordered and received the plaque. She will write a letter to Eric Glazier regarding installation of plaque at the school.

Discussed the need for an additional member on the Conservation Commission. Kara volunteered. On a motion from Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Kara Leistyna to the Conservation Commission. Motion carried.

Warrants signed. Also, signed FCSWMD paperwork.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator