

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Community Hall
April 22, 2014

Called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield with Bill Lattrell, Brian DeVriese, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

Reviewed Agenda: No changes.

ATM Warrant: Reviewed articles. May need to add a sentence on accepting donation and purpose for cemetery care in North Cemetery. Remove Art. 34. To discuss later in this meeting.

7:03 p.m. Al Canali arrived.

WiredWest: Al distributed a hand out with information about WiredWest. Discussed \$1,000 annual fee. Board of Directors votes annually whether to assess a fee and determine the amount not to exceed \$1,000. Al shared that WiredWest is currently an ISP (Internet Service Provider) and getting big clients. However, they are not ready to go door to door for providing service to all residents. They hope the larger clients will bring in revenue to aid in pursuing the next step in providing service to all. Al will prepare a hand out or be present at Annual Town Meeting with a prepared response should questions arise.

Discussed loan aspect of project. Because WiredWest is not prepared with any figures at this time, Town cannot vote on this option this year unless moderator approves. Can be allowed if there is a figure to consider in an article but the WW Executive Board did not have a number yet. They are pursuing innovative funding options with legislators and this will require more time. \$40 million has been considered by the State and is pending. WiredWest anticipates a need for at least \$100 million total so they have to pursue options for the \$60 million balance (pro-rated liability for each town). Al believes this implementation is important for the Town because we have to stay current with technology. The question was posed as to whether or not the backing of a \$60 million loan will encumber the Town's ability to borrow. Legal review by municipal attorneys will be part of the whole process. Discussed agreement for succession and whether there was anything in place should WiredWest fail. Will assets transfer to another entity? What is the impact? Will it continuing operating without interruption? Heath's number of households needs to be confirmed as they base the pro-ration on such a demographic. Wondered what the criteria is for determining what type of household to include. Kara will find out from how households are determined for the US Census.

7:30 p.m. Doug Wilkins, Moderator, entered meeting.

Warrant Discussion: The Select Board informed Doug that the warrant this year will include FY14 and FY15 spending (essentially combining Special Town Meeting items with Annual Town Meeting items). This was the practice in the past according to Town Clerk but somehow changed at some point. Reviewed various articles and bylaw revisions. Doug suggested, to prevent lengthy discussion at meeting, to ask voters to forego grammatical corrections. Rather than presenting bylaws for approval, to present a draft that everyone can review and send edits to Select Board and then vote on revisions at a later STM. Discussed matters that require a Town vote but are not ready for May ATM. Doug asked what was needed? Brian replied that 4-6 months would be needed to allow hearings, education, & presentations on Municipal Complex Building project. Doug suggested some wording to ask permission to hold off voting until a future Special Town Meeting. Three such articles will be placed on warrant to include Municipal Complex Building project, Wired West funding and General Bylaws of Town of Heath.

7:59 p.m. Finance Committee members Don Freeman, Gloria Fisher, Kathy Inman, and Ned Wolf arrived.

Continued discussion with Doug Wilkins on WiredWest and financial back up for future loans that may be needed. Al will inquire with Exec. Board at WiredWest. Kara will ask other Towns whether they are addressing this issue on their Town warrant this year.

8:07 p.m. Al Canali left meeting and Doug Wilkins left shortly after.

FY15 Budget Review/Meeting with Finance Committee:

- Highway Dept. Uniform Request: Some questions were posed to Mike Smith and he responded. Clean uniforms will be delivered and stored at individual's homes. The quote offered is good for the next year and supposed to stay the same for the next three years.
- Roadside Mowing Budget: Regarding licensure for perspective mowers, recertification costs \$60 for two years. If highway crew handles roadside mowing, Mike deems it the equivalent to losing an employee for 3-4 months. Finding a contractor to do this task is nearly impossible and has been problematic in the past and not all roads were mowed. Since hiring a seasonal employee, townspeople have been satisfied with the results. With the new mower, the job is completed more efficiently, according to Mike Smith.
- Discussed mowing line item for Cemeteries. Do not know the amount that could possibly come from North Heath Cemetery Corp.
- Don reviewed his latest calculation of tax levy/rate. Goal is to stabilize rate. Predicts rate to be \$19.08 (from \$19.12).
- Discussed use of stabilization money in emergency situation. Free cash will remain at \$35,621 with establishment of stabilization funds for large equipment and capital improvements.
- Discussed possibility for an article on warrant to address land purchase.
- Finance Committee updated on WiredWest discussion. A question arose as to whether the town's borrowing ability would be encumbered by the potential backing of WiredWest. Town will not borrowing the money and it will be paid back with user fees. Al Canali will find out more.
- After briefly leaving the meeting, Finance Committee returned. They voted to recommend Line 103 on Article 3 – Uniforms, in the amount of \$1,540. They do not recommend the Roadside Mowing budget of \$7,000. Sheila will discuss with Mike.

9:04 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.

Reviewed Minutes: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted in favor of accepting the minutes of 4/15/14 Select Board meeting as amended. Bill Lattrell abstained as he was not present at the meeting.*

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve revision to Personal Reimbursement Policy.

Mail/ Email:

1. Revision to Reimbursement Policy from Tracey.
2. Copy of letter sent to Mr. Woodard. It has been reported by the Animal Control Officer (ACO) that the Woodard dogs have been loose twice, entering the neighbors' property and another dead chicken has resulted. The owner of the chickens returned the dogs to the Woodards' despite the Town's request asking them to hold the dogs and call the ACO immediately.
3. ATM emails – correspondence with Town Counsel and others re: North Heath Cemetery Corp.
4. ATM emails – correspondence with Town Counsel and others re: Property Acquisition
5. ATM emails – correspondence re: compactor purchase in FY14
6. Email from Mike Smith – suggested additional funds for mowing North Heath Cemetery

7. Email from accountant regarding funds for EMT training
8. Copy of email Sheila sent to Mike Smith regarding uniforms/roadside mowing
9. Email and follow-up responses between Sheila and Kara re: April 15 BOS meeting
10. Lyra Johnson-Fuller performance review
11. Heath's apportionment for pothole funding
12. Announcement: GSFABA Annual Spring Breakfast Friday, May 2 7:30 -9am \$12 each
13. Email from Mary Ann Marino regarding Update to Hoisting License CEU Requirements. Renewal extended to Sept. 1, 2014. Mike is aware.
14. Email from Kathy Reynolds, Charlemont. Meeting April 28 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Meeting Rm. To discuss Charlemont Ambulance, license renewal & future of service. Sheila will attend.
15. Email from Gary Ponce regarding meeting with Colrain Ambulance. **May 20th at 7:30** here in Heath.
16. ATM Warrant – Draft
17. FY15 Budget Spreadsheet
18. Tax Rate Calculation from Finance Committee
19. Mass DOT Project Request Forms

Other Business:

Scheduling: Discussed various meetings and who will attend. Meeting regarding Charlemont Ambulance will be held April 28 in Charlemont. Next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held in Sawyer Hall. Kara will schedule a BOS meeting on May 8th (if needed). Kara will organize raffle and advertising for Earth Machine Compost bins and Sure-Close Kitchen Compost Collection pails. Drawing will be held August 1st.

Town of Heath General Bylaws: Since the full text will not be presented at ATM, Kara will ask Hilma for pertinent bylaw revisions that will need to go on warrant in May.

Signed:

1. Vacation Request
2. Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing for Pothole Funding
3. Letter of Authorization for Telephone Number Transfer
4. MIIA Injured On Duty Quote & Acceptance form. ***On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to accept Cabot Risk Strategies' policy quote for injured-on-duty police and firefighters for FY15 in the amount of \$10,997.*** (Last year it was \$11,355)

On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for April 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator