

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
April 27, 2010

Called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Tom Lively with Brian De Vriese and Sheila Litchfield present. Also present Town Coordinator Gloria Fisher, Finance Committee Members Don Freeman, Jan Carr, Jeff Simmons and Ned Wolf.

Agenda was reviewed with bulky waste day and Wired West added to new business.

7:12 Dave Gott entered the meeting.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The warrant was reviewed article by article. Discussed using \$50,000 of free cash to reduce taxes. Discussed how to pay for a new loader. It was decided that the taxpayers would be asked to vote to use \$40,000 from Stabilization and the balance as a loan. Discussed the cemetery rules and noted that although it wasn't a bylaw, it was voted at town meeting and needs to be voted to amend at town meeting. Brian moved to approve the warrant articles as amended. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. The Finance Committee also voted to approve the articles as amended. Discussed Article 15, Stabilization Fund for Mohawk Trail Regional School District. Brian moved to approve the article's. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. The Finance Committee also voted to approve the article.

Discussed the proposed Community Hall restorations/renovations. Discussed putting an article on the ATM warrant for refinishing the floor. It was decided to ask the voters to approve \$15,000 for the renovation for Community Hall as a Special Project.

Salary Survey

The Board and the FinCom reviewed the town's employee positions and compared the salaries to the average salaries of a similar group of other Franklin County towns. It was noted that eight positions were below the average salary level. Discussed how salaries are set. Each salary was discussed and different options to making them equitable were offered, including different Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for each position and an inclusive 3% COLA. Brian moved to award a 3% COLA to town employees. Sheila seconded. The vote was unanimous. The Finance Committee voted to approve the 3% COLA.

Budget

Discussed the budget line by line. The Preschool budget, the Flower Fund, and the Dump Closing account were reviewed thoroughly. The budget will be finalized at the May 4 meeting. Discussed the levy limit and the ceiling.

9:55 Don, Jan, Ned, Jeff, and Dave left the meeting.

Mail

- E-mail from Mike Smith notifying the Board of a donation by Alicia Tripp of a three-point hitch, a York rake, and a scrapper blade with the attaching device. Mike values the donated equipment at approximately \$2,500.
- Proposal from the Phoebe Walker, FRCOG, for regional health services for FY 2011. Phoebe has revised the town of Heath's annual membership assessment. The new assessment is \$5,000. She also notes the tasks requested of the Health Agent.
- E-mail from Bob Dean, FRCOG, re: public hearings to be held across Massachusetts to gather input on the report of the Mass Regionalization Advisory Commission. A hearing on the report is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at the GCC Downtown Center, at 10 a.m.

- The Planning Board will be meeting on Thursday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss Smart Growth options. Peggy Sloan, FRCOG, will be attending.

Town Coordinator Report

The Town Coordinator reported that:

- Sen. Ben Downing will be in Rowe in May for his “coffee and conversation.” Date and time to be announced.
- Covanta came last week and delivered the tree. It’s a red maple. Mike planted it near where the blue spruce was.
- Mark Reich has provided a deed for cemetery plots. He advised that according to MGL, a deed is required, not a certificate of ownership. Copies of his suggested deed are in your folders.
- Insurance meeting – at the insurance meeting attended last week, the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust discussed some of the ramifications of the new national health bill. They expect that the premiums for children from 19-26 will be paid 100% by the parents, not the employer.
- Jo Travis is running for Planning Board as a write in candidate.
- Wanda invites the Board to the elementary school’s Memorial Day celebration at Center Cemetery on Thursday, May 27, at 8:30 a.m.
- The elevators in the Community Hall and Sawyer Hall had their annual inspection this morning. Both passed and are licensed for a year.
- She has put together preliminary ATM warrant articles.

New Business

- Transfer Station Permit Stickers – it was decided to not sell any transfer station permits for FY 2011 until June 1 pending decision regarding the Pay As You Throw Plan.
- Bulky Waste Day – it was noted that the county’s Bulky Waste Day will be held at the same time and day as that of town meeting.
- Wired West – Discussed the meeting Sheila attended re: broadband access the Wired West group’s proposals and warrant article. The e-mail from Sheila will be forwarded to Brian and Tom by Gloria.

Old Business

- Landfill – the town of Charlemont has requested a three-town landfill meeting next week. The Board would like to know what the agenda is. Gloria will speak with Charlemont’s Executive Secretary about the reasons for holding the meeting and the proposed agenda.

Documents Signed –Warrants, letters, and the Annual Town Meeting warrant were signed.

Minutes

Will be reviewed at next week’s meeting.

Brian moved to adjourn. Tom seconded. The motion passed.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 4, at 7:00 p.m. at Sawyer Hall.

Adjourned 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Fisher, Town Coordinator