

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
April 29, 2014

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield with Bill Lattrell, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

Reviewed Agenda: Minutes will be reviewed on May 20 (next meeting scheduled). Added to Other Business: Charlemont Ambulance meeting, Heath School Dual Use, and Update on Dog Situation.

Dog Bylaw Revision: Atty. at Kopelman & Paige sent suggested revisions to Sect. 2 Kennels, of General Bylaws of the Town of Heath. Reviewed. Discussed letter sent on 9/11/13 by Atty. General in response to changes to Heath Bylaws. Kara will ask Hilma if there is any action needed to address other comments by Atty. General.

7:23 p.m. Timothy Lively entered meeting.

Performance Review: Timothy Lively, Building Maintenance Coordinator.

Also discussed Charlemont Ambulance: After meeting at the Town of Charlemont with Phil Bonaiuto, Dept. of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services Field Supervisor, an ambulance committee was formed. They are looking for representatives from each community. Tim offered to participate in addition to Bill Lattrell, a member of the Select Board. Perhaps Colrain would like to join as well.

On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Timothy Lively and Bill Lattrell to serve as Heath representatives on the Charlemont Ambulance Exploratory Committee.

Reviewed meeting with Superintendent Buoniconti at the Heath School regarding dual use of school building. The Town would like to use the school attic for storage of Town documents. Currently, they are stored in the damp basement of Sawyer Hall. Kara will contact the Superintendent to find out how to proceed and let him know we are interested in implementing that plan as soon as possible and to find out the parameters. Once confirmed, Kara will notify departments.

7:51 p.m. Tim Lively left the meeting.

8:00 p.m. Finance Committee members Don Freeman, Gloria Fisher, Kathy Inman, Jeff Simmons and Ned Wolf arrived as well as Jan Ameen, Exec. Director, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

Jan Ameen: Jan attended tonight's meeting to discuss possible grant funding through the Mass. DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. Jan outlined the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) funding option for Heath. Heath already receives \$500 through the Targeted Small Scale Investments grant. The PAYT options offers \$10 per household (roughly \$2,500). It does not include a sticker program. The Town would buy bags (roughly \$4,000) minus the \$2,500 would cost the Town \$1,500 but this money could be recovered with the sale of bags to residents (approx. \$1.50-2.00 per bag). Discussed other options. Tipping fees are eliminated with PAYT which saves the Town \$14,000 or so. Sticker programs are cheaper than what the grant offers. Jeff Simmons shared that currently the trash budget is stable and has been reduced with new tipping fees. Jan shared another option called modified PAYT where everyone gets 52 stickers and a punch card. It offers incentive to reduce waste. Discussed existing problem in

Heath whereby people are using the facility without a permit. Bulky waste items were discussed. Jan shared an important change. Waste will not go to an incinerator after July 1. All waste will go to a landfill. Mike Smith needs to be notified so this can be communicated to residents. Sharps are banned from the transfer station and need to be placed in special collection box. Discussed Transfer Station compactor project. A reconditioned unit is good for paper, not trash so it won't last as long – maybe 10 years. The unit is completely refurbished with new pistons, hoses, seals, floor, etc. Site work can begin now as part of the project will be paid from funds in the recycling escrow account.

8:28 p.m. Jan Ameen left the meeting.

FY15 Budget Review/Meeting with Finance Committee:

- Reviewed warrant articles. Finance Committee recommended Art. 32. On an annual basis, the cemetery mowing can be tracked and it may result in all mowing may be covered by one budget line.
- Tax Levy Worksheet: Don shared his most recent calculation of tax rate for FY15. Many FY14 funds were used to finance expenses but the risk may be low free cash. However, stabilization will have hearty balance. Big expenses are potentially coming in the future. Helpful to try to keep rate stable. Bill and Sheila offered a grand thank you to the Finance Committee for all their hard work and excellent teamwork during this budget planning season. And the Finance Committee offered a thank you to the Town Coordinator.

8:54 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.

Mail/ Email:

1. Emails from Town Counsel regarding Dog Bylaws and proposed changes (with copy of AG's letter dated 9/11/13)
2. Notes from Charlemont Ambulance Meeting and email follow up
3. Notes from Heath School Meeting regarding dual use of school buildings
4. Email from Tracey regarding use of cemetery accounts and suggestion of
5. Email announcing Colrain Ambulance 1000 consecutive call with at least 2 EMTs
6. Email regarding Accountant's recommendation on Veteran's Benefits FY15 budget
7. National Grid letter announcing treatment on rights-of-way. Kara will post on website.
8. Sarah Hettlinger's report regarding Woodard/Waldron dog situation
9. MEMA & DCR Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Asst. Program announcement. Board is not anticipating submitting a grant application at this time.
10. ATM Warrant – Draft
11. FY15 Budget Spreadsheet
12. Tax Rate Calculation from Finance Committee

Other Business:

Dog Matter: Certified letter delivered in hand to owner of dogs.

Update on Feasibility Study: No update.

Cemetery Update: Discussed land owned by Grinnell's but not deeded to North Cemetery Corp. Kara will make a note in file that it is not part of town owned land/cemetery. Claire Rabbitt will be asked if any deeds for plots have been sold for the privately owned piece.

Signed:

1. Bi-weekly warrant
2. Highway Garage Door Expansion Loan Note
3. HCOG Letter of Authorization for the Request of Electricity Consumption Information (*Board did not sign because it is not clear what is being authorized. Board does not feel comfortable authorizing the release of resident's addresses from utility company to HCOG for Municipal*)

Aggregation Opt Out option. Kara will check the vote on Town Warrant to accept Aggregation and contact Ken Elstein at HCOG for clarification).

On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator