

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Community Hall
May 7, 2013

Called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Tom Lively, Brian DeVriese, Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator and Claire Varelas, OSP Designer from Verizon present.

Reviewed Agenda: Added to Appointments: Verizon Pole Hearing, Claire Varelas, 7:30 p.m.
Added to Other Business: Further review of Article 3.

Reviewed Minutes:

On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Tom Lively, the Board voted unanimously to approve Select Board meeting minutes dated 3/21/13 and 4/29/13 as amended.

Article 3:

Discussed Tax Collector expense line and added \$300 additional to purchase a safe as recommended by the Auditor.

Read explanation offered by Margo Newton regarding increase in police salaries. The Board feels satisfied with this explanation. Because 80 hours or roughly \$1,500 was devoted to Heath Fair coverage last year and this coverage is no longer reimbursed by Community Policing Grants, the Board pondered providing a line item separating Heath Fair coverage. Will discuss issue further and perhaps discuss amount with the Heath Agricultural Society for next year's budget.

Verizon Pole Hearing: Hearing was opened at 7:30 p.m. Claire Varelas, OSP Designer and representative for Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company. And on their behalf, requests permission to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures along Taylor Brook Road (T.91/2/E.11/2) in order to reduce span length and increase clearance for the existing cables; and to provide for the distribution and intelligence and telecommunications and the transmission of high and low voltage electric current. Because the pole has already been erected prior to the pole hearing, the Select Board felt this was a serious breach of procedure and requested from Verizon a written explanation to include what procedure will be followed in the future. Claire will inquire and explained that the paperwork was put into schedule inadvertently resulting in the premature placement of the pole. Discussed scheduling.
On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Tom Lively, the Board voted unanimously to continue the hearing to 5/21/13 at 7:30 p.m.

7:45 p.m. Claire Varelas left meeting and Bill Lattrell entered shortly after.

Performance Review: Town Coordinator

8:12 p.m. Finance Committee members Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Kathy Inman, Gloria Fisher and Jeff Simmons entered meeting.

Finance Committee: Don Freeman presented a draft of estimated tax calculation for FY14. Discussed projections. He reported that the valuation is up 1.1% and Local Aid is up. State budget has not been finalized. Finance Committee will provide a handout at ATM once all numbers are inserted. Reviewed warrant and Article 3 again. Finance Committee reported reservations remain with roadside mowing and building maintenance coordinator receiving a COLA. Select Board explained that the new hire will not receive a COLA rather all grades will be adjusted to reflect the increase and the new person will be hired at rate or below. Discussed police salaries again and decided to leave as is rather than

separating the Heath Fair coverage from salary line item. Discussed announcements to make at ATM and Don shared that he will make presentation on tax rate.

The Finance Committee thanked Tom for his service and all applauded.

8:44 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.

Mail/Email:

1. 2013 Election Results. Sheila shared that she has someone in mind for the Animal Control Officer position.
2. Response from BayState Franklin Medical Center regarding recent negative publicity about community healthcare. Kara will bring copy to ATM.
3. Updated Transfer Station brochure. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Tom Lively, the Board voted unanimously to accept changes to the Transfer Station brochure for 2013-2014.*
4. DEP Workshop Announcement
5. Email regarding Hampshire COG Select Boards Assoc. Meeting
6. Franklin County Clean Sweep Collection Notice. Kara will attend for the Town.
7. Email from Sheila regarding Joe Boudreau
8. Email from Sheila regarding compactor
9. Email from Doug in response to email regarding compactor. Board will follow up with Recycling Committee on continuing research on price/installation.
10. Resignation from John Tierney/Fred Wells Trust. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Tom Lively to accept John Tierney's resignation with regret.*
11. Email from Wired West - update
12. CC email from Hilma to Cal Carr regarding ATM Article 27 – Decibels. Select Board agrees that 5 above ambient would be preferred but doesn't appear that that can be used. Tabled till further discussion at Town Meeting.
13. CC email from Tim Lively to Accountant regarding EMPG grant
14. Email from Town of Gill – Compilation of info. regarding COLAs (save for future use)
15. Nurse Report Month of April
16. Email from Mike Smith regarding FEMA paperwork. Will discuss upon Mike's return.
17. Email from Mike Smith regarding Secretary of Transportation and his correspondence on the topic of bridge and road regulations
18. CC email correspondence from Hilma to Mike regarding pole hearing (in hearing file)
19. Notice from MassDOT – just a receipt that a voucher has been submitted
20. Kara will contact HRA and relay that a suggested project for Heath would be bridge replacement similar to town of Wendell.
21. Tom discussed cleaning of Town Center with Mike and he will arrange the spring clean up for Memorial Day.

Other Business:

- Discussed date for **Heath Herald** potluck. Tentatively scheduled June 13 from 5-7 p.m. Kara will confirm.
- Discussed preparation for **Annual Town Meeting**. Kara will finalize information sheet.
- Advice from Tom: Tom shared some parting words. He has enjoyed meeting his peers in other towns and making connections. Tom feels good about how Heath is doing. He said he will miss the Board but expressed confidence in knowing they will do a great job.
- **Sheila's conversation with Joe Boudreau:** Personnel issues are not within his purview. If the Town would like a financial audit there is a DOR Branch in Boston. If specific questions related to assessing and collecting are forwarded, Joe can funnel through to DOR specialists whom can offer technical assistance on overall financial practices. An audit is not needed as we just have undergone this process. Board of Selectmen still needs to be involved. A possible option is to get

best practices and survey how other towns handle processes. Perhaps this could help make judgment on what is needed for Heath.

Signed:

- Letter to Dorothy Sessions – resignation from COA
- Treasury Warrant
- Cabot Risk Strategies LLC acceptance of insurance for FY14
- Highway Garage Door borrowing note (approve payment of invoice)
- DEP Grant Letter for reimbursement of eligible costs

On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Tom Lively, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled May 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator