

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
June 9, 2015

Called to order at 7 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Bill Lattrell, Brian DeVriese, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. Also present: See sign in sheet attached hereto.

Reviewed Agenda: Schedule changes: 7:45 p.m. Board of Health; 8:00 p.m. Broadband discussion

Michael Buoniconti and Michael Kociela, MTRSD: Mr. Kociela distributed hand outs related to the SAPHIRE grant for a new pellet burning furnace for the Heath school. He apologized for the lack of information about the contingency fee and solar component. Worksheets contained breakdowns of costs. Heath does not directly benefit from the new system – the District would save money. Supt. Buoniconti shared that he is hopeful all school buildings will be upgraded similarly to create a District-wide efficiency and this is a first step towards District-wide conversion to renewable energy. The pellet furnace has a 30 year life and will generate about \$2,500 savings annually according to Supt. Buoniconti and Mike Kociela. Heath was chosen coincidentally after an energy audit was completed. An application was submitted for Hawlemont as well. There is approximately 10 years of life remaining on current system so it will be used as a back-up in case a problem arises. \$50,000 was the cost figure offered should the current system be replaced with same. Pellet option is more costly even when offset by grant and an additional \$11,000 is needed for operation. Finance Committee and Board feel it will be a tough sell unless everyone signs on at the same time and there is a balance between who pays and who benefits. A new system is considered a capital expense and therefore is the Town's obligation. Discussed debt service and engineering and additional duct work needed as well as cost of pellets (a district-wide operating expense) and how the pricing may change in next ten years. As cost is generally in the transport, a nearby plant would be beneficial. Finance Committee will research what borrowing terms would be best. The Health Agent expressed concern about emissions/EPA standards and whether it will comply. Also, it was suggested that the Building Sub-Committee weigh in on the matter. The installation of a pellet furnace may help Heath get Green Communities Initiative designation but that is unclear at this time. After a full discussion, the Board and Finance Committee both felt that due to lack of notice it's difficult to make decisions so quickly and the matter has to be thoroughly considered. The timing is extremely difficult as Annual Town Meeting was just held, WiredWest is coming up for a vote, and the Tech School is asking Town's to authorize borrowing for capital projects. The Board will consider the grant and let the Superintendent know their decision. The School Committee meets tomorrow at the Heath School to consider the grant.

7:40 p.m. Supt. Buoniconti, Mr. Kociela, and Budge Litchfield left meeting.

Karen Brooks, Board of Health: Karen informed the Board that membership on the FRCOG Cooperative Public Health Service is up for renewal and the agreement needs to be signed. Karen also mentioned the Board of Health's interest in holding another Clean Sweep in Heath sometime in August. The Selectmen pondered whether or not it would interfere with the Transfer Station project. Karen shared that Mike Shattuck and Margo Newton will volunteer to help. The cost last year was \$264 and a lot of trash was hauled away. Karen asked that the Board let the Board of Health know by their next meeting to be held on July 1, 2015. Last, Karen briefly reviewed the Brownfields program and grant opportunity for 5 Ledges Road. The grant is available for abandoned and derelict properties and the deadline for Phase I is June 23. Karen affirmed that there is no liability to the Town and that the town does not own the property. She also shared that the letter tonight is just a start to the process – there is no commitment to other phases. If contamination is found, there is no liability to the Town. Due to time constraints tonight, the conversation will be revisited on June 15th.

7:47 p.m. Karen Brooks left meeting.

WiredWest/Broadband – Jim Drawe, Treasurer WiredWest et al: Sheila welcomed everyone. She shared with Jim Drawe that Heath did not bring the WiredWest vote to Annual Town Meeting because the Board and Finance Committee are still awaiting a business plan from WiredWest. The Towns are essentially being asked to invest in a ‘start up’ venture and it’s critical that the business plan be available for review prior to making a recommendation to voters. If questions are answered tonight, the article will be placed on the Special Town Meeting warrant for June 30, 2015. Mr. Drawe shared that the business plan is not available yet for public distribution. He discussed the process of building out the final mile of fiber optic regional network. Once the Towns have voted to finance the final mile, they will be included in a newly formed cooperative. Agreements will be sent out to participating towns for signatures and bylaws of the newly formed cooperative will be drafted within a week or so and sent to all participating towns for feedback (approximately two week turnaround). Discussed design of regional network and efficiency of cost of construction/operations. Mr. Drawe touched upon make ready work, poles, fixed capital costs up front, redundancy within each town and how this saves a lot of money but it all is contingent upon how many towns sign on, etc. Discussed projections, options if it failed due to revenue shortfall, etc. Mr. Drawe shared that he tried to keep the projection model conservative with a 2% increase per year and rates flat for 20 years. Discussed incentive to join the regional network rather than ‘going it on our own.’ Outlined all costs including build out, service needs, insurance, etc. There are always cost overruns so a percentage was included for such. This is a 40 month project built out by MBI and operated by WiredWest. Risk always exists but the risk of lost opportunity if higher. Mr. Drawe confirmed that 19 towns have received approval and he stated this is sufficient for build out to begin. Discussed need for business plan and again, the Finance Committee shared their concern that without the information and confidence in the viability of the project, they cannot recommend the authorization to borrow to voters at this time. This is an equity investment. Many shared their surprise that so many towns approved the borrowing without the knowledge of the business plan details and operating procedure. Mr. Drawe reiterated that once authorization is approved, the cooperative forms, and Board of Selectmen serve as a check and balance. The Select Board will be able to negotiate terms of contract according to Mr. Drawe and have input in the bylaws during the draft review process. Discussed when the Business Plan will be available. Mr. Drawe said Saturday after the WW Board meeting. Heather Row asked for a couple of weeks, at least, for a review period and the time to get answers if questions arise. Mr. Drawe reminded everyone that MBI begins the project and starts spending money as of July 1, 2015. The business plan will be available Saturday, WiredWest will re-incorporate and a draft of bylaws will be distributed to all participating towns. Heath would like to be a part of the formation and requested a delay for business plan review process and that the Town would like to be included in the formation of the bylaws. Because the Town ‘is’ WiredWest, the parties requesting the additional time saw no reason why that could not be honored. 14-26 towns still have not voted. Jim said he would ask the WiredWest Board of Directors at their meeting Saturday in Colrain at 9:30 a.m.; this is an open meeting. WiredWest was acknowledged as a tremendous volunteer effort and the work appreciated. Jim Drawe was thanked for attending tonight’s meeting.

9:26 p.m. WiredWest meeting concluded.

Mike Smith, Highway Department:

Compactor Project: Discussion on compactor project moved to a July meeting due to time constraints this evening.

Dell Bridge: Discussed the closure of the bridge at Dell. Mike reported that the detour was all set up by the engineer company. There is a notice posted on the Town’s website. Daytime closure effective June 17-19. Because school closes the 18th, Mike will ask them to delay work briefly to accommodate school bus.

STRAP Grant: Mike shared that he was in touch with project contact, George Durante, for STRAP grant reporting. He's handling bids through Andrea Woods at FRCOG. Mike, Kara, and Tracey will help to complete contract tasks.

Fire Dept.: Discussed Fire Dept. matters. Board asked Mike whether he was aware of any concerns. Mike shared that he and Ken Gilbert have spoken and discussed decrease in volunteerism. Currently, the station has eight active members; enough to run equipment during emergency situations. Ken and Mike are looking for options to improve. The suggestion was made of inviting a consultant (e.g. an area chief) to stimulate growth in department. It was also suggested to reach out to neighboring towns for joint efforts. Mike shared that firefighting requires a lot of training. People aged 20-40 are an ideal demographic. Heath has an aging population so the need for more publicity/awareness is essential to stimulate volunteerism.

Clean Sweep: Discussed Board of Health's request to hold an event in August. Mike okay with this and feels it will not interfere with Transfer Station project. *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted to authorize the Board of Health to host a Clean Sweep and Swap in August with expenses paid through the BOH Revolving Account.*

9:40 p.m. Finance Committee members re-joined the meeting.

10:03 p.m. Mike Smith left meeting.

Other Business:

1. SAPHIRE GRANT: On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously not to pursue, at this time, the SAPHIRE Grant for the purchase and installment of a pellet furnace at the Heath School.
2. Discussed STM Warrant. Made revisions. After researching various Towns and what article they placed on their warrant for the Broadband vote, the Board chose wording used by New Salem and Wendell. Land purchase article removed as details about land purchase for Safety Complex building are not available yet. An RFP is being prepared by the FRCOG to solicit offers from other Town residents for land to erect the building upon.
3. Broadband Task Force: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Jansen McNay and Heather Row to serve as consultants to the Board on the regional broadband project.*
4. Frank E. Carpenter Prize: This annual award for a sixth grader from Heath, since 1932, can no longer be funded through interest earned on principal gift of \$2,000.00. Board of Selectmen members have been contributing so the award may be funded. Sheila is working on a communication to townspeople about various funds held by the Town and how to contribute.
5. Heath School graduation will be held Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30 p.m. Sheila and Brian will attend.
6. Discussed how to dispel discontent within the Town should it arise. The Board is always open and welcomes comments/concerns/suggestions from residents.

Mail/ Email:

1. MTRSD School Committee agenda, Excerpts from Draft meeting minutes including information on SAPHIRE Grant and ATM Report
2. Various Broadband related emails
3. Various Highway Dept. related emails/information
4. Emails from Kris Nartowicz regarding Carpenter Award
5. End of Year Memo from Accountant
6. Email regarding effort to contact State regarding grant for Safety Complex/Agenda
7. Email regarding special election for FC Tech School
8. Email and attachment from Sheila Litchfield regarding rumors
9. Emails regarding CEDS
10. Follow up from MA DOT / Margaret Freeman regarding Rt. 8A bridge

11. Emails from Claire Rabbitt/BOH regarding purchase of INR equipment
12. Email response from Ray Purington regarding Gill's Annual Capital Cost chart
13. Emails regarding Wage and Salary Survey
14. A reminder about upcoming birthday
15. Elevator inspections scheduled for June 26
16. FCSA Quarterly Meeting announcement
17. Sr. Center Coordinator report

Other Separate Documents:

1. Community Health Needs Assessment
2. Draft STM Warrant
3. Town Coordinator Report

SIGNED:

4. Treasury Warrant
5. FCSWMD Hauling Contract: *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Hauling Services, effective July 1, 2015 for FY 2016.*
6. Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Municipal Contract: *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to sign the new five year extension to current contract with the MRF (approved at ATM, 5/9/15).*
7. CPHS Renewal Agreement: *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to sign the Franklin County Cooperative Public Health Service renewal agreement.*

Reviewed Minutes: *Minutes of 5/26 will be reviewed on June 15, 2015.*

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:48 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for June 15, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator