

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Community Hall  
July 16, 2013

Called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

**Reviewed Agenda:** Added Bob Gruen, School Committee at 8:15 p.m. and to Other Business, added Yankee Beemer Contribution Requests and Municipal Safety Complex update.

**Reviewed Minutes:**

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve Select Board meeting minutes dated 7/02/13 as amended.*

**Mail/Email:**

1. Letter from FCSWMD with information and check regarding Recycling Revenue. Discussed income and possible uses in the upcoming FY.
2. Memo from Park & Recreation Comm. Bill offered to take a look at the area and to be discussed with Finance Committee.
3. Memo from Brian DeVriese regarding leftover supplies from painting. Supplies may be stored in Sawyer Hall basement.
4. Email correspondence from Jan Carr regarding Rowe and Seaboard Solar.
5. Email from Sheila Litchfield regarding Yankee Beemers 2013 Donations List. They make decisions based on feedback from a variety of folks in town and have contributed widely in town. Sheila will respond that the Board concurs with their suggestions for recipients.
6. Notice sent by Cal Carr announcing Meeting re: Medical Marijuana Regulations

**7:28 p.m. Jan Carr, Cal Carr and Bob Schultz entered meeting. Dave Thomas, Seaboard Solar Rep. entered and shortly afterward, Gloria Fisher, Kathy Inman, Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Bob Viarengo, Jo Travis, Steve Ryack and Bob Gruen entered.**

**Pause here to receive Dave Thomas, Seaboard Solar.**

**Seaboard Solar:** Bill Lattrell recuses himself from any decisions as he represents the Town of Rowe in a wetlands project for a solar proposal.

Dave Thomas, Director of Sales and Project Management for Seaboard Solar, formerly Solaire, opened the meeting explaining how Seaboard Solar is seeking host towns and Heath could be a host for solar projects in nearby towns. A new state program (Phase II) will be defined in August and become effective in December of this year. Currently they are working with the town of Rowe where they are seeking approval from their Planning Board. Once that is approved, Seaboard can complete the application which requires hosts in order to submit for approval. Discussed energy credits and the process for municipalities. The town would get credits on National Grid bills and Seaboard handles the paperwork and files Schedule Z every six months with no administrative cost. Energy is turned into dollars. Dave explained that all equipment and land except for the meter is insured by Seaboard. Heath would own the meter. He shared that they are currently working with Holland, New Salem, Wendell and Warwick. He added that it takes some time, approximately 14-16 or more months, for towns to receive money. He stated that Wendell is now receiving payments. Seaboard needs two more MW (megawatts) for the next system for a total of 10 MW. Dave says all Heath has to contribute is a signature. This caused skepticism and the group posed several questions regarding hosting versus owning a facility, issues of liability; efficiency and affect on tax base, etc. Dave says that if Heath hosts, the town will receive a half a penny

per kilo-watt hour which he says roughly calculates to \$60,000 over 20 years with no end cap on credits. Discussed vote needed at town meeting. He shared that the program fills quickly yet says there is no timeframe. He referred the group to the D.O.E.R. website that has information on net metering programs. Dave closed the discussion offering his availability for questions and/or a follow-up meeting.

**8:12 p.m. Dave Thomas left meeting.**

The group continued the discussion. Discussed numbers presented. Steve shared that from a 10 MW (megawatt) facility, it's roughly 10-12% yield in this region whereas Dave said about 20%, when considering productive solar hours per day. Jan will forward some information to the group regarding contracts with other towns. Everyone offered to do research as there remain many critical, unanswered questions. Group will reconvene to make a recommendation. Kopelman & Paige's opinion will be asked as well.

**8:19 p.m. Jan Carr, Cal Carr, Bob Schultz, Kathy Inman, Don Freeman, Ned Wolf, Bob Viarengo, Jo Travis, and Steve Ryack left meeting.**

**School Committee:** Bob Gruen summarized the issue of FY14 Proposed Assessment changes based on State calculated minimum contribution adjustment and how the revisions could affect Heath. Heath could face an additional assessment of \$74,928. According to the Dept. of Education, if the members of the district have already approved a FY14 budget, and if the approved assessment for each member town exceeds the revised required contribution for that town, then in their opinion, the budget remains valid and in force. The school committee can choose to propose an amended budget with recalculated assessments, but it is not required to do so. Member communities must give approval but if a town has a higher assessment under the amended budget, and if that member does not approve the amended budget, the district cannot enforce the payment of that higher amount, even if the amended budget is approved by 2/3 of the members. Michael Buoniconti's opinion in response to this proposal is that if Heath was to vote against paying higher assessments, then the budget would revert back to the current approved budget for FY14. Also, voting is not mandatory. The Board of Selectmen's opinion is to research the five year impact. Bob will share further information. Sheila shared that the Long Range Planning Committee meetings are a chance for Towns to discuss further. Also discussed recent Property Condition Assessment and Long Range Planning Analysis Report conducted by Potomac Capital Advisors. The reports are large and on MTRSD website for viewing. District doesn't own the school but there is a maintenance agreement. Kara will look for it in the files. Bob will keep Board apprised and will send reports to Kara for distribution.

**8:50 p.m. Bob Gruen and Gloria Fisher left meeting.**

**Mail/Email Continued:**

1. Notes on ACO meeting in Rowe and possible ACO for Heath. Reviewed Kara's notes from meeting with Ed Grinnel and others in Rowe. ***On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ed Grinnel as Animal Control Officer for Heath with an annual stipend of \$500 and mileage reimbursement and Sarah Hettlinger as Assistant Animal Control Officer with annual stipend of \$2,000.*** Kara will invite Sarah to the next scheduled Board meeting on July 30, 2013 to discuss the position.
2. Draft memo for BOS review sent by Tracey Baronas, Accountant regarding Procurement. Board would like to hold a discussion of this topic until the Financial Management Team as suggested by the Auditor convenes. Currently we have a procurement form. This and other recommendations will be discussed at a meeting in the near future.
3. Note from Kris Nartowicz regarding Frank E. Carpenter Prize
4. Response from accountant regarding inquiry related to BOS signing warrants when receiving payment on same warrant. She explained the Rule of Necessity which allows for such an occurrence.

5. Email from Crystal Smith regarding request from Heath Union Church. Selectmen okay with two week period for responses. Kara will put a note to that effect on the response box once it is in place.
6. Email from Mike Smith regarding Hosmer Road
7. Email from Mike Smith regarding Transfers
8. Email request from Treasurer regarding Ledges Road property. Unclear what needs to be done. Kara will inquire with Kathy Inman for an estimate.
9. Email request from Heath Herald regarding bulk permit. Select Board doesn't feel it is needed. Kara will respond to Herald.
10. Long Range Planning Committee minutes
11. Emailed article Voters In Berkshire Town Defeat Amendments to Wind Turbine Bylaw
12. Cherry Sheet Estimates FY14
13. Town Coordinator Report

**Appointments for FY14: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint the following to the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee for FY14:***

***Jan Carr***

***Bill Gran***

***Rol Hesselbart***

***Peter Rowe***

***Steve Ryack***

***Rebecca Dorr Sampson***

***Bob Schultz***

**Other Business: Municipal Complex Committee Update:** Brian shared that the committee met and the recommendation of the group was to move ahead with Request for Proposals for Feasibility Study with the assistance of Andrea Woods, Chief Procurement Officer for FRCOG. Sheila asked to include Town Facilities feasibility RFP when sending information to Andrea. These are separate studies but perhaps the same company could be hired.

***On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to approve contracting with Andrea Woods at FRCOG to complete paperwork for Request for Proposals for feasibility study for Heath Municipal Complex Building and feasibility study for Town Facilities.***

**Signed:**

Warrants

Chapter 90 Project Request

Bill shared that he will be away Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and suggested a possible change of meeting date.

***On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.***

Next meeting scheduled for July 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator