

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Community Hall  
July 30, 2013

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. Also present: Bob Gruen, Don Freeman, Gloria Fisher.

**Reviewed Agenda:** Added to Appointments: 7:15 Bob Gruen, School Committee and 8:30 Karen Brooks, Board of Health; Also added to Other Business: Finishing Painting of Community Hall

**7:11 p.m. Kathy Inman and Ned Wolf entered meeting.**

**Reviewed Minutes:**

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve Select Board meeting minutes dated 7/16/13 as amended.*

**Bob Gruen, School Committee:**

Bob Gruen shared that the recent article in the Shelburne Falls Independent has misinformation. Judy Willis of the Superintendent's office and Joanne Blier concurred. He reiterated that regarding the issue of FY14 Proposed Assessment changes based on State calculated minimum contribution adjustment and how Heath could face an additional assessment of \$74,928, that 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. DOE indicates that our options are to take no action or to accept the new minimum contribution that would require a STM vote. Bob indicated that Joanne said she would consult with Michael Buoniconti for advice and hopefully the District will request a correction be posted. School Committee will meet on Aug. 14 to discuss the matter. Discussed and pondered reasons for the increase. Finance Committee asked a few questions and the *Select Board voted on a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell to take no action at this time regarding the revised FY14 Minimum Contribution Adjustment.*

Bob Gruen will relay the vote and keep the Select Board apprised on what transpires at the Aug. 14 meeting of the School Committee.

Regarding maintenance of the school and recommendations by Potomac Capital Advisors, the Board of Selectmen reviewed the lease and understand that the School District has the responsibility of repairs and maintenance. However, the Board would like to know, going forward, what is done. Bob Gruen was thanked for his time and efforts.

**7:20 p.m. Karen Brooks entered meeting and Bob Gruen, Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, Don Freeman and Kathy Inman left at 7:28 p.m.**

**MJ Adams, Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA):** MJ visited tonight to discuss upcoming FY14 Block Grant Applications. Discussed possible areas where Heath could benefit including Fire/Police facility, bridge repair/replacement, Senior Center improvements, etc. MJ shared what is needed for the application including an updated Community Development Strategy (CDS) that

was last revised in 2008 as well as community needs. HRA is looking for a lead community. Other possible towns involved may be Charlemont, Colrain, Monroe. The timeline includes an update CDS by mid-September, grant application writing, public meetings for input; applications are due in December of this year for a fall, 2014 implementation. HRA provides services for the application. MJ will send sample contracts; Board of Selectmen determines interest rate with a vote and Treasurer sets up process for Betterment loans.

**8:04 p.m. MJ Adams left meeting.**

**Karen Brooks:** Presented BOH request for Clean Sweep in Heath. They are proposing the location to be Mohawk Estates recreation hall. A dumpster will be placed at the location for one day for Heath only. Board of Selectmen feels the best location for convenience would be the Transfer Station to encourage recycling overall. Karen will consult with Mike Smith on placement of dumpster and timing. Possible time discussed is Saturday before fall possibly October 1, 2013.

**8:11 p.m. Sarah Hettlinger entered meeting.**

Discussed sale of Transfer Station stickers and selling them at the Transfer Station. Kara will ask Charlene Reynold's availability. Karen will encourage a meeting of the Recycling Committee to ponder the possibility of two stickers – a year-round and seasonal for those folks who reside in Heath only in summer. Karen informed the Board about an ongoing trend where seasonal residents are becoming year-round residents in the Mohawk Estates area. Karen will work with Planning Board and discuss enforcement of bylaws. On a separate note, Karen asked that the Board of Health be invited to meetings to discuss the Medical Marijuana Bylaw – meetings to be held by Planning Board.

**8:27 p.m. Karen Brooks left meeting.**

**Animal Control Officer:** Sarah Hettlinger is interested in the Assistant Animal Control Officer position. The Select Board offered overview on current issues in town as well as Ed Grinnell's role as regional Animal Control Officer and his availability for consultation and emergency situations. The two will work together for Heath. Board described safety precautions and the enforcement of Heath Dog Bylaws. Kara will compile a copy of all pertinent information for Sarah.

***On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Sarah Hettlinger as Assistant Animal Control Officer for a stipend of \$2,000.***

Bill read aloud a recent report submitted by Officer Lee Lively regarding the Woodard dogs on Colrain Stage Road.

**Mail/Email:**

1. D. Scagel's voice message regarding property assessments/assessors. Select Board would like to know if Assessors have complied with court order as the Town cannot afford to go to court. Kara will respond to Mr. Scagel in writing.
2. Various emails from Mike Smith. One has to do with applying for a STRAP grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 or \$500,000. He's working with Terry Walker who will charge \$2,500 application and management fee. On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to pursue a STRAP Grant through Terry Walker in the amount of \$1,000,000 with application and administrative fee in the amount of \$2,500 to be paid from Hired Equipment Line.
3. Email from Ann Rocchi requesting a "dead end" street sign to be installed at Judd and Rte. 8A. Kara will ask Margo Newton's opinion and bring back to 8/6 scheduled meeting.
4. Emails regarding Royer property on Ledges Rd. Kara will ask Chief to gain access and padlock property. Property will be sold 'as is.'

5. Email from Town Accountant regarding Veteran's beneficiary. Amount was reduced.
6. Police Chief Report; dog complaint and employee review
7. FCCIP monthly permit reports
8. K&P notice Amendment to G.L. C.30B Uniform Procurement Act
9. Notice from Andrea Woods regarding FY14 Fuel Awards
10. MTRSD Assessment correspondence; copy of Shelburne Falls Independent article
11. Information on Assessors' Clerk salary. Discussed and reviewed documents from when voted at ATM. Board asserts that the pay is stipend and not subject to COLA. If Boards need an increase, they should bring it to budget hearings for FY15. Stipends may be divided as employee wishes.
12. HRA Info. for meeting tonight with MJ Adams

**Other Business:**

**Taylor Brook Road Logging:** What appeared to be an oil spill with consistent drainage at the forest project off Taylor Brook Road has been determined by the MA DEP as a tannic acid from hemlock trees that were burned at some point which created charcoal. Once the earth was disturbed, the residue surfaced and pooled. This determination was made by the experts at DEP so the Town must assume this is an accurate assessment. The Stop Order that was issued verbally by Allison Wright-Hunter, DCR Forester, was later retracted based on the above findings.

**Finished Painting at Community Hall:** The cupola on Community Hall remains to be painted. Kara is collecting estimates for the work which will require a lift. A leak stain was noticed on the interior ceiling above the balcony. The person selected for the final painting will be asked to assess the situation and submit plans for repair.

**Signed:**

1. Warrants
2. Mass Emergency Management Agency Contract (EMPG FFY 2012)
3. Reimbursement request
4. Request for Leave

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

Next meeting scheduled for August 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator