

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Sawyer Hall  
August 4, 2015

**Called to order** at 7:04 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. Also present: Mike Shattuck, Acting Highway Superintendent and Mary Seager, resident.

**Reviewed Agenda:** Add to Other Business: Transfer Station permits

**Mary Seager:** Mary is a seasonal resident and has been coming to Heath since the 1950s during the summer. She is requesting that the Board of Selectmen provide a pro-rated transfer station permit for summer people. She is willing to pay \$35. The Board explained that a new person has been hired as attendant. Ken Erho is a very diligent permit monitor ensuring residents are in compliance. There has been evidence of cheating the system so it's critical to take in as much income to run the transfer station as we can. We need to devise a way to monitor summer residents vs. year round residents if a pro-rated permit is adopted. Need to take time to determine logistics. The Board took Mary's request under advisement.

**7:10 p.m. Mary Seager left the meeting. Gloria Fisher, Jan Carr, Don Freeman, Mike Smith, and Ken Roche entered meeting.**

**Highway Dept.:** Mike Shattuck provided an update as follows:

- Finalized Chapter 90 project that closes out Number Nine Road project. Mitchell was paid twice. Added unused funds to Dell Road project.
- Police Detail was not included in MassWorks grant application. Chap. 90 funds may cover this required expense.
- Ken Erho has been an excellent summer temporary worker
- There has been evidence of illegal dumping in the transfer station hopper. The person who accessed it did not close it properly and bears have been able to access the garbage. The police have been notified and will monitor area.
- Dell project underway. Tree removed this week by Lanoue.
- Discussed schedule. Crew will discuss and decide what works best. Mike Shattuck feels the extra two hours per day makes a big difference in productivity. The Board encouraged Mike to feel free to contact Bill Lattrell, Highway Dept. Liaison with any concerns, etc.
- Mike shared that the Sheriff's Dept. Community Service workers have been chipping on Rt. 8A and starting on Dell Road. Their time ran out but he's hoping to hire them again to finish work on Dell Road including ditching.
- Bill shared that residents have directed compliments on Mike Shattuck's leadership and work while serving as acting highway supt.
- Discussed use of highway vehicle. Mike Smith used the vehicle for his role as superintendent and fire chief. Mike Shattuck shared that he still carries hard hat, chainsaw, etc. for road emergencies. Mike Smith shared that Jack Cable, former highway supt., had use of Town vehicle. It helps for road emergencies, etc. Kara will research if a vote was taken during Jack Cable's term regarding use of Town vehicle by superintendent.
- Mike Smith shared that Baystate Roads is holding a workshop at the Community Hall on Sept. 8. Highway Superintendents from 351 towns in MA have been invited and a representative from Portland Cement Assoc. They will do a site visit and lunch will be served.

- Discussed proposal requested by Heath Agricultural Society to make Hosmer Road a one-way access during fair. An additional exit will be provided at the tree line or elsewhere.
- Need to add a line for highway cell phone.

**7:30 p.m. Mike Shattuck left meeting. Budge Litchfield arrived shortly after.**

**Finance Committee/Public Safety/Highway Building Project:**

- Kara offered update to the group. Jan Carr has been in touch with Daniel Bennett, who serves as Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Governor Charles Baker. Secretary Bennett has oversight of the public safety budget. No response yet.
- Strategy discussed in case the press makes inquiries.
- The Board stresses that the Town has done due diligence to try to restore funding through the legislators.
- Have not contacted Senator Rosenberg yet. Hawley received a similar letter as well as Greenfield. Perhaps Heath could join forces with both Towns that lost funding.
- This termination of the grant is contrary to Governor Baker's initiative to collaborate with and give voice to rural Massachusetts towns.
- David Travers, a Heath resident is also a building contract attorney. He is willing to assist in trying to make contacts at the State level.
- The Town is not giving up on this matter – trying to follow proper channels through legislators. Any resident is encouraged to phone legislators on this matter.

**Regional Agreement:**

- School Committee Reps. Budge Litchfield and Ken Roche attended tonight to discuss agreement. Ken shared that there are several statements in the current agreement that serve to protect small towns in the district. This particular language is appreciated as it gives small towns a voice and representation. The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) proposed some changes – some moved forward at annual town meetings this year. Discussed amendments. The school committee is asking for input from Town leaders over the summer. This input will be presented at the end of September. Communities can then identify which areas will be amended and begin planning for 2016 annual town meetings. The public will need time to become informed. Gathering input from community leaders is a good start and could be very positive. Discussed some of the complex issues including school closure, use of buildings, and invitation to Rowe to join the district. Collaboration on these topics is encouraged. Fresh ideas are always welcomed. Forging commonalities, and taking incremental steps is important, says Ken Roche. Opening conversation allows for exchange of ideas and options. Buildings “desirability” needs to be assessed. LRPC opened the door for this conversation. The old agreement needs to be tidied and updated; some old information should be removed. Discussed PK District and how this declaration is important. Usually objections are financial in nature. This decision reflects a commitment to kids and creates a competitive educational environment – commitment has an effect on perception of school. Finance Committee Chair, Don Freeman shared that the wait to find out what the final budget numbers will be makes planning difficult. If they were available by March 1, that would be helpful. He also asked whether the District could help encourage the State to release the numbers earlier for budget planning. Discussed Chap. 70 and transportation reimbursement. It's fine to try to keep assessments down but quality of education is the priority. Discussed broadband access and how the marketability of small towns such as Heath will increase dramatically. It will be interesting to see how it will affect enrollment numbers. Projections can prove to be misleading. Discussed options for home schoolers. Need to keep momentum going. Collaboration important so Towns are not pitted against one another. Planned for meetings to consider ideas closely and to

meet timeframe for amendments. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will meet with School Committee representatives on Tuesday, Sept. 8 and Sept. 22 from 7-9 p.m. Gloria Fisher offered to take minutes and participate in discussion to identify issues that need to be addressed. Budge will touch base with school regarding status of repairs. The Board thanked Budge and Ken for their attendance tonight.

**Fire Dept. Support:** Mike Smith attended tonight to get an update on the Fire Dept. review process. The Board shared that no update was available. Interviews are continuing and the matter will remain as an agenda item. Hormidas Lively will attend a Board meeting to discuss how to present findings. Fire Dept. needs to pay for the cell phone and land line from Fire Dept. budget.

**8:55 p.m. Budge Litchfield, Ken Rocke, Gloria Fisher, Ned Wolf, and Jan Carr left meeting. Mike Smith left at 8:58 p.m.**

**Minutes:** *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 6/30/15 Select Board meeting as amended.*

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 7/14/15 Select Board meeting as submitted.*

#### **Other Business:**

1. Update Transfer Station Compactor Project: Need to discuss issue of run-off and whether a tight tank is needed. Need a retaining wall. Storm water standards need to be met. Need to determine gravel needs or whether paving is mandatory. Kara will contact Jan Ameen to ask if she can help with design. Kara will email project breakdown with costs to Mike Shattuck.
2. Farmer's Market: Time has changed to 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays.
3. Highway Supt. Interviews: If no one is hired, the Select Board will continue to seek applicants for the position. Board will formulate interview questions. The public may attend but may not participate or ask questions.
4. Status of Dog Matter: Kara will call District Court to find out when hearing/if a hearing is scheduled for 9/11/15. Kara will consult with Town Counsel.

#### **Mail/ Email:**

1. Heath Nurse monthly report
2. Reply from Seaboard Solar asking why you don't want to meet.
3. Copy of letter sent to DPU regarding Municipal Aggregation. They are still trying to get a decision.
4. MassDOT paperwork regarding Chap. 90 requests. The balance of our account was not sufficient to cover the initial requests. Mike Shattuck will report that the awarded amount was 160,373.30 not 171,256.25. After Mike talked with vendors and made adjustments, projects are all set.
5. Email from MBI. Forwarded to Kris Nartowicz.
6. Email from Sheila regarding home burial
7. Return Fee Policy from FCCIP
8. Various emails regarding Municipal Safety Complex grant
9. Email sent to Atty. Winner regarding Woodard dog matter. He will prepare subpoena.
10. Schedule for highway supt. interviews. Tom Carlson would like interview on different day/time.

#### **Other Separate Documents:**

11. Town Coordinator Report
12. MTRSD Regional Agreement
13. 6/30 and 7/14 minutes for approval
14. Highway Supt. applications

**SIGNED:**

1. Insurance documents for Decker Property. On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to authorize spending \$810.32 on insurance coverage for Decker Property, a tax taking.
2. Warrants
3. Short term note for STRAP project. Board voted unanimously on a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, to sign Anticipation Loan for Roadwork on Rt. 8A (MassWorks short term borrowing) in the amount of \$983,102.
4. On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to increase Injured on Duty coverage from \$10,000 to \$100,000 in case of injury. This was recommended by MIIA, our insurance company.

***On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.***

Next meeting scheduled for August 25, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna  
Town Coordinator