

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
September 8, 2015

Called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, and Bill Lattrell present. Also present: Gloria Fisher, Gary Singley, Ken Gilbert, Tom Carlson, Ned Wolf, Ken Rocke, and Don Freeman.

Fire Dept. Vehicle: Ken would like to have the vehicle that Mike Smith used. He feels it is necessary to have a vehicle. Discussed reasons for need including gear, radio, etc. Fire Chief responds directly to the scene from home and needs to have a vehicle that is fully equipped. The Highway Supt. can use the Utility vehicle. Ken has spoken with Mike Shattuck.

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to assign the use of the current highway vehicle (Ford Escape) to the fire chief.

Ken will affix a Heath Fire Emblem on the truck to identify its use.

Heath Firefighter's Assoc.: Members expressed interest in having a voice in selection of fire chief. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ken Gilbert to serve as Heath Fire Chief and Heath Fire Warden, and as a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).*

The BOS in the future to discuss recommendations of Hormidas Lively's report. Discussed ways to increase communication. The Board requested a list of current firefighters and to be notified when someone leaves the Fire Dept. Gary suggested a follow-up letter be sent to participants in the survey, and perhaps ask former firefighters if they are interested in rejoining?

Discussed Fire Dept. budget and vehicle maintenance records – how and when is maintenance done on fire vehicles? There is need to sort out expenses for the Fire Dept.

7:15 p.m. Jan Carr and Budge Litchfield entered the meeting.

7:25 p.m. Ken Gilbert, Gary Singley, and Tom Carlson left meeting.

BOS, School Committee, FinCom/Changes to the MTRSD Regional Agreement: Brian Dupré, District Counsel, made edits to the Regional Agreement on 8/12/15 that reflect housekeeping changes that need to be made. There will be a minimum of three articles on this year's ATM warrant: housecleaning type changes, expansion of the Regional Agreement to include Pre-K, and Admission of Rowe to the District.

Discussed why the Pre-K through 12 needs to be declared. Also discussed the success of the free Pre-K this year. The School Committee explained what the "housekeeping" changes to the regional agreement would include. It was pointed out that the Special Funds section, page 13, J needs to stay in the agreement.

The timeline for the District Boards of Selectmen to vote on these changes needs to be done in December in order to be on next year's ATM warrant.

Discussed whether Rowe should be admitted as a 7-12 member and what ramifications this may have. Also if Rowe is admitted, should that town pay toward capital expenses of the middle/high school. If admitted as a 7-12 member, then three towns whose elementary schools are not part of the District would

have a vote for approval/denial of every school budget vote in the District's elementary schools. The three towns would be Charlemont, Hawley, and Rowe. The question was asked could the District provide two budgets – one for elementary and one for 7-12. It was noted that this is unlikely; it would necessitate a legislative act rather than a decision by DESE. Towns that are full District members carry weight of two votes; 7-12 only get one vote.

The BOS and the FinCom decided to recommend to the School Committee: Yes, ask Rowe to pay capital costs and to join District.

After discussion about branding, a unified District-wide curriculum, and a developmentally appropriate curriculum, The BOS and the FinCom agreed to recommend Pre-K-12 District to School Committee.

Housecleaning items: Everyone agrees to recommend to School Committee, with the exception of Page 13, J: Special Funds: This is the statement that allows Heath to pay for Pre-K, strings, etc. The BOS recommends to the School Committee that this phrase remain in the Regional Agreement.

Other recommendations:

Problem of underutilization of schools. Need viable classroom size, how to do this going forward.

Perhaps meet with the superintendent and curriculum coordinator to sort out viability. Discussed the need for some innovative classroom design.

For 2017: Big Ideas: Create language; assign certain operating costs to elementary school town.

Capital and Operating: Under certain circumstances, costs of running elementary would be assigned to that Town. The costs and benefits would then go to the towns. This may provide incentives for closing an elementary school.

Unanimous consent for amendments is now needed; it could be changed to a supermajority.

For next meeting with the School Committee and the FinCom, the BOS asked for information on fiscal costs and population data?

All Agreed:

- Rowe should be invited to join District
- Rowe's tuition should reflect real costs if not joining
- Opinion of DESE from exclusion of town votes on budgets
- Special funds should stay
- Brand as appropriate
- Current capital expenses – yes, Rowe, should be asked to pay their share.

9:10 p.m. Ken Rocke, Budge Litchfield, Jan Carr, Don Freeman, Ned Wolf left meeting.

Other Business:

1. Sheila will invite Mike Shattuck back to meet with Board of Selectmen on Sept. 15.
2. Heath Veteran's Memorial Comm. will be invited on Oct. 6 to present plans.
3. Send letter to highway supt. applicants.
4. Support to Fire Dept.: Mike Smith would like an Exit Interview. Gary Singley would like one as well, but he is not appointed by the Board of Selectmen.
5. FC Tech School Negotiation Sub-Committee: Will ask Art Schwenger to attend meeting.
6. Salt/Sand Bids FY16: ***On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to award the following:***
SAFE MELT: Liquid Calcium Chloride 60% OBPE 40% @ \$1.22/gallon to Safe Road Services

Coarse Winter Sand Delivered, 1,500 tons to Lane Construction @ \$14.80/ton

Sodium Chloride Crushed Rock Salt Treated with Liquid Mag Chloride with Organic Based Performance Enhancer, 1,050 tons to Cargill De-icing Technology (Primary) @ \$87.76/ton and 450 tons to Morton Salt (*Secondary*) @ \$101.53/ton for a total of 1,500 tons.

Rock Salt Delivered to Eastern Minerals, 200 tons @ \$79.90/ton

7. Highway Laborer job: Will advertise position opening.

Other Separate Documents:

1. Town Coordinator Report

- Board voted unanimously to allow Dell Road to be closed from Sept. 15-18 for road construction.
- Will review Community Compact at next meeting.

SIGNED:

1. Landfill Inspection MOU with FC Solid Waste Mgmt. District

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for 9/15/15 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Fisher
Volunteer Secretary