

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Sawyer Hall  
September 23, 2014

**Called to order** at 7:06 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese, Bill Lattrell, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

**Reviewed Agenda:** Added to Other Business: Broadband Fiber Last Mile with Al Canali, WiredWest Rep. for Heath and Salt/Sand Bids FY15.

**Reviewed Minutes:** *On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 9/06/14 Selectmen's meeting as amended.*

**7:40 p.m. Al Canali entered meeting.**

**Broadband Fiber Last Mile:** Sheila was approached by Rowe Select Board Chair, Marilyn Wilson. Marilyn was asking if Heath was interested in joining Rowe in exploring the possibility of bringing broadband to this area similarly to what the Town of Leverett did. Both Al Canali and Art Schwenger, Heath's representatives to WiredWest are favorable to this suggestion and willing to work on a committee, should one form. Al offered a summation of the work of WiredWest to date. He said that currently, MBI (Mass Broadband Institute) has no director. He is unsure of the plans going forward regarding installation of the last mile of the MBI project – providing Broadband fiber network to residents. Al felt positive that legislators are working to get this project funded. \$45 million has already been allocated but WiredWest is not getting the feeling that the final mile will be implemented as originally intended. Therefore, they are looking into alternative ways to initiate the plan without MBI support. Not sure how the \$45 million will be distributed to underserved towns. WiredWest is considering another financial plan and looking for other ways to finance the final mile. One possible option is to incur debt under Chap. 44, Sect. 8 which of course is dependent on the will of the people. Al suggests public meetings, surveys, etc. Need to determine the cost over 5-10 year period on tax bills. WiredWest has done a lot of the research including the cost to Towns. Discussed how Leverett has already voted to build, operate, supply, and maintain a network service to their residents. Al feels that the WiredWest model may be the most efficient model to use to implement the last mile. However, a smaller group may work as well. Heath is truly underserved. Board is interested in learning costs to implement in Heath prior to getting involved implementing connectivity independent to the WiredWest plan. Sheila will respond to Rowe's inquiry. Al offered to get information from WiredWest such as cost range annually, and next step using Leverett as a model. Perhaps a financial advisor needs to be part of the discussion. Al shared that WiredWest is planning to meet with towns with a presentation – they want to move forward with our without the support of MBI. Goal is to get residents service. The Board appreciates Al's information and participation with WiredWest. Al will forward information to Town Coordinator.

8:28 p.m. Al Canali left meeting.

**Mail/ Email:**

1. FCCIP Newsletter, Sept., 2014
2. Memo from Tracey Baronas – Overlay Surplus Declared, **\$10,134.19**
3. Copy of letter to MTRSD from Ashfield Finance Committee
4. Emails from Sheila, Bill, and Mike Smith regarding Ambulance MOU
5. Overtime research from Mike Smith. Tabled till further discussion.

6. Dept. of Veteran Services notice of Public Information Session on Potential Merging of Central Franklin County and Greenfield Veteran's Districts. The Board is wondering how a change will affect access to services & how it will affect the budget. Kara will attend meeting.

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

7. Mike Platek's invoice for painting (tax). Kara will contact Mike and work out tax reimbursement.
8. Salt/Sand Bids FY15. *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the following bids for FY15:*
  - *Treated Rock Salt to Cargill @ \$84.43/ton*
  - *Coarse Winter Sand Delivered/screened to Mitchell @ \$14.00/ton*
9. FC REPC Operating Principals for review. Kara will forward to Mike Smith and Tim Lively for input.
10. Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP): Received copy of updated tax setting work plan for Heath. There have been some delays due to scheduling conflicts. Will check in with Assessors on 9/26 on status. Sheila will follow up with Bob Bliss at the TAP.

#### **Town Coordinator Report**

1. Discussed the disposal of sharps and prescription medications in the landfill vs. incinerator. Currently, Heath's trash goes to a landfill rather than the incinerator. Sheila has done some research and contacted the Drug Take Back Program but still there are questions in how to resolve this issue. Kara will inquire with Jan Ameen at the Solid Waste District.

#### **Other Business:**

**Update on Feasibility Study:** Brian shared that the committee met with Paul Mark to discuss project cost and design. John Billera at DCAMM (Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance) will look over the information gathered so far for the Safety Complex. DCAMM manages capital construction projects for the State. Need to continue to research options for contributions from state or grant agencies. Not pursuing land acquisition at this time unless assurance of assistance. Need approximately three acres for project and need to include all departments in the project (fire, police, highway, and EOC). The need is clear but cost at this point is prohibitive. However, need to address conditions and take some action for improvement or could present potential legal issues.

**Status of Dog Situation:** Hearing in District Court scheduled for Oct. 8, 2014 at 2 p.m.

**Highway Dept. Work Week:** Board will research information. Tabled till further discussion.

**FY16 Budget Meeting Schedule:** The Board will begin weekly, Tuesday evening meetings starting Oct. 7. Sheila will not attend on Oct. 28 and Bill will not attend on Nov. 18. Election Day is 11/4 and Veteran's Day is 11/11 and therefore no meetings will be held. A current schedule is posted on [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org) and will be updated as necessary.

**Transfer Station Compactor Project Update:** The Board would like to invite Mike Smith to the next meeting to help plan out, discuss, and develop an overall plan for the compactor/transfer station project. The compactor has been purchased and is awaiting site work to be complete. Jan, Mike, and DEP will meet next week. Tabled till further discussion.

**Vehicle Policy Use form:** Reviewed a draft. Made some revisions. Kara will then send to MIIA for review and get clarification on 'imputed income taxation.'

**Town Records Archiving:** Kara spoke with Rob Cox who currently serves on the State Historic Records Board (SHRAB). He is willing to come up and assess Heath's historic records. After that step, we will discuss funding that may be available for records preservation. He mentioned that Town Clerk has some other funding options available. Monies may also be available through the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. A meeting will include looking at what Town records we have, their condition, and the discussion of potential grants for the care/maintenance of these records.

**Tree Cutting:** A resident has complained about tree cutting near brook in Heath. Conservation Commission (via Bill Lattrell) will investigate matter.

**Signed:**

1. Vacation request
2. Letter to Mike Smith re: Baystate Roads

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:04 p.m.*

Next meeting scheduled for October 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator