

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SAWYER HALL
October 25, 2011

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

Agenda was reviewed – Seajay and Kent Spencer were added for 7:30 p.m. and State Ethics Training was added to Other Business.

7:10 p.m. Tom Lively entered meeting.

Reviewed Minutes: Brian moved to accept minutes of 10/11/11 Select Board meeting. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Brian moved to accept minutes of 4/12/11 Select Board meeting as amended. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

7:25 p.m. Seajay and Kent Spencer entered meeting with Sue and Bob Gruen entering shortly after.

Spencers: Board read letter submitted by Spencers regarding a certain group of people at Mohawk Estates. Seajay wants Board to be aware of situation outlined in their letter. Discussed various matters and Board advised reporting to incidents to applicable authorities.

7:46 p.m. Doug Mason entered meeting and Kent and Seajay left.

The Board tabled pig complaint (Gruens) till Animal Inspector arrived.

Doug Mason: Doug declined his appointment to Parks & Recreation Committee but would like to be a member of Energy Committee as well as Recycling Committee. He promised to revive the Energy Committee and report back to the Board. He presented some preliminary ideas on solar options with good pay back. Questioned whether there is a budget for Recycling Committee. Tom said there are no funds set aside but monies could be appropriated at next Town Meeting to promote recycling, education and planning. Doug mentioned the need for a metals recycling bin and paper compactor. Town Coordinator suggested he contact Jan Ameen at the Solid Waste District – very good resource.

Wind By-Laws / Citizen Concern: Sheila received a letter from a citizen who is concerned about wind turbines and possibility of industrial wind production in Heath. Doug Mason, who is also a member of the Planning Board, notified the Select Board that there is a meeting scheduled and posted for November 22, 2011. It is an open meeting but not about By-Laws. He reported that FRCOG is working on By-Laws for wind for the Towns to use/adopt. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. At this time there are no formal requests to install wind turbines in Heath.

8:00 p.m. Bob Tanner, Animal Inspector arrived and Doug Mason left meeting.

Animal Reports: Bob Tanner updated the Board on various dog incidents in Town. He gave the Town Coordinator a blank dog complaint form for the office. Discussed recent reports of loose pigs in Town and damage to Town property as well as complaints of damage to property of the Gruens. Bob spoke with owner and the pigs are for sale and are secured in the barn at owner's property. Owner promised to make restitution for damages. Town Coordinator will find a suitable landscaper to fix the damages and

send bill to owner. Board discussed procedures with Bob and laws that pertain to animal control. Bob will attend a training in Amherst on the 27th and report back. Tom reminded Bob that an Animal Count is part of his job. Bob is aware of the task. Discussed the chronic issue of loose dogs in Town and whether there is a maximum number of dogs allowed per family. Bob has contacted owner. Discussed fines for infractions. Also, discussed Heath's Non-Criminal Disposition by-law. Town Coordinator will ask Town Clerk for an updated list of registered dogs in Town.

8:40 p.m. Bob and Sue Gruen left meeting.

Regional Dog Control Services: Discussed proposal of regional dog control services. The goal of the Task Force is to develop a regional dog control program based at the Sheriff's Office to assist communities in providing a professional and efficient dog control service and regional kennel. The option was precipitated by the fact that many Towns have no place to take loose dogs. Heath has these facilities. Brian pointed out that the facilities are not suitable for winter. Discussed pros and cons and fee. The agreement does not eliminate all duties but ensures safe, secure location as back up. Since it is still in the development phase, the issue was tabled till further details are available.

8:55 p.m. Bob Tanner left meeting.

Mail/ Email:

Hands Across Heath: Brian moved to accept Town Nurse's request and approve expenditure for \$800.00 to help a resident with the purchase of a lift to assist in the care of a parent who has become paralyzed. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Other:

- Letter from Dennis Peters regarding Veteran's Services. Statement of expenditures, likely cost to Town for regionalizing services based in Greenfield – Town will have to vote to join regional district, Emergency Board meeting minutes included.
- FCSA – Quarterly Meeting Notice – November 17, 2011, 5:30
- Regional BOH
- Transfer Station brochure – tabled till Tom takes a look and makes any changes necessary.
- FRCOG Regional Emergency Planning Committee survey. Need help completing.
- US Census of Governments – Need to complete by Nov. 11, 2011.
- Bay State Elevator Update – invoice, new contract drafted, reduced fee/reduced service. Need vote at ATM for contract longer than 3 years including renewal, etc. See hourly rates.
- FCSWMD – National Drug Take Back Collection: Saturday October 29, 2011 10am-2pm
- MIA Member credits 10,552 (over and above already discounted rates)
- State-supplied Flu Vaccine available to public provider sites.
- Copy of newest bills for Storm Irene
- Emergency Appropriations Borrowing Authorization Certificate approved 10/13/11
- Verizon is transferring its payphones to Pacific Telemanagement Services (PTS) before year end.
- Paul Mark invite to State House November 10 11 am – 3 pm.
- Letter from Gail Cariddi regarding redistricting.
- Historic Cemetery Preservation Workshop – notified Graveyard Guild.

Correspondence from Residents:

- ❖ Nancy Knowlton 133 Taylor Brook Road – driveway damaged from storm; requests repair.
- ❖ Donald Scagel – Letter to Assessor's Oct. 2nd and Fax from State
- ❖ Lynn Carbonneau – Con Com issue/ request that her matter be rectified at Con Com meeting on 27th.

- ❖ Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association – request for road repair –intersection of Waterfall Dr. and Taylor Brook Road.

Reviewed Old Business:

Lighting at Community Hall will be removed from list because work will begin on Nov. 5, 2011.

Reverse 911: A system that will allow Heath to send urgent messages to the registered phone numbers in the system's database. It is a way for emergency management personnel to quickly communicate important, time sensitive information to the populace. Systems such as this are being used across the country to give evacuation notices when wildfires threaten lives, when severe storms approach, or if students are released early from school due to an unforeseen cause. Our contract has been signed and training will take place soon.

Conservation Commission Job Description: Board reviewed draft of job. Con Com needs to make final approval and the position/salary needs to be added to warrant for ATM. In the interim, the position will be appointed as a clerk but not a member of the Committee and paid from ZBA revolving account.

Other Business:

Regional Board of Health: A group of Franklin County towns has been planning a regional health district to serve Franklin County. The group wrapped up their planning process and has invited towns to participate in the grant application process. It is a four year grant that would allow towns to get an expanded professional health department. The Board of Selectmen would like our Board of Health and Town Nurse to review the proposal and offer feedback. Town Coordinator will invite them to share at the next scheduled meeting of 11/14.

State Ethics Training: State Ethics Commission reports that a new ethics training program later this year designed specifically for municipal employees. By Dec. 15 and on an annual basis thereafter, all state, county and municipal employees must be given a summary of the state's conflict of interest law, and employees are required to sign an acknowledgement that they received the summary. Additionally, every two years, employees must complete an online training course and test on state's code of ethics. Town Coordinator will contact Town Clerk for plan.

Special Projects: Roof at Sawyer Hall needs immediate attention. Town Coordinator will seek bids for roof, bathroom floors and front door replacement.

Brian updated Board on **Building Inspection Program**. A new formula for assessments will be used in the future. Currently, the FCCIP assesses member towns according to the degree of participation in each of the three programs over a 3 year period. Participation is measured by total permit fees collected in each town. A flat rate is being proposed. Brian also mentioned that Paul Lemelin of Heath is providing customer support to users of the new FCCIP Online Permitting Software.

Town Coordinator will organize a training session with DOR representative, Joseph Boudreau. The training will cover the municipal budget process.

Warrants signed.

Brian moved to adjourn. Sheila seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator