

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
November 12, 2014

Called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Brian DeVriese and Bill Lattrell present.

Reviewed Agenda: No changes.

7:10 p.m. Jeffrey Simmons and Paul Davis, Verizon Representative, entered meeting.

Verizon Pole Hearing: Called to order at 7:15 p.m. to discuss and approve proposed poles on Hosmer Road, Petition 1AOLL5T. Paul Davis requests on behalf of Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company, to locate two new poles (T.21 ½ /E.21-50 and T.21S/E.21-84). Poles are to be located more than 6,000 feet from Colrain Stage Road on Hosmer Road and 6-10 feet off road.

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve Petition Plan as presented.

On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to close hearing and resume Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:20 p.m.

7:20 p.m. Gary Ponce, Joanne Dadey, and Matt Wolkenbreit entered meeting and Paul Davis left.

Colrain Ambulance MOU: Discussed draft of MOU with comments from Gary Ponce. Agreed upon corrections. Document will be forwarded to Kara.

7:55 p.m. Gary Ponce, Joanne Dadey, Matt Wolkenbreit, and Jeff Simmons left meeting. Kris Nartowicz, Betty Nichols, Bob Tanner, Donna Tanner, and Hilma Sumner entered shortly after.

Discussed tax collector and town treasurer issues regarding tax foreclosures. Currently, five properties are involved at different levels with tax takings:

- Betty Nichols, Tax Collector, discussed inconsistencies between present bylaw and issuance of permits. This bylaw requires permits not be issued if taxes are owed for more than one year. Betty expressed concern that building permits may not fall under this bylaw.
- Cal Carr discussed the same bylaw as it relates to abutter notification. Right now assessor's will not issue list if back taxes are owed for more than a certain period of time (unknown). This proves very difficult for the Planning Board (legal time constraints), and the applicant.

8:40 p.m. The Tanners and Cal Carr left meeting.

Continued discussion on other properties in various stages of tax title taking and foreclosures, some of which preceded Kris and Betty. It was reported that the Board of Assessors refused to write a letter to get state permission to abatement of taxes on town-owned property.

9:02 p.m. Betty Nichols, Kris Nartowicz, and Hilma Sumner left meeting.

Bill proposed inviting the Board of Assessors to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the MA Dept. of Revenue recommendations.

Town Coordinator Report:

1. Karen Brooks asked for a Salvation Army box to be placed at the transfer station back in August and again recently. In August, the Board responded that placement shall be delayed until the compactor project has been at least laid out if not completed. They maintain that decision and will not place a box there until the revisions to the Transfer Station are complete.
2. The Board will include in FY16 budget money to pay the cost of changing locks to both Community Hall and Sawyer Hall. It has been many years since the locks have been changed and for security purposes, feel this is a wise practice.
3. Fees for the Town are proposed by each department and final approval is by the Board of Selectmen. Schedule needs updating as the last approval was in 2005.

Mail/ Email:

1. Correspondence with Dave Howland regarding Municipal Aggregation
2. Kopelman & Paige eUpdate on Paid Sick Leave. Will find out if the paid sick leave law requires any changes in our personnel policy.
3. Correspondence with Sheila, Al Canali and Kara regarding MBI/WiredWest
4. Correspondence regarding Well Sampling at Landfill.
5. Correspondence with Mike regarding returnable container at transfer station. The Board approves of a container placed at the transfer station.
6. Town Nurse monthly report
7. Copy of letter from Calvin Carr, Planning Board to Mr. Woodard.
8. Email response from Kris Nartowicz regarding Kratt property and Tanner's, etc. with attorney
9. Notification that Heath has been granted preliminary approval from BLA. Alice says she's a few weeks out until Classification Hearing.
10. Strange, anonymous email regarding Aggregation/HCOG. I forwarded to Ken Elstein and asked him if he can offer explanation.
11. Judgment in Tax Lien Case – Sessions
12. Sheila's list of ongoing action items
13. Sheila's email to Margo listing DOR recommendations
14. Response from Town Counsel in regards to unruly/harassing residents
15. Copy of email correspondence between Glen Ayers and Kris Burnes with my response – regarding public records request
16. Email from Town Coordinator regarding request for support and advocacy from HRA
17. Copy of letter sent to MTRSD School Committee from Plainfield
18. Copy of COA grant contract
19. Email from Al Canali regarding Last Mile (MBI/WiredWest)
20. Copy of letter sent to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Sessions from Building Inspector and response email from Julie Sidon
21. Email from Gary Ponce regarding Colrain MOU (Draft on Flash Drive)
22. Email response from Tom Poulin at Crocker regarding VoIP hacking and Town of Heath's phones

Other Separate Documents:

23. Town Coordinator Report
24. Ebola Information from Tracy Rogers, FRCOG
25. Accountant's Cash Reconciliation Oct. 2014 (hard copy)
26. HRA Annual Report

SIGNED:

1. Verizon Pole Hearing documents (3 copies)
2. Mass DEP Small Scale Initiative Grant agreement
3. Vacation Request

10:00 p.m. Brian DeVriese left meeting.

Reviewed Minutes: *On a motion by Bill Lattrell and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 10/21/14 Selectmen's meeting as written.*

On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for November 18, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lattrell, Secretary for the Board of Selectmen