

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Sawyer Hall  
December 8, 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: see sign in sheet.**

**Reviewed Agenda:** Add to other business: Chap. 61 & 61A impact on tax revenue – future meeting; software update for collector; request from residents to install guardrail to areas of Judd Rd.; capital planning discussion – future meeting.

**Review Minutes: On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 11/17/15 and 12/1/15 Select Board meetings as amended.**

**Mail/ Email:**

1. LTA 2016 paperwork from FRCOG – opportunity for regional sharing of services, planning for growth, and implementation of Community Compact best practices – reviewed, discussed, and ranked preference.
2. WiredWest/MBI correspondence;
3. Ken Gilbert re: request for road sign
4. Art Schwenger re: FCTS Superintendent visit Dec. 9 (tomorrow)
5. MTRSD letter re: collective bargaining and request for meeting on Dec. 16 to select rep.
6. Eagle Elevator proposal for elevator repair Sawyer Hall
7. Correspondence re: Landfill Sampling. A meeting is requested. Kara will work with Jan Ameen to try to follow up with MassDEP regarding reduction in sampling.
8. Town Nurse monthly report. Sheila shared that the Board of Health is interested in adding the services of Lisa White, Regional Public Health Nurse, in addition to the current services offered by the Heath Town Nurse, for approximately \$700. BOH will offer a formal proposal – Sheila will follow up with them.

**Other Separate Documents:**

9. Town Coordinator Report
10. WiredWest articles
11. 11/17 and 12/1 minutes for review

**WiredWest:** Al Canali offered an update on the past week's happenings between MBI and WiredWest. He shared that MBI has stepped in and stated that they no longer support WiredWest's operating plan. WiredWest has prepared a rebuttal and it can be viewed on their website. They plan to work with legislators and through the press to respond and to find out the details on this turn of events. There is a meeting in Greenfield on Monday, Dec. 14 from 5-7 p.m. MBI will offer a detailed analysis and presentation of why they have taken their new position on the broadband build out. Al said that a letter is forthcoming from WiredWest to all Towns so that Select Boards may offer support. Attendees shared various opinions. Al mentioned that the MBI's recent statement is based on an incomplete report and he feels the timing is abrupt, problematic, and that the matter is political. Director of MBI, Eric Nakajima, visited the Select Board at their scheduled meeting on Sept. 1, 2015 with Outreach Manager, Christine Hatch and Jim Drawe, Treasurer of WiredWest. Mr. Nakajima emphasized that MBI's role is to manage State funds, not to manage the ownership/management of the asset. He added that MBI however, is very interested in sustainability; to see it succeed and that WiredWest will provide over site of project. Mr.

Nakajima acknowledged what a tremendous community coordination this has been. Something drastic changed in the last week. Discussed next steps. High-speed broadband is critical for economic development in this area. Brian DeVriese will be meeting with the Governor's Western Mass representative, Ryan Chamberland, tomorrow and he will mention this matter in addition to his scheduled conversation regarding the termination of the signed Municipal Safety Complex grant. Don Freeman, Brian DeVriese, Jansen McNay, Al Canali, and Sheila will plan to attend the MBI meeting on Monday, 12/14 in Greenfield to find out more. Al will try to get a story into the Boston Globe. The group will continue to meet and discuss ongoing issues as they arise.

**8:22 p.m. Al Canali, and Jansen McNay left the meeting.**

**Art Schwenger /Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Advisory Committee:** Art stopped by after his meeting in Greenfield to offer a summary of this group on which he serves. He shared that approximately 30-40 people gather every other month, with FRCOG taking administrative lead, to discuss a unique partnership with the US Forest Service. Financial and technical resources may be offered to the region through a Trust Fund for conservation efforts, renewable energy options for municipalities, and educational programs, etc. Peggy Sloan at FRCOG would like to meet with the Select Board as support will be needed to create the Trust Fund and it may be an issue brought to voters at ATM.

**9:14 p.m. Art Schwenger left meeting.**

**Other Business:**

1. **Ch. 61/61A:** Need a think-tank group to discuss the impact that these properties have on tax revenue. There are differing opinions. Land that is APR'd (Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program) is the only matter that the Select Board approves. The primary purpose of the APR program is to preserve and protect agricultural land from non-agricultural development, or from purposes that have negative impact to agriculture.
2. **Software Update for Collector:** The Board has heard that CAMA will no longer be supported by State. They will set up a meeting with the collector to discuss options for software.
3. **Resident request for guardrails on Judd Road:** Kara will ask Mike Shattuck to assess the location, and offer a recommendation to the Select Board next Tuesday.
4. **Schedule:** Select Board will meet Tuesdays, Dec. 15 and Jan. 5. No meetings Dec. 22 or 29 due to holidays.

**SIGNED:**

1. Bi Weekly Warrants
2. EMPG reimbursement paperwork. *On a motion by Bill Latrell, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to authorize reimbursement request for EMPG grant to pay the fee for Reverse 911 (CodeRed All Call service) in the amount of \$1,500 for FY16.*

Next meeting scheduled for December 15, 2015 at 7 p.m.

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Bill Latrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Leistyna  
Town Coordinator