

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Community Hall
December 16, 2014

Called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, with Bill Lattrell, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present.

Reviewed Agenda: Added to Other Business: Charlemont Ambulance update.

7:23 p.m. Michael Smith entered meeting.

On a motion by Sheila Litchfield, and seconded by Bill Lattrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 11/12/14 meeting minutes as amended.

On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 12/2/14 meeting minutes as written.

Mail/ Email: 12/9 and 12/16 meetings

1. Update email from Ken Elstein, Municipal Aggregation
2. Email response from Town Counsel regarding dog matter/bylaw. Need to tweak Town bylaw again to eliminate confusion that is inherent in the law as written at the State level. Kara will prepare a letter to send regarding dog matter.
3. Email response from George Durante, MassWorks regarding administrative needs for grant
4. Email from Sheila to Hilma regarding Finance Committee and whether Town bylaw could include a range of members (3 or 5) for Finance Committee. Hilma is finding out if this is an option for the Town.
5. Email from Sheila regarding tax rate update
6. Email from Tim Lively regarding MA Approval Pending Action on eligibility to apply for Mitigation grants administered by FEMA and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
7. Email from Accountant requesting vote for overspending winter accounts. *On a motion from Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to allow overspending of winter snow/ice accounts in FY15.*
8. Email string regarding ambulance services for Heath (update). Mike Smith is working towards getting Colrain Volunteer Ambulance first on Heath's call list.
9. Questions posed by Finance Committee to Mike Smith; Mike's responses and letter from Kathy Inman and Gary Singley.
10. Email from Jan Carr to Energy Advisory Committee. Seth Ginsberg, a solar developer will meet with them once they have scheduled a meeting. He's interested in 1MW proposal for Heath.
11. Copies of Tax Levy and Recap
12. Email string with Chris Hatch, MBI
13. Town Nurse update
14. Email from Sheila to Bob Aeschback regarding Andy Draxler
15. Email from Hilma Sumner
16. Email from Town Counsel regarding tax liens and payment to employee/volunteer
17. Email from Bob Viarengo regarding Dave Howland
18. Proposal for services from Terry Walker. Michael Smith shared that Ms. Walker will not attend meeting tonight as scheduled. Administration of MassWorks grant will be completed by Highway Supt., Town Coordinator, and Town Accountant.
19. Email from Sheila regarding asst. assessor job description

20. Email from Andrea Woods regarding elevator bid. Kara will communicate Heath's needs to FRCOG.
21. Letter from MTRSD School Committee Chair regarding Rowe
22. Email from Ben Hellerstein, Environment Massachusetts with update on solar
23. Email from Al Canali regarding household numbers in Heath
24. Letter from HRA regarding Citizen Participation Plan. Heath will appoint one member to serve on committee for the term of the CDBG grant.
25. Emails regarding highway dept. work over the course of last week's storm and truck issues...
26. ***Email update from Karen Brooks/Board of Health. On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Gloria Fisher to serve as temporary, part-time Board of Health Clerk effective Dec. 11, 2014.***
27. Excerpts from Municipal Finance Laws: sect. 25A and sect. 23B. Kara will confirm with Town Counsel
28. Letter from FCSWMD – FY16 Proposed Budget. Increase for Heath \$113
29. Copy of COA grant contract

7:35 pm Bill Lattrell moved that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual and to reconvene open session upon closure of executive session. Sheila seconded. Roll call vote to enter into Executive Session: Bill, "aye," Sheila, "aye;" vote unanimous.

7:55 pm Bill Lattrell moved that the Board come out of Executive Session and return to open Select Board meeting. Sheila seconded. Roll call vote: Sheila, "aye," Bill, "aye;" vote unanimous.

Highway Supt./Joint Meeting with Finance Committee:

- Discussed road treatments for winter conditions. Heath now uses triethylamine, a corrosion inhibitor. This blue tinted treatment is less corrosive than distilled water, according to Mike Smith. Mike referenced studies conducted by Pacific NW Snowfighters, including testing the effectiveness and toxicity of deicing materials.
- Finance Committee reviewed previous questions addressed to Mike Smith and his responses. Sheila reminded the group that some questions were worded with assumptions, some misdirected and encouraged filtering and rewording questions in the future to avoid unnecessary communication glitches.
- Kathy Inman requested salt usage explained including comparisons of use of nearby towns and environmental impact. Mike offered a technical, yet clear response. He shared that in his experience most communities he is familiar with are trending towards less usage of sand in their salt/sand mixture. He stated that sand has environmental impacts that far outweigh impacts of salt. He added that Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) wants sand removed from all 22 watershed communities as it causes numerous problems for the public water supply (Quabbin Reservoir). Explanation of salt treated with rust inhibitors (triethylamine) continued and how it relates to town equipment and benefits in using this treatment. Mike shared it is difficult to quantify but he feels that corrosion has decreased about 40-50% since he began using this substance. However, if one travels outside of Heath, where corrosion inhibitors may not be used, the rate of corrosion will differ.
- Discussed 2003 truck body replacement
- Discussed new laws requiring hoisting licenses for any crew worker operating machinery that lifts in excess of 10 feet. This includes all crew members as well as employee serving as roadside mower.
- Discussed frost heaves. The question posed: Is salt causing this problem in Heath? Mike shared that after researching this issue with experts in the field, he concluded that no, salt is not the cause. Water entering cracks in the roads in conjunction with poor road base (including large stones from

stone walls and ledge) heave from freezing cycle. Mike will provide information and updates on the website with links for further inquiry.

- STRAP (MassWorks) grant: Heath was awarded a grant from the Exec. Office of Housing and Economic Development in the amount of \$983,102 to repave 4.5 miles of Rt. 8A. This project will help eliminate frost heaves.
- Discussed vehicle replacement schedule and reviewed item by item to determine if time frame is realistic. Financial impact of replacing 2-3 vehicles in one year is monumental. Mike feels the 1980 fire engine is a priority as it is old, difficult for firefighters to drive, has need for costly, electrical repairs and break issues. Discussed if fleet could be reduced by one and Mike feels that option would be a disservice to the community as it would reduce water supply and cause Heath to rely on mutual aid. Mike feels pre-owned vehicles are a cost-effective option.
- Discussed other vehicles on list and dates listed for replacement. All seem on a reasonable schedule. Mike will look into maintenance costs for the Chevy 4500 (scheduled for replacement in 2015). He says it's in good shape and offered the option of increased maintenance and possibly a body replacement would prolong the life of the vehicle.
- Mike responded to questions regarding wing plows. Again, he will provide information for the website and Heath Herald.

9:14 p.m. Gary Singley, Kathy Inman and Mike Smith left meeting.

FY15 Tax Rate: Don Freeman shared that he is working on explaining the different in the estimated rate and the rate that was recently set by the Dept. of Revenue. In his research, he discovered that the DOR has used the same figure in their calculations for estimated local receipts. Valuations are down and this affects that rate. He has a meeting scheduled Monday with the Assessors and will update the Select Board. Bill Lattrell made the point that when valuations go down, rate goes up but it's really in the amount each tax payer is actually billed, and that amount may not change.

WiredWest update: Don attended a financial forum with MBI/WiredWest recently on Dec. 11. This meeting looked at the municipal cost to build a last-mile, fiber-to-the-home, regional broadband network. The forum aimed to provide an in-depth view of capital and operating costs, bonding and financing options, municipal budgeting options and projected operating results. Don said he felt more informed and had a better view of the matter after attending the meeting.

Long-Range Planning Committee: Don shared that the group has been discussing the Regional Agreement and the unanimous voting requirement. The Committee will provide a presentation to the School Committee on Jan. 21, 2015. Discussed need for school committee representative for Heath.

Reserve Fund: Don asked for update on Reserve Fund request to pay a balance owed to MIIA for vehicle endorsement (due to new cruiser and new highway vehicles). Kara shared that the request is no longer needed as the balance due was covered by Rewards Credits and Participation Credits covered the \$2,101 balance. Next Joint Finance Committee/Select Board meeting scheduled for Jan. 6, 2015.

Other Business:

DOR Follow-up & TAP Workplan Status: Board of Selectmen and Assessors need to meet as a group to discuss Assistant Assessor position and DOR's recommendation to have this position appointed. Kara will offer assistance if typing is needed. Once job description is finalized, the Select Board will take steps to determine salary. Kara will arrange a meeting.

Carbonite Back Up System: The Board will inform all employees using work stations to have data backed up on a regular basis using the Carbonite Cloud software (free for one year) or inform Town Coordinator of their method otherwise if not using the Carbonite software.

EMS Service Zone Plan/MOUs: *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to approve MOU between Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Association and Town of Heath with provisions noted.*

Charlemont Ambulance: Bill offered update on Ambulance Task Force formed by Charlemont Ambulance. Committee will make recommendations for this year including assessments to each town.

Bill mentioned change in call list putting Colrain first. He feels this may impact cost sharing for Charlemont Ambulance. Bill and Tim Lively have been attending meetings on behalf of Heath.

Heath Herald: The Board would like to be mindful of next two Heath Herald issues – to include Highway Dept. information, Special Town Meeting, Municipal Complex, and WiredWest information (1/10/15 deadline); and Annual Town Meeting, WiredWest information (3/10/15 deadline).

Other Separate Documents:

- Town Coordinator Report
- Vehicle Replacement Schedule
- Examples of job descriptions for Asst. Assessor

SIGNED:

- Resolution Adopting the Town of Heath Hazard Mitigation Plan. *On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a Resolution Adopting the Town of Heath Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

On a motion by Bill Lattrell, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:40 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for December 30, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator