

**Massachusetts General Laws Accepted  
By the Town of Heath  
Compiled by Hilma A. Sumner, Town Clerk  
June 2013**

Ch. 39, S. 10: All town meetings shall be called under a warrant which shall be posted in one or more public places at least seven days before said meeting. (Feb. 3, 1936)

Ch. 40, S. 4a: Heath Board of Selectmen and the Heath Board of Health authorized to enter into an inter municipal agreement with one or more other governmental units to provide public health, public works, and general government administration services which the Board of Health, Department of Public Works, and other administrative bodies in town are authorized to perform, in accordance with an Inter Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement to be entered between the Town and various governmental units. (May 12, 2007)

Ch. 40, S. 4a: The Board of Selectmen are authorized to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with neighboring towns to create a municipal collaborative to provide broadband coverage to the member towns, said collaborative to develop the business and economic model; secure appropriate financing without requiring member towns to incur additional debt obligations; contract the design, construction and operation of the network; and own the network assets; subject to the supervision of the member towns in accordance with the following resolution:

Be it resolved, that the Town of Heath, acting by and through its Board of Selectmen, enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Western Massachusetts Community Fiber Network, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4A, for the purpose of establishing a universal, open-access, financially self-sustaining broadband communications system to provide communications services, including high-speed Internet, telephone and cable television, to the residents, businesses and institutions of the member towns.

(May 8, 2010)

Ch. 40, S. 8b: Provision for carrying out of programs designed to meet the problems of the aging in coordination with the Department of Elder Affairs. (May 2, 1983)

Ch. 40, S. 22d: Vehicles that are illegally parked in public ways may be towed away at owner's expense. (March 6, 1972)

Ch. 40, S. 57: Accepted provisions relating to licenses and permits of delinquent taxpayers. (May 9, 1998, June 28, 2003)

Ch. 40, S. 86G: Selectmen may enter into a police mutual aid agreement with neighboring towns. (May 3, 1982)

Ch. 41, S. 45A: The Board of Selectmen shall have all the powers and duties of Commissioners of Trust Funds. (Sept. 27, 1994)

Ch. 50, S. 1: Official ballots shall be used in all town elections for the election of only those officers who are required by law to be elected by ballot. (Feb. 7, 1955)

Ch. 58, Ss. 7a-7d: (Feb. 5, 1962, repealed by State, 1979)

Ch. 59, S. 5, clause 17d: Accepted the provisions providing for real estate tax exemptions for surviving spouses, minors with deceased parents or persons over the age of 70. It was explained that acceptance of this expands the income and asset threshold from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and gives a \$175 exemption to those qualifying. (May 7, 2011)

Ch. 59, Ss. 59 & 57C: Accepted quarterly tax billing. (May 5, 2001)

Ch. 59, S. 5, clause 54: The Town is permitted to exempt from taxation personal property assessed at a value of less than \$10,000.00, and pursuant to such provision, establish that personal property with value of less than \$10,000.00 shall not be subject to taxation. (May 11, 2002)

Ch. 60, S. 107: Any property tax due a city or town in an amount not in excess of \$25.00 shall be due and payable in a single payment when so determined by the appropriating body of such town. (July 15, 1986)

Ch. 71, Ss. 16-16i: To establish a regional school and the construction, maintenance and operation of a regional school by said district in accordance with the provisions of a proposed agreement filed with the Selectmen. (Feb. 4, 1952)

Ch. 71, Ss. 16-16i: To establish a regional vocational-technical school district to consist of Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and the construction, maintenance and operation of a regional school by the said district in accordance with the provisions of a proposed agreement filed with the Selectmen. (Nov. 28, 1972)

Ch. 71, Ss. 16-16i: Provision for the establishment of a regional school district, together with the Town of Rowe and the Maintenance and operation of a regional school by the said district in accordance with the provisions of a proposed agreement filed with the Selectmen. (May 11, 1991)

Ch. 73, S. 5, Acts of 1986: Changes in the provisions regarding real estate exemptions for surviving spouses, minors with deceased parent, or persons over the age of 70 making eligibility requirements less restrictive by increasing the amount an applicant may exclude in calculating his/her gross estate. (May 8, 1987)

Ch. 91, S. 29: The Town will assume all liability for all damages that may be incurred by work to be performed by the Department of Public Works of Massachusetts in rivers and streams of the town in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 513, Acts of 1939, and Selectmen are authorized to execute and deliver a bond of indemnity therefore to the Commonwealth. (Feb. 5, 1940)

Ch.140, S.147A: All money received from dog licenses or recovered as fines under any dog bylaw be paid into the treasury of the Town. (May 10, 2008)

Ch. 143, S. 3z: Any part-time inspector of buildings, building commissioner, local inspector, or alternate inspector may practice for hire, or engage in the business for which he is certified, licensed, or registered under the building code, while serving as such inspector; provided, however, that within the area over which he has jurisdiction as inspector or alternate inspector, he shall not exercise any of his powers and duties as such inspector, including those of enforcement officer of the state building code for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, demolition or removal work done by himself, his employer, or any, employees or one employed with him. (June 28, 2003)

Ch. 152: The town accepted the provisions relative to Workmen's Compensation as applied to workers, laborers and mechanics and all employees on highway work done in cooperation with the State and County. (April 18, 1940)

Ch. 164: The Board of Selectmen are authorized to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and any related services. (Dec. 14, 2010, May 7, 2011)

Ch. 258, S. 13: The Town shall indemnify and save harmless municipal officers, elected or appointed, from personal financial loss and expense, including reasonable legal fees and costs, if any, in an amount not to exceed one million dollars, arising out of any claim, demand suit or judgment by reason of any act or omission except an intentional violation of civil rights of any person under any law, if the official at the time of such act or omission was acting within the scope of his official duties or employment. (May 4, 1981)

Ch. 505, S. A: The town, via the Selectmen, assumes the responsibility for all land damage in connection with bridge work. (Feb. 5, 1940)

Ch. 513, Acts of 1939: See Ch. 91, S. 29 above. (Feb. 5, 1940)

Ch. 653, S. 40, Acts of 1989: Provisions regarding assessment date changes for new growth accepted. (May 12, 1990)

Ch. 727, Acts of 1945: Women teachers employed in the same grades and doing the same type of work with the same preparation and training as men teachers shall be paid at the same rate as men teachers. (Feb. 3, 1947)

END-----MGL ACCEPTED BY THE TOWN OF HEATH