

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Sawyer Hall  
January 10, 2017

**Call to Order at 7:06 p.m.** by Sheila Litchfield with Brian DeVriese, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. See sign in sheet for other attendees.

**Reviewed Agenda:** Add: Jan Ameen is available via phone due to weather, for discussion on PAYT.

**Minutes:** *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to approve minutes of 12/13/16 Select Board meeting as amended.*

**Mail/Email and Town Coordinator Report:**

1. Email from Robyn with notes
2. TC Report
3. Email from Don Freeman re: Fire Dept. request for money
4. Email between Don Freeman and accountant re: Remainder of Available Funds
5. Email from Mike Shattuck re: Flagg Hill Road
6. Email from Tracey Baronas re: PAYT
7. Email from Bill Ennen re: Broadband. Broadband Comm. is meeting on 1/23.
8. Email from Art Schwenger in response to letter from Peter Larkin/MBI
9. Letter from Peter Larkin/MBI
10. Cash Book Summary, December, 2016
11. Email from Jessica Atwood re: Brownfields and Town Counsel's opinion on site access agreement
12. Email from Sheila re: Broadband
13. REPC highlights from Tim Lively
14. Emails re: Kris Burnes. Kara will prepare a letter and send to Mr. Burnes.
15. Email from Betsy Kovacs – request for DLTA grant and accompanying FRCOG documents (see hard copy of form)
16. Notice from MDAR re: Animal Control Officer (form in to sign folder)

**Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:**

1. Vacation Request
2. 12/13 minutes for review
3. The Beacon
4. Accountant's Cash Reconciliation, December 2016
5. MA DOT Reimbursement Request \$14,880
6. Final CDBG Quarterly Report letter

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

- 9/7 and 1/3 minutes will be ready next week.
- Robyn will not be in attendance tonight.

**Other Business:**

- Heath School/Heath Education Initiative Task Force: Group needs to be appointed to explore school building transition. \$90,000 is needed for annual upkeep for structure. District has unofficially offered half. Need to explore revenue options, energy improvements, grants, long-

range decisions, but not ready to appoint group until discussion points are generated. Task Force will make their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. The Board will vote and then issue brought to MTRSD School Committee. There negotiations will be handled and then Heath voters will vote on School Committee's final proposed changes to regional agreement – this could be a vote at a Special Town Meeting, prior to ATM. The MTRSD School Committee may need to reach out to Towns on timing issue. The District still has a lease on building for another nine years, and this should be honored if building is no longer used. Board of Selectmen should reach out directly on this issue to the District. Sheila will follow up. Jeff Simmons inquired about the school matter and was told that meetings are being scheduled and all are encouraged to attend. Jeff was also encouraged to reach out to Heath Ed. Initiative Task Force, or Gloria, Clerk, to be put on agenda. The Task Force would like to meet with Select Board at some point in next few weeks.

**7:23 p.m. Finance Committee members entered meeting.**

**Reserve Fund Request:** Ken Gilbert has requested money from the Reserve Fund to help cover Town's share of grants received. \$4,789 is needed in full. Ken can cover most with a shortfall of \$689. Finance Committee voted to transfer \$1,000 from Reserve to Personal Protective Equipment line.

**Levy Limit Issue:** A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, Jan. 13 with Mary Jane Handy, Director of Accounts, Division of Local Services/MA DOR and supervisors and field staff from Bureau of Accounts (BOA) and Bureau of Local Assessment (BLA) assigned to Heath to discuss recent report that Heath has hit its levy ceiling. Individuals are doing research in preparation for the meeting. All are looking forward to an interesting discussion.

**7:40 p.m. Jeff Simmons left meeting.**

**Appointments:** *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted to appoint Margo Newton to serve as Office Assistant, FY17, effective immediately.*

**Flagg Hill Road:** Mike Shattuck will walk the property with property owner and work up an estimate for the cost of improving access. Select Board would like to ask Planning Board to review current list of roadways to determine if it should be updated. A meeting will be scheduled.

**PAYT:** Need to plan timeline of transition. Will work with Jan Ameen of the FC Solid Waste Management District.

**Broadband:** Art Schwenger offered an update on broadband matters and a recap of today's meeting in Rowe with MA State auditors. They were asked to meet in Rowe to discuss the current audit of MBI. Three Senior Auditors from the State Auditor's Team met with Rowe, Plainfield and Shutesbury Select Members, representatives of WiredWest and Shutesbury. They met for over two hours and Art felt the meeting was positive and reinforcing to hear from other Towns. WiredWest has sent out RFP for contractors for regional build-out and results will be announced soon. WiredWest hoping to provide comprehensive services to Towns. Still uncertain as to timing. MBI has spent \$5 million of public funds on legal/consulting fees and we still remain without service.

**DLTA:** Board of Health unanimously voted to ask the Board of Selectmen to request funds from the FRCOG DLTA grant to conduct an assessment of the abandoned and distressed properties in Heath and to create a plan for Heath to deal with the findings. This would include all structures which are abandoned and/or on the verge of collapse, and those for which taxes have not been paid. Sheila completed the form and Kara will send back to FRCOG for their consideration.

**Shared Services:** Some towns are exploring the possibility of shared highway superintendent position. Procurement and grants take up a lot of time but are a critical need. Exploration will continue.

**8:40 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.**

**Signed documents.**

**Next meeting scheduled for January 17, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

*On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Sheila Litchfield, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kara Leistyna  
Town Coordinator**