

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
September 12, 2017

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, Chair and Robyn Provost-Carlson present. Also present Mike Shattuck and Art Schwenger. Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator was unable to attend.

Reviewed Agenda: No changes.

Minutes: None.

7:02 p.m. Mike Shattuck presented 12 and 36 month uniform contracts from Cintas for review. Mike suggested that we stay with a 12 month contract at this time which is showing a 5% increase for the year of service. He also suggests that the contracts be sent to Finance Committee and the Town Accountant for review. BOS agreed to the suggestion and Mike will send these along. Mike also reported that he is looking into two equipment purchases with remaining Chapter 90 money. A tank sprayer for dust control and a second tractor for implement attachment to help with required labor costs associated with switching the mower off and on during mowing season. Due to the cost of the proposed tractor, Mike would be required to work with the FRCOG to obtain 3 quotes for the purchase. Further discussion is required on these purchases to determine any budget issues. Lastly, Mike started a discussion about the need/want to work on clearing the sides of the roads from brush and low hanging limbs. BOS acknowledged the fact that keeping the sides of the roads clear is both important to driver safety and to road care. Making certain that roads are wide enough for clear passage of 2 vehicles is important from a safety point of view while allowing sunlight to dry our roads is important for long term road care. Mike is working on a plan for this project along with looking into the costs. BOS asked Mike to be certain that he informs the residents of Heath as to his plan for roadside clearing through the Town website. A concern was discussed about the use of the wing plows and the berms that they seem to create on the roadside which forces water run-off back onto the road and below the blacktop in certain areas. Mike responded that he was aware of this concern and will be working to flatten these berms.

7:30 p.m., Mike Shattuck left the meeting.

7:30 p.m. Art Schwenger joined the BOS in a broadband update discussion. A November 7th Kick-Off Meeting in Heath is scheduled with Westfield Gas and Electric. There is also a Broadband Conference being sponsored by Heath schedule for Friday, September 22 at the Heath Town Hall. There are approx. 50 people planning to attend from surrounding communities as well as a number of scheduled speakers. The hope is that conference attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about their own town's eventual broadband service and be able to obtain information as to how they may be able to operate that service.

7:40 p.m. Jonathan Diamond joined the meeting.

7:55 p.m., Art Schwenger left the meeting.

7:56 p.m. Jonathan Diamond presented his Application for Use of the Heath School Facilities and/or Grounds. Jonathan had requested time to present his application to the BOS and discuss his requests. Jonathan is requesting use of the site for both the Hilltown Drama Club and the Hilltown Youth Theater Summer Workshop. The application was reviewed and the BOS asked for a short amount of time for further discussions as both the Drama Club and the Summer Workshop are long-term use requests. The BOS took the opportunity to remind Jonathan of the need to clear his personal belongings out of the school building and into his storage shed. Jonathan told the BOS that he would have this task completed by the end of the week (September 17th).

8:00 p.m. Melinda Herzig joined the meeting.

8:30 p.m., Jonathan Diamond left the meeting.

8:35 p.m. Melinda Herzig reviewed the Western MA Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement with the BOS. The town of Heath had previously signed an agreement like this with the County. This is an agreement that gives officers from other towns listed in the agreement the ability to respond immediately with mutual aid to Heath and provides specific insurances for the officers while they are responding. The BOS asked Melinda to provide us with a copy of the Agreement that we could send to town counsel for review and comment. The BOS and Melinda discussed a request from the Police Shared Services Group that included providing answers to a number of questions in regards to the town's willingness to continue to investigate the idea of shared services in the area of the police department. It was again discussed that while we are not looking to eliminate positions or hours of work, there is an opportunity to possibly share other portions of the police needs like trainings, equipment, etc. The town of Charlemont is the only town that is continuing this conversation with Heath at this time. Lastly, the BOS discussed the fact that Melinda will need to continue as the acting Animal Control Officer until a replacement is found for the position. It was agreed that Melinda should be receiving the stipend that was budgeted for the position for the amount of time that she maintains the position. Sheila will follow up with Tracey to be certain that Melinda receives the appropriate monthly stipend.

9:45 p.m., Melinda Herzig left the meeting.

Mail/ Email/Documents for Review and/or Signatures:

- Letter from Attorney General REF: O.M.L. Complaint.
- Cherry Sheet Notification.
- Nurses Report.
- Application for Use of the Heath School Facilities and/or Grounds submitted by the Heath School Building Transition Team for use of the building on 9/27/17 for a meeting and walk-thru. *On a motion by Sheila Litchfield, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept and sign the Application for Use of the Heath School Facilities and/or Grounds as presented.*
- MA Emergency Management Agency Contract. *On a motion by Sheila Litchfield, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept and sign the MA Emergency Management Agency Contract.*
- Life Path, Inc. Foot Clinic Grant for \$1,500. *On a motion by Sheila Litchfield, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept and sign the Life Path, Inc. Foot Clinic Grant.*

Next meeting scheduled for September 26, 2017 at 7 p.m.

On a motion by Sheila Litchfield, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Robyn Provost-Carlson
Secretary**