

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
January 2, 2018

Call to Order at 7 p.m. by Sheila Litchfield, Chair with Brian DeVriese, Robyn Provost-Carlson, and Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator present. Also present: Mike Shattuck, Highway Superintendent and see sign in sheet for other attendees.

Reviewed Agenda: Ken Gilbert, 8:30 p.m. Fire Dept./ Landing pad for Life Flight

Highway Department: Robyn opened meeting and shared that she reached out to Mike and invited him to share with the group how things were going in town with recent weather, etc. Also, to ask if any support was needed from BOS. Mike reported that winter operations were going well considering recent weather and temperatures. The new truck (2016 Ram) is in the shop in NY due to faulty switchboard on plow controls. They are replacing it under warranty (no cost to town). It was sent up last Thursday and not ready yet. Dohn's truck is running fine but had minor mechanical issues requiring repair. Last week the backhoe inadvertently backed into Mike's personal vehicle that was parked at the department. Insurance has been notified and a claim number issued. Mike waiting for adjuster to take photos, etc. Damage sustained to tailgate.

Mike believes roadways are in reasonable condition. Emergency personnel and State Troopers confirmed that winter weather conditions contributed to accidents. Sheila has received positive feedback on condition of roads, as well as Robyn and Kara. Delivery drivers are happy with Heath road conditions. Kathy Inman added that she is happy with the amount of salt application. Mike says our roads are as good as, if not better than neighboring towns and confirmed that he has cut back on salt use except in areas of high freezing rate. One issue discussed in relation to the recent accidents is the need to clear growth over roadways in order to facilitate sun exposure and encourage melting. Mike shared that his budget for tree removal is small and often exhausted. Discussed request for Community Service workers through the FC Sheriff's office. A resident suggested asking utilities to cut back areas that impact lines and research possible grants that may assist with clearing growth.

Mike has been notified of changes at the Fire Dept. Jack Gougeon, firefighter, requested that the highway dept. assist in clearing fire hydrants of snow until they have enough volunteers on fire dept. Mike agreed. Roads remain a priority but will assist as much as possible.

7:25 p.m. Mike Shattuck and Margaret Hobbie left meeting.

Reviewed Minutes: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 12/18/17 as presented.*

Jim Barry and Alyssa Larose/ Green Communities Initiative (GCI): Jim Barry, Green Communities Regional Coordinator for Mass DOER / Mass DEP, and Alyssa Larose, Land Use Planner, FRCOG, attended tonight to answer any questions regarding GCI. Sheila thanked Jim and Alyssa for their emails clarifying some of the guidelines for the GCI process. The main goal of the program is for towns, through audits, to identify potential projects in an effort to reduce energy use by 15% (ideally 20%) over a five year period. The Select Board is in favor of the program. Jim explained the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy. This policy, approved by the BOS, does not require that any existing vehicles be replaced with more fuel efficient vehicles. The policy simply states that when a new vehicle is added to the fleet, the town would need to check current policy guidance for minimum MPG. Only one vehicle on Heath's fleet is not

exempt – the Ford Escape. Sheila made some revisions and the BOS will review at their next scheduled meeting to consider adopting as part of the application criteria.

Jim also explained that there is financial assistance in the form of grants for FRCOG to offer town assistance in both becoming a GC as well as maintaining GC status. The recent eight towns that applied for GC status used their planning agencies to assist. Heath has been using FRCOG for this application process.

Stretch Code: This has to be adopted by Town for GC application. Compared with base energy code, the stretch code has a very small difference due to recent updates. All additions, renovations, and repairs to residential buildings are explicitly exempted from the updated Stretch Code. Currently, 216 communities have adopted the Stretch Energy Code including towns of Rowe, Hawley, Buckland, Shelburne, and Greenfield. Charlemont and Colrain are in process. According to DOER, most builders say that the Stretch Code makes it easier to adhere to than standard code. The more understanding residents have about the stretch code, the better. If all boards in town (Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Heath, etc.) understand the differences, members can help to deflect strange rumors or obsolete facts that are no longer true. The Select Board will host the informational meeting. The Town can always un-adopt the code if it proves a problem but would not be able to pursue further funding. Jim shared that he has not heard that GC towns have a problem and no one has un-adopted the code. Robyn shared that there was initial concern years ago but nothing currently because so many towns are designated and use the funding from GC program. The code is attractive as it encourages building structures that are energy efficient and therefore savings in energy costs are enjoyed. Heath is one of five towns in Franklin County that has not become a Green Community. Bill Gran, who serves on Planning Board, now has an understanding of what is required for the application and the role of the Planning Board. He says he has enough information to explain to the rest of the Planning Board.

Discussed some of the challenges towns face. Why would a community not be in favor of the stretch code? Perhaps people think building costs will be more but now codes are so similar that the difference is minor. And one must consider the cost savings by having better heating systems, weatherization, better windows, etc. that lower energy bills. Also mentioned was that some people don't want the government to tell them how to build their house. Jim didn't know how to address that issue – he merely said, “the government is of the people, for the people, by the people.”

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, adopted by Massachusetts in 2007, is a cooperative effort to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide. 80% of funds go to Mass Save program and other funds support the Green Communities Initiative program. Some of the funds help local planning agencies assist towns with the applications and to maintain status through reporting.

Sheila suggested putting information in the Heath Herald. Jim can provide information and for hand-outs. Jim is also happy to come back to the informational meetings and to Annual Town Meeting. Kara will invite the Energy Advisory Committee to a meeting – this group was appointed to work with FRCOG in completing the application. Next application deadline is Oct., 2018. Thank you, Jim and Alyssa.

8:12 p.m. Jim Barry and Alyssa Larose left meeting.

Bill offered brief update on Planning Board activity.

Melinda Herzig: The BOS inquired about status of illegal dumping. Melinda reported that she has spoken with State Police CPAC unit. She cannot expand on the video footage to view plate. She has attempted different combinations and done a random search but it's difficult to ascertain. Melinda will continue to monitor. There has been no recent dumping reported. BOS discussed ways to get the word out to residents and to be watchful. If any information is available, people should call the Heath police dept. Melinda was encouraged to write a blurb for the upcoming Heath Herald.

8:21 p.m. Ken Gilbert entered meeting.

Animal Control Matters: Discussed variety of issues and ticketing process. Melinda will communicate with town clerk on any outstanding tickets.

Shared Services: On-going meetings have taken place. Heath will work with FRCOG and each participating town and respective boards to address any concerns/questions. Next shared services meeting is 1/29/18. Need to review current job descriptions and revise as needed. Thank you, Melinda.

8:27 p.m. Melinda Herzig left meeting.

Ken Gilbert: Ken is here tonight to discuss loose ends, specifically Life Flight landing zone for Heath. Heath Agricultural Society has recently locked the gate and it was suggested that Heath FD find an alternative for landing site. Ken and Nick Anzuoni assessed and suggest moving the site to end of Center Cemetery which is town-owned land. Spoke with Mike Shattuck and Jerry Gilbert. This area is easy to plow and is bigger with no overhanging wires. Ken was asked to inform landowners abutting this area. Brian will also reach out. Ken will also notify Shelburne Control of this change. Fire Dept. has a key to access the gate at the Ag. Society but they will no longer share a key to the building even though town property is kept in buildings.

Bond Bill: This matter will be added to agenda for next scheduled meeting, 1/9/18 to discuss safety complex and need to plan in case funds become available to the town.

Transition: Ken reports there are still some loose ends but all is going well. Received positive feedback about how well the department handled recent incidents and the post incident review was helpful. Nick is poised to assist with transition. Jack met with Nick to discuss training schedule and review matters. Moral is reported to be good. Currently, there are seven members on department. Robyn will confirm for insurance purposes.

Jack will meet again with BOS next week, 7 p.m. to discuss bond bill and planning.

8:45 p.m. Jack Gougeon left meeting.

Mail/ Email:

- Email from Jan Ameen with PAYT numbers for November. Trash is down; recycling steady.
- DLS Notification re: Prepayment of Local Property Taxes. Does not apply to Heath.
- Email from Gary Ponce re: Paramedic MOU. Kara will follow up.
- Housing Court Verified Complaint for Civil Contempt. Kara will follow up on recourse should resident continue to be non-compliant.
- Email from Robyn re: Agenda and Highway Matters
- Email from Robert Bourke re: Winter Roads and how well the crew is doing to keep roadways cleared and safe.
- Email from Sheila re: policy for animals at town hall. Will draft an amendment to current policy.
- Emails from Caitrin Ferriter re: Edge Case Scenarios
- Email from Robyn re: Fire Dept. meeting. Went very well.
- Email from Bill Ennen re: Heath Broadband / January call scheduled
- Email from accountant re: Vet Benefit per month. Need to budget into FY19.
- Email from accountant re: mileage rate. IRS has increased to 54.5¢/mile (currently it's 53.5¢). Kara will notify accountant that the policy is to accept IRS rate as it changes.
- Email from Sheila re: Paramedic MOU
- Email from Brian re: Funding for Safety Complex (Will discuss further on 1/9/18). Kara will follow up and find out if Heath's income ratio may be recalculated.

- Town Nurse Monthly Report (December)
- Article entitled, “*Go Easy on the Salt*” from Dohn Sherman – cautions about use of salt near lakes and other waterways. Heath Highway Dept. already has cut back and reduces use near waterways.

Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:

- Energy Advisory Committee Memo and response from Jim Barry and Alyssa Larose (for discussion).
- Packet to discuss with Melinda re: Draft West County Police Cooperative and cost sharing formula; illegal dumping; ACO Concerns; dog complaint
- 3rd Party Closed Landfill Inspection Report (to sign)
- Letter to David Howland
- Letter to Ken Gilbert
- Treasury and Payroll Warrants
- Edge Case Scenarios and sample IGA
- Heath Vehicle Inventory
- Draft Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy. Will review for 1/9/18 meeting.

Other Business:

- **Highway Matters:** Kara will schedule Mike Shattuck to meet with Board next week 1/9/18, 7:30 p.m.
- **Dog Policy in Town Buildings:** Discussed recent complaint about dogs being tethered to town hall and causing disturbance. BOS will review and revise current policy.
- **WG&E:** Kara will follow up with Caitrin and ask content of agenda and frequency of meetings. #5 Ledges Road (town-owned) is possible site for hub. Robyn will send asbestos removal proposal.
- **School Building Transition Team:** Brian offered update. Team has meeting with Mark Zaccheo and discussed development. Need an RFP for development to advertise availability of school building.

Signed documents.

Next meeting scheduled January 9, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Sawyer Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Board: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.*

Respectfully presented,

Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator