

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
May 29, 2018

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Kara Leistyna with Brian DeVriese, Robyn Provost-Carlson, Gloria Fisher, and Kara Leistyna present. See sign in sheet for additional attendees.

Review Agenda: No changes.

Board of Selectmen Reorganization: *On a motion by Brian DeVriese and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted to assume the following roles for FY19:*

Brian DeVriese, Chair

Robyn Provost-Carlson, Secretary

Robyn Provost-Carlson, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The full Board of Selectmen will serve as Licensing Board and Three Town Landfill Committee for Heath.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Robyn Provost-Carlson and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously with one abstention to approve the minutes of 5/8/18 as presented.*

Pole Hearing: Lisa Jasinski of National Grid attended hearing 26115141 for a pole install at Number Nine Road and Groll Road due to accident. The transformer is being relocated to a less vulnerable spot – midspan. This newly installed pole will be broadband ready. *On a motion by Gloria Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the request as presented. Hearing closed at 7:19 p.m.*

Highway Dept./Jeff Johnston and Mike Shattuck: Robyn, Liaison to the highway department, suggested this discussion as a starting point to talk about setting up a meeting with the crew to review recent changes approved at Annual Town Meeting. Each crew member will receive a memo stating salary change, title change and job description. Robyn would like to meet with each supervisor (Road and Shop) to discuss formation of new roles and then bring a summary back to the full Board. Mike and Jeff were both asked if they anticipate any immediate challenges. The Board offered availability at any time. Jeff and Mike will share the current email account – highway@townofheath.org and the cell phone. The Board shared the importance of keeping in touch regularly during the transition and resolve any issues as they arise. Road projects for upcoming season include West Branch, and Culvert Replacement. Conservation Commission will meet soon and Mike will need to get the required permitting. Heath is eligible to apply for a Massworks (STRAP) grant this year. Kara will assist. Applications due between July 30 and August 10. Mike will also apply for Chap. 90 funds after July 1. All bids and materials are complete and request for bids for culvert project have been distributed and bids are due June 27. The shop supervisor position will be in charge of OSHA compliance; fleet maintenance/ schedule; building needs; inventory; and transfer station operations. Long term planning is important, need a list of projects. Mike will advertise for summer temporary help. He is working with Sheriff's Dept. and has an open request for assistance from Community Service workers to assist with painting snow plows, brush cutting, etc. They did an excellent job on Burrington Road. Kara asked if highway crew can help remove tires from closed landfill (per Jan Ameen's request on inspection).

7:38 p.m. Mike Shattuck and Jeff Johnston left meeting.

Pole Hearing: Mr. Almeida, a resident, arrived to ask a question about the pole hearing. The hearing has closed however the Board was able to answer his question. Mr. Almeida also reported some illegal

dumping across the road from a property that he owns. Some renters have recently left and discarded their trash upon vacating premises. They are gone now.

8:01 p.m. Finance Committee members (Ned Wolf, Ken Gilbert, Jan Carr, Kathy Inman) arrived. Ned Wolf shared that a meeting could possibly take place with an attorney from National Grid to discuss utility assessment issue. He would like to inform Rep. Paul Mark if the meeting will be held. Need to choose a time/place. Ned feels as many members who can be present will be helpful. The goal is to get a more sensible explanation for the lower assessment than what was received. This is the most substantial decrease in value over the last 15 years, according to Ned. Also, information received about the matter is conflicting. Assessors feel the town should also consult with our town counsel. Discussed option of using services of George Sansoucy. Ned thinks a person should be hired if they can offer an alternative before October but cost should definitely be considered. Mr. Sansoucy has a record of gaining cooperation to get data from National Grid but cost is definitely a consideration. Robyn feels skeptical and thinks the State should step in and create an equitable solution for this issue that affects many towns in Western MA. It doesn't seem right that the DOR is willing to adopt another appraiser's method for those towns who can afford Mr. Sansoucy's fees. Everyone concurred that if Boston lost 30% of their taxable property, it would be a big concern. The Assessors' Association will follow up with Beacon Hill. Heath needs to gather information from National Grid and DPU and ask for answers to our questions in writing rather than a meeting with an attorney. Ned feels the responses from National Grid were not acceptable and an entity of that size should be more professional. Discussed possibly sending a letter to the Secretary of Energy and the House and Senate Energy Committees. Ned will start by speaking with Paul Mark and let him know a letter is being drafted and sent to those who can possibly help with this situation. The group will collectively generate a list of questions. Ned will start and then send his draft to others for input. He will refer to DOR tables for a basis of his questions and in two weeks will reconvene. The Board is grateful for Ned's perseverance on this very significant matter for Heath. Brian suggested asking FRCOG if DLTA funding can assist towns in getting help to resolve this assessment matter. Kara will inquire.

Ned Wolf will continue to serve as chairman of the Finance Committee and he shared that they are delighted that Ken has joined the Committee.

8:33 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.

Mail/ Email:

- Robyn P-C re: Utility Assessments
- Robyn P-C re: BOA and Tax Collector Interface
- Performance Review: Lyra Johnson-Fuller
- Robert Bourke, Robyn P-C, Hilma Sumner, Kara Leistyna, Gloria Fisher re: fence installation in center. The Board agrees that the fence looks great. A thank you letter will be sent to Veteran's Memorial Committee for their efforts in installing and funding the fence.
- Sheila re: Shared Police Update
- Phoebe Walker re: Shared ACO. I will attend next meeting on 6/11, 3 pm
- Kara Leistyna, Paul Mark, Tracey Baronas re: MEMA reimbursement
- Hilma Sumner re: Public Records Request (Kragen)
- FCSA Quarterly Meeting Invite: June 28, 6 pm Brian, Robyn and Gloria will attend.
- Diane Broncaccio re: Heath Coverage
- Lorena Loubsky re: Heath Rural Connections Thank you...
- Phoebe Walker re: Meeting June 4, 2 pm (BOH members will attend)

Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:

- Minutes: 5/8/18
- Stewardship Plan: Shapiro Land (Plan on Drive)
- Pole Hearing documents

- Hometown Structures Bill Schedule (Swap Shed). Approved unanimously.
- Police/Fire Accident Coverage Summary Proposal for FY19
- Assignment and Assumption documents switching Direct Energy from District to Town
- Bill Schedule – Reimbursement Request for purchase of flag pole brackets. Approved unanimously.
- Franklin County Sheriff’s Regional Dog Control Services Agreement. Approved unanimously.
- FRCOG Purchasing Program Agreement for Contracting on Heath’s behalf
- Alyssa Larose – re: Green Communities Update and Draft Energy Reduction Plan (review)
- Town Coordinator Report
- Letter from Dohn Sherman – Request (hard copy in folder)
- SBTT Reports – in folder

Other Business:

- Discussed letter received from Dohn Sherman. Discussed options. Kara will research. One solution is possibly a change in schedule. Will be followed up.
- Tax Collector Software: Assessors will meet the first Wed. of each month at 6 pm and the third Wednesday if needed. On this issue of motor vehicle warrants, both the collector and assistant assessor will work together and coordinate tasks in an effort to process the warrant more efficiently. Alice reached out to the Consortium (Rebecca Krause-Hardie). Will follow up as information becomes available and meet together again.
- Brian shared that he had a call from Board of Health Chair, Betsy Kovacs regarding projects that the BOH is addressing. Kara will ask BOH to put list in writing in order that the Board stays apprised of progress/actions.
- 5 Ledges Road: Kara will ask Tom Danek for a price to demo the dilapidated structure. Asbestos testing scheduled for June 11.

There being no further business to come before the Board: *On a motion by Robyn Provost-Carlson, and seconded by Gloria Fisher, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.*

Respectfully presented,

**Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator**