

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sawyer Hall
November 13, 2018

Call to Order at 6:05 p.m. by Brian DeVriese with Gloria Cronin Fisher, and Kara Leistyna present. See sign in sheet for other attendees.

Review Agenda: No changes.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 10/23/18 as amended.*

Jen Hamilton: Jen attended tonight to express interest in the Heath School playground equipment on behalf of Mohawk Estates. The Town's policy on disposition of property under \$10,000 would require advertising in newspaper. Jen will forward a request in writing for the equipment. Her ideal timeframe for purchasing it would be sometime in the spring since the Estates is closed during the winter. Jen is also present tonight to hear the broadband update.

Mail/ Email:

- Thank you note from Sheila Litchfield for use of Heath School. The Board appreciates her donation of \$100.
- Jessica Atwood re: Brownfields Redevelopment Fund
- Hawley re: Regionalization Study
- Mass DOT re: Bridge inspection
- DPU re: public hearing – three year plan on energy efficiency
- Henry Godek re: Flagg Hill Road
- Bradway ZBA Hearing
- Peg Dean re: proposal to inquire about solar on landfill (see letter)
- Post Card sent out to all subscribers of municipal aggregation announcing new rate
- Betsy Kovacs re: amendments to zoning bylaws. BOH will work with Planning Board and bring suggested changes to Select Board
- Claire Rabbitt re: monthly report
- FCSA Meeting: All Board members will attend
- Mohawk Excess & Deficiency
- FC Tech School re: collective bargaining representative chosen
- Various letters and notices sent by Jim Hawkins on matters of zoning
- MA DOT Chap. 90 announcement
- Chris Godfrey ATC re: 5 Ledges Road
- Andrea Woods re: 5 Ledges Road – once decision made on monitoring, Andrea can finalize bid documentation
- MTRSD Account History from Tracey Baronas
- Various documents (hard copy packet) re: WiredWest/WG&E/Broadband

Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:

- The Beacon

- Performance Review
- Photos from MA DOT bridge inspection
- Documentation from Direct Energy re: rates
- Draft letter re: Landfill
- Request for leave
- ATC documentation for 5 Ledges Road (monitoring)
- Chap. 90 Request, \$264,112.29
- Request for use of school – S. Litchfield
- City & Town
- General Fund Expenditure Report
- Accountant's Cash Reconciliation, Oct. 2018
- STM Warrant for review and discussion
- Town Coordinator Report
- Draft Highway Fleet Log (Inventory)

6:35 p.m. Bob Bourke entered meeting.

Bob Bourke, Broadband Liaison: Bob Bourke attended tonight to offer an update on the broadband project for Heath. Bob is going to meet with Charlemont next week to discuss whether or not their town will go with Comcast. Discussed edge cases in Colrain and Rowe. Sheila is going to work with Bob on getting the IGAs (Inter Governmental Agreements) prepared for Board signature(s). Need an informal letter of agreement and then the IGA. Rowe and Colrain are aware of each case. Kara will work with Bob on an informal letter to each town. CAF II funding update is that Westfield Gas & Electric have been successful in their bidding which includes 22 towns with funds being available once all town networks are up and running. According to their sources, Heath will receive roughly \$56,000 per year for 10 years which may be used to maintain network. Make ready costs are not available yet. Heath has to decide on a drop policy once costs are determined. Towns are creating a variety of policies and Heath's will be dependent on how much the whole project will cost – then the Town may determine how much may be spent by town vs. homeowner. Standard overhead drop is roughly 175 feet from pole. Again Bob mentioned the cost analysis package Westfield Gas & Electric will create to assist the town in determining policy/cost. Discussed fiber hut location and reviewed various options/costs. The location near basketball court is best price. Group discussed putting the hut towards the current Verizon boxes but further back from road. Bob will find out the additional cost, if any, for this modification. The hut may be designed to look like a shed or may be camouflaged by shrubs/trees. The space within Community Hall is not ideal because of the additional costs (new generator, issues with 24/7 access, and the Town loses flexibility of reusing the building if anytime in the future its use needs to be revised. Board will decide on location by end of year. Footprint to be approximately 9x16 feet. A sub-hut will be erected in the Mohawk Estates resembling the current Verizon boxes in Town Center. Bob added that the State is considering all poles in the Estates to be public rather than private. Last, Bob shared the need for cost analysis to determine the take rate as it will need to cover monthly expenses. A concern is regarding the seasonal population if these subscribers are allowed to cancel services for a portion of the year. Jen suggested a termination fee or some sort of reduced off-season cost when the Estates are technically closed. The project is moving forward without any major issues. Make ready cost should be available in January. Then procurement for construction will follow. Currently Heath has no current choice for ISP but they anticipate several possibilities. Bob recently attended a workshop in Colrain on the topic of broadband borrowing. Bob will share an extra packet of paperwork from the workshop with the treasurer. Tracey Baronas, Accountant also attended. Next grant quarterly report will be due on Dec. 15. Thank you, Bob.

7:15 p.m. Bob Bourke and Jen Hamilton left meeting.

Other Business:

- Heath School Re-Use: Brian spoke with Andrea Woods at FRCOG who is drafting the RFI. It will be ready soon. Gloria would like a week or so to prepare a press release and will send to Andrea. Brian also gave a tour of the building and grounds to a prospective entity, perhaps interested in purchasing the building. There are financial benefits in this prospect. Real Estate would be taxable as well as proceeds from sale and possibly revenue from business.
- Special Town Meeting: ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to hold a STM on Nov. 28, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Heath Community Hall.*** Reviewed warrant. Removed one article and added an article to transfer funds for tax possession property management. Need \$5,500 for the DEP monitoring/NTWP and roughly \$25-30k for demo. Any funds not used for 5 Ledges may remain in account to be used for other properties as needed. Finance Committee recommended Article 1. Articles 2 and 3 are not within their purview. The article requesting funds to purchase a highway vehicle was removed. The Board would like to discuss more with highway supervisors and finance committee. Kara will invite Mike Shattuck and Jeff Johnston to the next scheduled meeting. On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to approve all articles on STM warrant for Nov. 28, 2018.
- Finance Committee New Member: Finance Committee met with two prospective members. Finance Committee recommends to the Board the appointment of Paul Dabrody. ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Paul Dabrody to serve on Finance Committee until next Town Election in May, 2019.***
- Regionalization: Budge Litchfield and Bob Gruen have been meeting. Heath needs to pay off capital debt – Gloria will confirm amount owed. Paying it off would allow Heath to be sole voter on regional proposal.
- Use of Heath School: ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to approve application for use on 11/12/18 – Sheila Litchfield donated \$100.***
- Direct Energy: ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Kara Leistyna, Town Coordinator, to lock into 12 month fixed pricing from Direct Energy for Heath School (competitive supplier) if pricing is lower than other rates available.***
- Shared Animal Control: Kara has been attending meetings with other towns to create a shared animal control officer position. This person would act as animal control officer for a number of nearby towns and the cost for the position will be shared based on EQV and population. Currently, eight towns are interested in participating.

Signed documents.

There being no further business to come before the Board: *On a motion by Gloria Fisher, and seconded by Brian DeVriese, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.*

Respectfully presented,

**Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator**