

## MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Sawyer Hall  
February 19, 2019

**Call to Order at 6:02 p.m.** by Brian DeVriese with Robyn Provost-Carlson, Gloria Cronin Fisher, and Kara Leistyna present. See attendance sheet for others present.

**Review Agenda:** Update on Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program

**Minutes:** *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of 1/22/19 and 2/5/19 as amended.*

### Mail/ Email:

- Notification of Exec Session letter to Mike Shattuck
- Sheila Litchfield re: Rumor Control and Suggestion
- Comparative Numbers for STM discussion
- Jan Ameen re: ATM Warrant Article/ Springfield MRF
- Jan Ameen re: Springfield MRF
- Mark Reich re: HCA. On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Host Community Agreement as amended by Town Counsel between the Town of Heath and BCWC LLC.
- James Crowley re: Local Option Excise Tax clarification and FAQs
- Jane Pfister re: confirmation of Green Communities Designation Grant request (\$41,530)
- Art Schwenger re: FC Tech School Budget
- Robyn/Bill Lattrell re: DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program
- Adam Hinds re: Support to Rural Schools
- Daniel Nietzsche re: shared police efforts
- Art Schwenger re: WW /minutes
- Robert Bourke re: ISP/ WW with input from Bill Ennen
- Ned Wolf re: FY20 Stipends
- Gary Singley – thank you to Highway Dept.
- Robyn Provost-Carlson re: Email from Ned Wolf re: long range planning /interfacing
- Phoebe Walker re: Shared ACO
- Christian Kelly re: TS Irene reimbursement
- Jan Ameen re: FY20 Hauling Increase and increase in trash for HEATH
- Henry Godek re: No phone service during electrical power outages
- Chris Godfrey/ATC re: 5 Ledges Road.
- Gloria CF re: Follow up on conversation with Bill Powers re: Broadband
- Jessica Atwood FRCOG re: MassDevelopment Real Estate Technical Assistance Services
- Mark Reich re: response to Eric Sumner’s questions regarding town meeting
- Shelburne Falls Area Business Association re: Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership support
- MMA re: upcoming legislative breakfasts

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

- Carnegie Arch LLC RFP Response/ Proposal – Selectboard cannot respond until after STM.
- Account History for Heath School Building

- FC Tech School Tentative Budget FY20
- MTRSD Budget Proposal FY20 presentation and Draft
- Accountant's Cash Reconciliation January, 2019
- Minutes from 1/22 and 2/5 meetings
- Associated Building Wreckers Contract Documents for review. ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to approve contract for Associate Building Wreckers for the demolition and removal of 5 Ledges Road in the amount (low bid) of \$34,280.***
- City and Town Feb. 7, 2019
- Broadband Liaison Timesheet
- COA FY19 Formula Grant, \$4,661.21
- TC Report

**6:35 p.m. Mike Shattuck:** *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Board voted to enter Executive Session for reason #2, To consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual and to reconvene in open session.* Brian DeVriese, aye. Robyn Provost Carlson, aye. Gloria Cronin Fisher, aye.

**7:35 p.m. Open Meeting Resumed.**

**Other Business:**

- ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to hold an informational meeting at Community Hall to discuss the STM warrant and articles.*** The Selectboard will host the meeting. Gloria will prepare an FAQ handout. Discussed whether to invite Jim Mullaney. Many residents have been asking if the representatives of the response to the RFP for the school building will be present. The article on the warrant is asking voters to approve the repurposing of the building and to give the Selectboard authority to sell, lease, or otherwise. However, the proposal from Carnegie Arch LLC is inextricably linked to the article and has caused people to express various opinions. Informational Meeting and Special Town Meeting are both open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.
- **Winter Accounts:** Discussed the status of winter accounts. Some are running low and because Winter/Salt/Sand account was reduced on the budget last year, no winter accounts may be overdrawn. The only concern currently is the overtime account.
- **Personnel Policy:** Kara will add to BOS webpage on the website.
- **Informational Meeting Preparation:** Article 4 will most likely be the main point of discussion. A rough agenda presented by Brian includes purpose of meeting; a background of the school situation including the agreement reached with the Mohawk District in 2017; costs for maintaining building and how they are currently covered from negotiated funds paid by District. Once that money is exhausted, the Town will have to cover costs; summary of School Building Transition Team (SBTT) work and conclusions; RFI and RFP and responses – new possibility revealed itself that was never considered by the SBTT; describe proposal; present gathered data and impact on tax rate; Q&A. Discussed revenue possibilities, impact fee and retail excise tax (which needs to be voted by the town).

Finance Committee entered meeting and continued discussion. Reviewed drafts of handouts. Discussed the possibility of having building appraised. Discussed comparison between selling the building or retaining the building in terms of dollars and impact on tax rate. Discussed Proposition 2 ½ and tax rate – Town cannot go over \$25 tax rate – will create limitations on what Town can do in future. A debt exclusion is one remedy however still need to pay for it.

Discussed varying opinions on article 4 – need to prepare to answer a wide-range of questions.

The focus of the vote is to empower the Selectboard to sell or lease or otherwise the building/grounds. The Selectboard will wait to act on RFP proposal after STM.

- **Budget Planning:** Finance Committee has reviewed debt service (loan payments and balances). In looking ahead, Ned Wolf shared that they would not recommend the strategy used in FY19 budget to pay annual loan payments with Free Cash but rather look to see which loans could be paid in full such as the 3-Town Landfill loan which is roughly \$20,000. Discussed stabilization and the possibility of receiving a reimbursement for Tropical Storm Irene. Ned and Gloria will be meeting with Joe Markarian to discuss the tax rate and to get a better understanding of the ramifications of a \$25 tax rate and debt exclusion.

#### **9:00 p.m. Finance Committee members left meeting.**

- **Selectboard Schedule:** Will meet on 2/27 at 6 p.m. Also, every Tuesday in March and April for budget planning.
- **Updates:** Robyn provided update on Shared Police Services. Had a recent meeting with Sheila Litchfield, Dan Nietsche, John McDonough, and Jay Healy in attendance. Nobody was ready to commit. The two chiefs were tasked with communicating with one another over the next month to determine ways to cost share without an official shared services agreement at this time. Now that Heath has a chief in place, they will regroup and follow up with meetings with John McDonough to see what works best. Charlemont not ready to commit. A lot of time and work was put into developing the idea of shared police services and policy which is greatly appreciated. The group emphasized areas that need to be further developed.  
Fire Services: Status quo – working well.  
Animal Control: FRCOG in negotiations with the FC Sheriff's office for shared Animal Control Officer. Kara Leistyna has been attending the meetings and offered update on cost-sharing formula based on Phoebe Walker's email. Heath's assessment would be \$3,201 (currently the Town budgets \$1,500 for Animal Control). This is a shared proposal with seven other towns and assessment is based on EQV and population.
- **Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program:** Brian attended the grant briefing meeting. He reported that \$750k is available for the entire Commonwealth. Towns may apply for up to \$200,000. Culverts tend to interrupt natural streambeds and this grant considers conservation measures that benefit watershed and foster goals of the MA Stream Crossing Standards. Selectboard will wait until Heath has completed it's culvert and bridge survey (funded through a Community Compact grant) and apply next year.
- **Westfield Gas & Electric/ISP:** Robyn will attend the ISP presentation that will take place in Colrain. Jan Carr, Art Schwenger, Bob Bourke, Kara Leistyna, and Ned Wolf had attended a similar meeting held on site in Westfield. Discussed need for a WiredWest alternate and also the most recent WiredWest minutes indicating that only seven towns are expected to sign on for ISP (internet service provider) at this time. Many towns remain undecided or have chosen Westfield Gas & Electric or another provider. Heath has not decided yet.
- **Letter from Resident regarding Verizon:** During an outage, phones are not functional. Support of Selectboard is encouraged and request to reach out to Verizon regarding this concern and the danger it poses for folks without phones during an outage. Kara will draft letter for review at next scheduled meeting.
- **Conservation Commission:** *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Ned Wolf to serve on the Conservation Commission.*

#### **Signed documents.**

**There being no further business to come before the Board:** *On a motion by Gloria Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.*

**Respectfully presented,**

**Kara M. Leistyna  
Town Coordinator**