

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Sawyer Hall
April 30, 2019

Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Brian DeVriese with Robyn Provost-Carlson, Gloria Cronin Fisher, and Kara Leistyna present. See attendance sheet for others present.

Review Agenda: No changes.

Minutes: *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 4/23/19 as amended.*

Mail/ Email:

- Claire Rabbitt re: Nurse monthly report (April)
- Robert Dane re: ATM Voting. Brian agrees with suggestion to vote by paper ballot.
- Ned Wolf re: Debt Exclusion Letter
- Brian DeVriese re: Sink Hole. Highway staff working on getting bids for repair to culvert.
- Robyn Provost-Carlson re: Status of Heath Fire Dept.
- Robyn re: Highway Dept. Vehicles/ Budget
- Jon Gould re: Follow up re: spending authorization Public Safety Complex. It is unlikely Heath will receive funds for project.
- Daniel Nietzsche re: FC Public Safety Radio Update
- Kris Nartowicz re: broadband borrowing
- Town Coordinator re: Letter to Select Board
- Mark Reich re: Debt Exclusion clarification
- Sheila Litchfield re: Verizon payments (broadband)
- Betsy Kovacs re: Henry Godek contact during absence
- Robyn P-C re: Follow Up on BOS meeting 4/23 for Town Coordinator
- Sheila Litchfield re: Broadband
- Ned Wolf re: Budget Planning - report on 4/23 meeting
- NationalGrid re: notification of treatment (reminder)

Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:

- 4/23 minutes
- TC Report
- Draft ATM warrant (for further review)
- Draft Article 3 Budget
- Request for Leave
- Letter of Support for Regional Pollinator Corridor Project
- Travel Reimbursement Request
- DocUSign WGE Certificate of Completion
- MIIA Cyber Liability Renewal Application
- FRCOG Annual Report
- 4/24/19 Expense Reports
- Letter to Select Board from John Palmer re: ATM

Public Comment Period:

- **Sheila Litchfield:** Broadband hand-out/status update for ATM is being prepared. Sheila explained last mile contingency funds from State. Heath will receive 75% up front and 25% at the end of project. Money available once Heath has expended all available grant funds. Make ready costs were projected far lower than current determination. State will assist with overage. Will address Enterprise fund later in year at STM. Sheila also made note that the status of the quantum of vote (2/3 vs. simple majority) on the school vote is unclear. Town Counsel has gone from 2/3 to simple majority and now back to 2/3. His changed opinion was described as ‘safest course is to use original wording.’ This is unclear.
- **Susan Lively:** Requests that any negotiation committee is neutral and does not include members of either citizen group to be involved.
- **Jan Carr:** Regarding solar: Has done research and met with Steve Thane and Noy Holland. The best scenario is \$9k-\$14k savings per year including Smart Incentives by State. Town would pay full electric bills. Cost to build is roughly \$177k with current incentives. A smaller array with net metering is best option with best return on investment. Noy Holland and Bill Lattrell are researching 5 Ledges Rd. A large array at 18 Jacobs Rd. is not viable. An array could possibly be installed at the Salt Shed, Community Hall, and 5 Ledges Rd.; three-phase could be hooked in to provide power.
- **Bob Dane:** Who decides voting method at ATM? Also, rebuts opinion expressed earlier for Citizen Group members to abstain from any negotiation committee. Some members have a great deal of experience with negotiating and have researched HCAs and the cannabis industry.
- **Don Freeman:** Retaining secret ballot process is best and it is wise to stay with 2/3 vote.
- **Budge Litchfield:** A school committee representative is needed. Regarding regionalization, working nicely towards resolution; working out OPEB costs. Will need an STM early fall with eye towards finalizing transaction – an optimistic date is 7/1/20.
- **Lyra Johnson-Fuller:** Asked Select Board not to recommend article to sell school.
- **Tom Carlson:** Inquired about expectations of the two citizen groups participation at ATM. Brian replied that anyone may speak to questions at ATM at the discretion of the Moderator.

Budget Planning Business:

1. PK budget: Budge feels this budget line can be reduced from \$15k to \$12k.
2. Warrant: Reviewed articles. Discussed Cab/Chassis timeframe of transfer. After discussion with highway superintendent, made some changes in order to save money. Decided best plan is to use existing stainless-steel body; attach to new cab/chassis.
3. Article pertaining to school building: Town Counsel has received and reviewed a number of documents provided by the Town in regards to the acquisition and use of the Jacobs Road property and the warrant article requesting the disposition of this property. It was counsel’s opinion that the quantum of vote required for passage for the school article at STM was 2/3 majority. Review of further documents during preparation for ATM led to a discussion as to the requirement of the 2/3 majority vote versus a simple majority vote. Counsel’s final opinion was that based on the totality of the materials and the evidence of the intent of use of the property, his initial opinion of the 2/3 requirement for passage of the warrant article vote was the best course of action for the upcoming ATM.
4. Tractor: Robyn did further research regarding tractor. Hiring a contractor to mow is costly and therefore the purchase of a tractor with the crew handling the roadside mowing is best option.
5. WiredWest Annual Assessment: Yes, will propose \$1,000 assessment.
6. Eric Sumner, Moderator, will attend the next BOS meeting.
7. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept all changes to Art. 3.*

8. Debt Exclusion: Discussed wording of letter to be sent to residents.
9. ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to sign final FY20 ATM warrant as amended with approved Art. 3.*** Kara will notify Town Clerk/Constables for posting.
10. Board reviewed letter to residents. Brian will bring to Town Hall for signatures. Kara will purchase postage and prepare mailing to include debt exclusion letter from Finance Committee to be sent to all residents.

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 8:20 p.m.*

Respectfully presented,

**Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator**