

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Sawyer Hall
May 7, 2019

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

Review Agenda: Add Chief McDonough at 6 p.m.; will review 4/30 minutes at next scheduled meeting.

6:00 p.m. Police Chief John McDonough: Chief invited some candidates for part-time police officer position to meet Select Board. Clay Herbert is Academy trained and certified. He worked for Heath from 1999-2002 as well as other nearby towns. Kyle Shippee is a 2017 Academy graduate and has worked in Rowe as an officer starting as part-time and then full-time. He has also served Heath during the Heath Fair in 2017 and 2018. Both, according to Chief McDonough, are a great fit for Heath.

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Clayton Herbert and Kyle Shippee to serve as part-time police officers on an as needed basis.

John will attend ATM on May 11, 2019.

Thank you.

Public Comment Period:

Pam Porter: presented a hand-out that she created. She has been thinking a lot about projected income stream and projection on tax rate regarding the possible sale of school. After research, she prepared a page on how to understand Host Community Agreements (HCA), taxes, fees, and donations. Pam presented her numbers and projections. She projected \$40k-\$115k potential income from the HCA. It was noted that negotiations have not begun with Carnegie Arch because that is a step that will take place if the voters approve the article on the warrant allowing for sale of 18 Jacobs Rd.

Gary Singley: Wanted to know if there was a spot at 18 Jacobs Rd. for a Safety Complex.

Bob Dane: A known benefit of selling the school is that the Town will be relieved of building expenses/repairs which is a great deal of money. HCA has yet to be negotiated and the numbers could come in higher than projected.

Jan Carr: Does the possible grant from State cover the cost of repairing the roof? No one was sure.

* After Public Comment Period Chair, Brian DeVriese called on Dominic Cerone. Dominic wanted to provide the Select Board with an Injury Defense Franchise and Agreement that was passed on to Chief McDonough.

6:30 p.m. Eric Sumner, Moderator: Reviewed warrant. Discussed each article and when they will be presented. Usually move all school-related budget items to be heard before Art. 3. Then follow sequential order. Discussed motion to amend article 15 to add, "and for general municipal purposes." If questions arise, Select Board can provide explanation and answers. Discussed decorum and Eric stated because of the anticipated size of attendance, he will keep comments short to allow as many people to speak as possible and to avoid one or two people dominating discussion. Items that may be on a future STM were mentioned to Eric such as regional agreement with Hawlemont, Enterprise fund for broadband or other broadband related business, and possibly school related issues. Eric mentioned that he and Hilma (Town Clerk) had met and discussed voting method. They will have the electronic machine and will provide kiosks for privacy – something that was not provided at the STM in March. Eric said voting will be more efficient and have a better flow with the machine. Instructions prior to voting will be appreciated.

Discussed space and whether overflow space will be needed. Will plan to put audio in cafeteria – Eric will contact Tim. Discussed hand-out by Finance Committee; explained rationale. Good luck, Eric.

Eric Sumner left at 7:18 p.m. and Sheila Litchfield left shortly after.

Mail/ Email:

- Bob Bourke re: Broadband/Mohawk Estates
- Clark Rowell, Sheila Litchfield, Deb Wagner, and Bill Ennen – various emails re: Broadband Borrowing & Debt Exclusion; payments for make ready
- Mark Reich re: ATM – clarification on amending a warrant article
- Kara Leistyna re: ATM preparation to the Select Board (responses from Gloria and Robyn)
- Jeff Johnston re: Backhoe
- Robert Dane re: ATM Voting
- Ned Wolf re: Letter that went out to voters re: debt exclusion
- My Turn responses from FRCOG's Chief Procurement Officer, Andrea Woods
- Robyn Provost-Carlson re: Assessors Meeting Concern
- Robyn Provost-Carlson (and Town Counsel) re: Heath School Building and clarification on article as well as suggested language for motion to amend
- Budge Litchfield re: School Committee position/description. Kara posted on line.
- Tim Lively and Sheila Litchfield re: picnic tables at Heath School. Board agreed that if the Town owns them, they may be given to Hawlemont School.
- Robyn Provost-Carlson re: Voluntary Technical Assistance Assessment from Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development/Dept. of Labor Standards
- Update from MassDOT
- Jan Ameen re: paper compactor
- FCCIP re: enforcement issue
- Noy Holland re: solar and conversation with Bill Lattrell
- Report from Division of Professional Licensure re: Sawyer Hall Elevator
- TC Report

Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:

- Payroll and Treasury Warrant
- ATM warrant (posted)
- Article 3 Budget (posted)
- Municipal Licensing Corporation meeting invite
- Documents related to transfer request for Legal Fees account (FY19)
- Lyra Johnson-Fuller employment evaluation form
- Packet of documents related to Voluntary Technical Assistance Assessment from Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development/Dept. of Labor Standards
- Various news articles from Recorder regarding Heath ATM/School vote and Green Community Designation
- The Beacon, May 2019
- Police & Fire Accident Coverage Summary Sheet (MIIA)
- MassDOT Chap. 90 Request Form, \$8,884.93 (revised from previously submitted forms)
- ALL CALL DRAFT MESSAGE
- Broadband Liaison invoice/timesheet
- Broadband Update

Other Business:

Broadband: Sheila Litchfield offered an update on broadband project. Latest make ready estimates from NGrid are higher than anticipated; will receive an updated number shortly. As a result, the borrowing is on hold to determine if we need to borrow the full \$1.45 million right away in order to keep project going. Will discuss further after debt exclusion vote. Discussed with UniBank and DOR ability to borrow due to status of Heath's levy limit. Borrowing is *not* contingent upon debt exclusion passing. Heath has \$343,000 in excess levy capacity which allows for debt service. FY20 budget proposal will reduce that capacity by \$60,000. Sheila proposes to wait until Monday and regroup to discuss new numbers. No broadband construction loan payment is due in FY20. Payments on borrowing will start in FY21. Bill Ennen is negotiating additional funding from State to cover 100% of overage. If debt exclusion does not pass, Heath may have to put project on hold till we know how we will pay for it. Kara asked if project is put on hold, will we have to resubmit all pole applications? That could be costly. Thank you.

Informational Sheet for ATM: Board reviewed document prepared by Town Coordinator and made a few changes.

Voluntary Technical Assistance Assessment from Executive Office of Labor and Workforce

Development/Dept. of Labor Standards: Robyn provided update. Action items need to be remedied by June 14. Robyn will work with Jeff on compliance of items such as rail, ladder, postings, etc. Jeff will meet with Select Board on 5/21. Kara will provide assistance in getting postings up at all Town locations.

Interdepartmental Transfers: *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to request transfer of \$800 from Selectmen Operating Expense and \$1,700 from Community Hall Maint./Util. account to be deposited into Legal Fees. To be voted upon by Finance Committee as well.*

Fire Dept. Robyn reported that some people are concerned about the decline in volunteerism at the Fire Dept. and the scale of the proposed Public Safety Complex building. Nick Anzuoni will be invited to meet with Select Board soon.

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 8:30 p.m.*

Respectfully presented,

**Kara M. Leistyna
Town Coordinator**