

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Sawyer Hall
June 11, 2019

Call to Order at 6:04 p.m. by Brian DeVriese with Robyn Provost-Carlson and Gloria Cronin Fisher. Kara Leistyna was unable to attend. See attendance sheet for others present.

Review Agenda: Added Sheila Litchfield to discuss the First Amendment to the Grant to assist Heath to build the Municipally Owned Broadband Network and also added an Executive Session Request.

6:05 p.m. Sheila Litchfield came to present and explain the First Amendment to the Grant to assist Heath to build the Municipally Owned Broadband Network. This amendment revises the amount the State will commit to giving Heath to address the overages for the make-ready work for our broadband service which has exceeded the original project estimate. The amendment indicates that Heath will receive an additional \$1,097,072 around June 30, 2019 plus an estimated \$365,691 at project completion after the actual final costs are known. The State continues to indicate that the Town's share (\$1,450,000) is NOT expected to increase. The Select Board was encouraged to vote to sign the amendment that evening for pick up by Bill Ennen, our Last Mile Liaison the following day.

6:10 p.m. Public Comment Period:

Margaret Freeman: Expressed importance of communication as the Town moves forward on the decision of what to do with the Jacobs Road property. She and Pat McGahan are preparing an internet based "chat forum" for the residents in Heath to share ideas in regards to the use of the property. They plan to have a link from this chat site to the Town website for residents to access the BOS meeting minutes. There will also be a paper newsletter available to those residents who do not have access to the internet. This newsletter will be available at a number of locations including Sawyer Hall. Margaret answered a number of questions from residents at the BoS meeting and also thanked people for offering suggestions and sharing possible concerns. The BoS commented that this will not be a BoS endorsed site and that proper measures should be taken to avoid inappropriate commentary and aggression. Margaret agreed that this type of behavior would not be tolerated; folks can be blocked from communications and the site could be shut down at any point.

Margaret also asked if the previous RFP that was sent out for the disposition of the school building and land was still considered active. The answer is "no" the time limit has expired and the FRCOG has returned the respondent's deposit check.

Jean Gran: Shared her concerns about rushing ahead on any school decisions prior to having a full understanding of the Town's financial position regarding all of the Town owned properties. She also requested that the BoS look to a wide array of residents when forming the proposed school use and facilities committees.

Betsy Kovacs: Supported Jean's statement and also requested that the BoS move forward in an open, transparent and democratic process when forming these committees.

Bill Gran: Asked the BoS if the proposed school use and facilities committees will be advisory and required to follow Open Meeting Law guidelines. The answer to this is "yes".

Sheila Litchfield: Informed the BoS of her interest in being appointed to the Facilities Committee.

Ned Wolf, Chair of Finance Committee: Informed the BoS that the FinCom plans to start working on a spreadsheet showing projected operation costs for the former school building if it were to be “occupied space”. Once complete, they will work to provide operation cost spreadsheets for the remainder of the Town owned buildings.

Sue Gruen and Betsy Kovacs: Both asked for further help understanding the idea that the BoS had the ability to lease the school building for up to 30 years based on M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 3.

Minutes: *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 6/4/19 as amended.*

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Hormidas Lively to the Heath Veteran Memorial Committee.

Gloria Cronin Fisher suggested possible additions for appointment to the Heath Historical Commission. Gloria agreed to reach out to these residents to see if they were interested in serving on the Commission. She will then forward that information the present member Heather Hathwell for consideration.

6:40 p.m. Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni enters the meeting.

Other Business:

Heath School Building, Next Steps: Brian DeVriese presented his proposal for the proposed formation of the “Heath School Building Use Committee”. This committee of five (5) appointees would be charged with assisting the BoS in managing the former school property in coordination with the Building Manager. Tasks would include the acceptance and review of building use applications for short term uses, observation and reporting of the overall condition of the building and grounds, assisting the Building Manager with organization of volunteer help and exploration of possible uses for the building with the understanding that all long term rentals or leases would require BoS approval.

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to form the “Heath School Building Use Committee”.

Brian also presented a list of proposed appointees. The list was reviewed and it was agreed to invite the appointees the BoS meeting on June 18, 2019 to discuss the charge and responsibilities. A following vote to appoint these individuals will be required at this meeting.

The Select Board reviewed a list of proposed questions for Town Counsel in regards to the possible future uses of the school. The Select Board will request that Kara forward the list to Counsel as soon as possible for guidance.

Highway Dept. Matters: Robyn Provost-Carlson presented an update on the status of the Department of Labor Standards Voluntary Technical Assistance Assessment Response being completed by the Highway Department. The report and the corrective actions are near complete. It is expected that the report will be sent out for review to the Department of Labor Standards prior to the June 14, 2019 deadline as required. The new multi-purpose pick-up has been ordered and Town Coordinator has prepared RFP’s for the new tractor and Jeff Johnston has reached out to Andrea Woods to assist with the new larger cab/chassis per ATM vote taken in May. The crew is attending a culvert repair training and we will soon start the Community Compact Grant funded culvert survey which will be completed by BETA Group, Inc.

7:12 p.m. Executive Session announced and visitors exit the meeting.

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session “to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of a criminal complaint” and to reconvene in open session upon conclusion. Roll call vote was taken. Brian DeVriese - “Yea”, Robyn Provost-Carlson – “Yea”, Gloria Cronin Fisher – “Yea”.

7:26 p.m. Reconvene open meeting.

The Select Board received and reviewed the May 2019 Monthly Police Activity Report from Police Chief John McDonough.

Mail/ Email:

- Invitation to attend an informational and training session conducted by veteran’s services staff and flyer
- Robert Dane re: interest in serving on facilities committee
- Betsy Kovacs re: interest in serving on facilities committee
- Bill Gran re: interest in serving on facilities committee and energy advisory committee
- Pat McGahan re: interest in serving on school use committee
- Gary Singley re: interest in serving on feasibility (facilities) committee
- Noy Holland re: recommendation of Bill Gran to serve on energy advisory committee
- Betsy Kovacs re: interest in serving on Historical Commission
- Heath Town Accountant re: Updated reports/reminders/ transfers
- Mick Garrold re: insurance for 18 Jacobs Road
- Betsy Kovacs re: building occupancy issue
- Betsy Kovacs re: unregistered vehicles
- Report of injury on the job
- Bill Ennen re: current status (broadband)
- Art Schwenger re: WiredWest
- KP Law re: Public Records Request (copy)

Other Separate Documents for review and/or signatures:

- TC Report
- List of questions for Town Counsel re: Chap. 40, Sect. 3
- From Recorder, 6/5/19: School’s future at issue, Town trying to determine the legality of leasing closed building
- Accountant re: May Cash Reconciliation
- Tax Map Maintenance Proposal for the Town of Heath (Assessors)
- 6/4 minutes for review
- First Amendment Standard Contract Form and Attachment B (Last Mile Contingency Fund Advance)

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept and sign the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Standard Contract for the First Amendment to the Grant to assist Heath to build the Municipally Owned Broadband Network.

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher, and seconded by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Board voted unanimously to accept and sign the Assessors Tax Map Yearly Maintenance Proposal from CAI Technologies for the Town of Heath.

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 7:46p.m.*

Respectfully presented,

**Robyn S. Provost-Carlson
Secretary**