

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
School Building, 18 Jacobs Road
January 21, 2020

Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. with Brian DeVriese, Robyn Provost-Carlson, Gloria Cronin Fisher and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

Agenda Reviewed: Appointment with Tripp Tree Farm personnel cancelled.

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of January 14, 2020 as amended.

Town Facilities Task Force: Members Will Emmet, Sue Lively, Jim Cerone, and Bill Gran presented a possible scenario for future building use which focused on the option of moving town offices and functions to the school building and vacating the community hall and town hall for town purposes. They presented and read the ideas that would need to take fruition to make a complete move possible. They presented a letter that they asked to have the Board sign and send to the Building Commissioner seeking clarification on zoning approval if a separate fire engine garage were built at 18 Jacobs Road to house the emergency vehicles. Gloria noted that her agreeing to send the letter did not indicate that she agreed with moving the fire station or town offices to the former school building. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to sign and send the amended letter to the Building Commissioner.*

The Task Force also asked if any further information could be obtained about the \$1M bond bill funds that had been earmarked to help build a new fire station. Brian stated that Paul Mark's office suggested going forward with a shovel-ready plan and then request the funding. If received, the money would not need to be repaid. Robyn will create a timeline of how to proceed with requesting the funds. Robyn also asked that the Task Force look at how the town buildings are each used and what is needed for space to carry out town governmental and public functions.

The Board agreed that the highway garage water should be tested to determine if it was potable. Hilma will speak to Tim Lively and asked to have that done at the next sample collection.

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District: The Board agreed that joining the district should continue to be pursued. Hilma will find the wording that Betsy Kovacs sent as a suggested warrant article and request that town counsel review it. Hilma will also contact Carolyn Ness to invite her and a PVMCD staff person to participate in a public informational meeting on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. with a snow date of February 25. Betsy said she would write and send an information page to the Board about joining the district.

Tripp Tree Farm (TTF): The Board reviewed Atty. Mark Reich's email with opinion about the revised Host Community Agreement that was sent by Ruben Seyde. Atty. Reich said that he did not recommend signing the document because of misuse of an applicable MGL and gift language. The Board decided that they would not sign the document; instead they would discuss the agreement on January 28 and hold off meeting with TTF until February 4.

Accounting Services: Gloria had done further research on the cost of accounting services. Costs of contracting accounting services through FRCOG ranged from \$22,366--\$24,454 annually and \$23.61--\$32.07 per hour. She also reported that the present accounting service also works in Charlemont and

Colrain with salaries of \$32,400 and \$19,800 respectively. Gloria will continue to research for more information.

Town Coordinator's Report:

Website Training: Instructed by Mik Muller on using the calendar for the town's new website. Contacted other town personnel about an in-house training on January 22, 12:00—2:00. Twelve people are planning on attending.

- Sawyer Hall: Furnace tripped on Saturday, Jan. 18 and, again, this morning. Tim has left a message with White Heating. Sandri replaced the broken fill gauge.
- FCSWMD Meeting: Attended the quarterly Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, January 15, in their Greenfield office. FY 2021 operating budget was approved unanimously. Jan Ameen spoke at length about the MRF recycling processing contract. She is still talking with DEP about the contract with towns needing an amendment which states it is contingent each year on town meeting approval. This was obtained last Thursday. There will be a new version of the contract forthcoming with a signing deadline of February 28th.
- Community Hall Hazardous Material Mitigation Quotes: Sent out emails to the three companies who handle this type of work. Received response from Abide, Inc. Frank Tilli looked at site on Monday and has provided a quote for the work.
- Crocker Email: Problems with email sending failures. Contacted company—it is their issue with all customers.
- MVP Training Sessions: The Board approved for Hilma to attend one of the Planning Grant training sessions to be held in western Mass in the February.
- Salt Shed Repair: Carson Ovitt said he will be contacting Brian in a week or two about looking at the work that needs to be done to make the necessary repairs.
- Swap Shed: A resident has expressed concern about the lack of discernment that residents are showing with what they leave at the shed. She and another resident helped Ken Erho clean items out that were dirty, broken or no longer useable electronics. Robyn said she would speak with Jeff about the issue and determine a plan to restrict access to the shed.

Mail:

Remote Participation Policy: Following an email from Betsy Kovacs, the Board clarified that the policy is that a committee member may participate remotely one out of every four meetings. It was not a matter of being able to engage in remote participation for any given 25 percent of the year. Robyn said she would review the language to see if it needs clarification.

OML Executive Session process: The Board reviewed the letter from the Attorney General's office with their final ruling about the OML complaints of August 2019. The Board was found to be in violation only at the point of inviting the lessee into the executive session meeting. The Attorney General's office declared that the violation was unintentional. The AG's office did note that a general statement on an agenda was not sufficient notice. When an executive session is scheduled, the agenda notice must specify the reason for so convening. The Board requested that Hilma send a notice to all boards and committees making them aware of this.

G. Singley: Gary sent an email with the list of questions that he would like to talk to the Board about during his appointment next week.

Documents Approved and Signed: There were no documents to sign.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator