

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Via Conference Call  
May 19, 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.

**Other Attendees:** See attendance sheet.

**Review of Minutes:** *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of May 12, 2020 as amended.*

*On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of May 13, 2020 as submitted.*

**Annual Town Meeting:** Ken Rocke and Moderator Eric Sumner joined the meeting to discuss the current conditions of the state and how the 4-phase reopening process will impact the town's ability to hold the town meetings on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Ken conveyed that he is in regular conversation with his brother who does statistical epidemiology and does not believe conditions are in place to make reopening and large gatherings safe. He recommended postponing town meetings until a time when conditions were safer. Ken also said he did not think there was enough information known to determine what conditions would need to be to feel safe for a town meeting. Robyn stated that she had concerns about the welfare of elders and young adults with children since childcare could not be provided. Eric said he did not see how a town meeting logistically could be conducted in an outside venue. He also encouraged that, for the ATM, a decision be made before the warrant needed to be posted. The Select Board asked Hilma to research how the town would arrange with the Department of Local Services (DLS) for 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget funding if the ATM could not be held until after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**FY 2021 Budget discussion:** Finance Committee members joined the meeting. Ned Wolf reported that, in their own meeting, four members had voted to designate zero funds for the School Building Maintenance & Utilities account. They stated that the town should use the remainder of funds in the MTRSD account and the \$10,000 in the General Fund that has been received from rentals of the building. The Board reminded them that money in the General Fund was not available until Free Cash was certified in the late fall. Ned said the committee also recommended that the building usage be reduced and be designated as a vacant building even though the insurance would increase to around \$22,000. Brian replied that not recommending any funds to maintain a town-owned building was not appropriate. The committee could recommend budget amounts that they wanted but it was the Board's final decision as to what numbers were presented to town meeting. Brian called for a motion to put the amount of \$20,000 in that account. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board voted by a majority of two in favor and one opposed to proposed the amount of \$20,000 in the FY2021 budget for the School Building Maintenance and Utilities account.*

Other FY 2021 budget items discussed were the requests for two highway plows. One will replace an old plow and the other will be mounted on the crew truck to plow the intersections and narrow dirt roads. At least for now, both will be added to the ATM warrant. There are still questions regarding building insurance including the amount of credit the town has with MIIA. There are also questions about the status of the copier which Hilma will research. The purpose of the Sale of Lots account will be clarified. A question was also raised about whether the start-up cost for IT services includes firewall protection.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** The first draft of the ATM warrant was reviewed. Some articles need additional information and more rewriting.

**7:45 p.m.:** *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the Select Board meeting and to reconvene after the Municipal Light Plant Board meeting.*

**8:20 p.m.:** *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Robyn Provost-Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the Municipal Light Plant Board meeting and reconvene the Select Board meeting.*

**Town Coordinator's Report:**

COVID-19: Prepared and read the R-911 message. Attended EMT meeting and prepared minutes. Received refund check from CPHS for risk communications expenses.

CARES Act Webinar: Sat in on webinar led by state officials explaining process of obtaining funds, where to find the online application and additional help.

Town Report: Files are at the printer. Copies should be ready by the mid- to end of next week.

Annual Town Election Warrant: Prepared separately for simplicity in case of ATM postponement and is ready to be signed.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Prepared first draft of the warrant.

MTRSD Preschool refund: Mohawk business office explained that the town only pays if a child attends for the extended day. Only one child did for this school year.

Broadband: Gathered financial records for the MLPAC for preparation of this fiscal year's true-up report. Sheila is to be commended for all the work she is doing to compile and prepare the report.

**Mail:**

R. Seyde email re: He will not be purchasing the Tripp Farm because they could not get the investors they needed.

Abide sent the abatement document and report regarding hazardous waste removal from the Community Hall furnace room.

MLPAC letter to Heath dwelling owners was reviewed and approved. It will be mailed out next week.

Town Clerk Hilma Sumner wrote document detailing the town's procedure for recess and continuance for town meetings.

S. Lively and D. Porter each sent a letter to the Finance Committee and copies the Select Board.

Brooks McCutchen wrote a letter inquiring about the possibility of the Board seeking tax relief during the coronavirus pandemic from state legislators.

Ned Wolf email exchange with Melissa Dunnet regarding possible overpayment was reviewed. Gloria is also tracking the situation.

B. Kovacs wrote an update about the PVMCD and that they will be trapping and testing mosquitos in towns that have intentions to join the district but have been unable to hold town meetings to give approval.

E. Holan sent update that he had repaired the fire station computer and was not charging the town. The Board asked that a thank-you letter be prepared to send him.

**Documents to Sign:** Payroll and vendor warrants, letters.

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 8:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator