

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Virtual Meeting
September 15, 2020

Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. with Robyn Provost Carlson, Brian De Vriese and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance. Gloria Cronin Fisher joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Other Attendees: See attendance sheet.

Ch. 70 Workbook Tutorial: Ken Rocke led the Select Board and Finance Committee through a tutorial of the FY21 Ch. 70 Workbook for Heath. It can be found at www.doe.mass.edu. For Heath assessment information most of it can be found under the school district of Mohawk Trail. The workbook is what is used to determine local contributions. The foundation budget itself is composed of what it would take to educate all the children in the district. Municipal Contribution for Heath shows no increase in aggregated income wealth or property value that would affect this year's assessment. Ken explained that the calculations encompass all school districts that Heath is a member of, which would be Mohawk Trail and Franklin County Technical School. The fact that Heath's FCTS enrollment decreased significantly meant that the town would have a higher contribution for Mohawk.

School Remote Learning Centers: MTRSD will provide internet access at Hawlemont and Mohawk. Heath will be creating a partnership and offer an alternate opportunity for highspeed access in town. The aim is to have as equal service as possible. There is a question of air quality in both town locations and district school buildings. Ken Rocke recommended looking at the DESE webpage and their guidelines for learning locations. Particles aerosolize and remain in the air. What is recommended is ventilation that has a certain level of air exchanges per given length of time. The ventilation system in the school building has not been run; it needs to be started and run to make certain of its functionality.

Gloria commented that she wants Mohawk to take responsibility and help the town resolve the unknown issues. There are still many unknowns including the lunch meals and daily schedules. It is known that families need to pick up student lunches at Hawlemont. ***On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to halt the opening of buildings for remote learning and hold a Select Board meeting on Friday to further consider an opening date.*** Brian will contact the Mohawk Facilities Director, Robin Pease, in the morning to speak with her about the air exchange and seek to get the school building evaluated. Due to air quality and rental concerns, the Board questioned if it was safe to open buildings.

Treasurer Interview Questions: Pertinent questions from past job interviews and other questions that were discussed will be organized into a list of questions.

OnSolve Contract: Hilma related that, in speaking with the company's representative, they are willing to offer the town the \$2,000 per year level of service but are firm about the three-year contract. Because the Board of Health asked to discuss the offer, they will meet on Monday, September 21st, and the Select Board will consider their thoughts and reach a decision next week at their meeting.

Public Comment:

Barbara Rode expressed thanks to the Board for having the Superintendent and Principal Rodriguez visit the potential remote learning centers in town.

Review of Minutes: *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of September 3, 2020, as amended.*

Remote Teaching: The question was raised as to whether teachers who had asked to use space in the school building for internet could be allowed access to the building beginning on Wednesday. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board voted by majority to not allow anyone to utilize space within the school building at this time.*

Town Coordinator's Report:

- EOPSS COVID Grants: Mailed & emailed grant contracts and supporting documents for Police & Fire Departments.
- Educational Internet Access Hubs: Many emails and phone calls with various people involved in setting up this service for our students. People included volunteers, Agricultural Society personnel, Mohawk District personnel and parents. Prepared signage, posters, training papers, forms for use at hubs. Agricultural Society has approved loaning more picnic tables to the town for placement at 18 Jacobs Rd. Tim and Tom Lively will be coordinating the transport and placement.
- Northeast IT: Emailed Joel Mollison about adding infrastructure—cannot be done by anyone other than themselves due to terms of contract. Email correspondence with one of our technicians about cleaning up unused email addresses with Crocker.
- FRCOG & CARES Act: Attended meeting hosted by FRCOG and presented by DOR/DLS officials presenting the reporting process and tentative timeline for FY21 request submission.
- OnSolve/CodeRED: BoH Clerk Mary Sumner and Hilma conferenced with Heath's sales representative and her supervisor about Heath's contract. When asked for expanded service in April, Mary and Hilma were not told that they do not issue a contract for less than 12 months. Since Heath had historically done a 3-year contract, that is what they renewed for. The supervisor agreed to speak with their directors to see what they were willing to negotiate.
- MTWP Grant Funding Announcement: On Monday attended the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Grant Funding Announcement gathering in Rowe. Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides spoke about the history and development of the Partnership that began in 2007.

Mail:

- S. Gruen re: Mary Lyon funding rescinded
- S. Gruen re: update on CH cleaning & picnic tables arrival
- T. Lively re: 18 Jacobs Rd. water quality
- T. Lively re: new air filters for Comm Hall
- B. Litchfield re: MTRSD info
- P. Porter re: MTRSD responsibility toward Heath students
- RPC re: letter to P. Porter & S. Gruen about coordination/centralization
- D. Mason re: offer to install more internet equipment

- B. Kovacs re: CodeRED contract
- B. Kovacs re: CodeRED contract decision
- S. Litchfield re: roads for police detail for TriWire
- W. Gran re: financial planning
- R. Viarengo re: financial planning
- E. Lively re: red mask signs
- J. McDonough re: resident letter and FID fee
- RPC & HAS re: recap of conversation with Supt. Stanton
- M. Reich re: air exchange at Community Hall
- P. Porter re: 18 Jacobs Road learning hub initial plans
- L. Marcotte re: Police & Fire move

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator