

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Virtual Meeting  
September 22, 2020

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

**Other Attendees:** See attendance sheet.

**Review Agenda:** Added Police Chief appointment and Community Hall inspection.

**Review 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 11, 2020 with amendments.*

*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 15, 2020 with amendments.*

*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 18, 2020 with amendments.*

**Requested Road Detail:** Police Chief John McDonough joined the meeting. He said he had received a call from Jordan, a supervisor with TriWire, who stated that they want police detail on Long Hill Road and Route 8A beginning on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. At the kick-off meeting the company was uncertain about needing detail and said they needed to review the roads. On these two roads there are blind spots and Long Hill Road is narrow. They would like two officers with cruisers to begin at 9:00 a.m. TriWire will work four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday. The police will bill the town directly for services. The Board confirmed that, if TriWire requested police detail, it would be supplied for the work.

**Treasurer Interview:** The Board interviewed Melanie Medon for the position of Treasurer. She currently is the assistant treasurer for North Adams and would keep that position, if hired by Heath. The Board reviewed an application from a second candidate who did not have relevant qualifications for the position. It was agreed that the person be sent a letter encouraging other involvement in the town.

*On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to offer the position of Treasurer to Melanie Medon.*

*On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to offer Ms. Medon an FY2021 fiscal wage of \$11,457.00 which would be paid in a monthly stipend of \$954.75. Ms. Medon would also be requested to complete a time sheet so that actual hours of work were being tracked.*

**Public Comment:**

Margaret Freeman stated that she appreciated all the work that the Select Board, Pam Porter and Hilma Sumner had been doing to make preparations for the Educational Internet Access Hub at 18 Jacobs Road.

**Reverse Call System:** The Board expressed its appreciation to the Board of Health (BoH) for research and review of systems and, in particular, the OnSolve CodeRED system. The BoH had voted at their last meeting to support continuing service with OnSolve, with regrets that the town will not be able to pursue another option for the same services. Since OnSolve is willing to reduce the level of service to Heath, but not the length of contract, it was agreed that the town would continue to contract services with this company. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept the three-year contract offer with OnSolve for services of unlimited emergency calling and a specified level of general calling for \$2,000 per year ending in October 2023.*

**Educational Internet Access Hub:** The Board reviewed an email from Pam Porter updating how the days had progressed since school began and describing the protocol that was being followed. Brian provided an update on ventilation. All educational buildings in the Mohawk District are in need of repairs to the ventilation systems. He has been in conversation with Robin Pease and Sheryl Stanton about building status and repairs. Robin Pease has the Jamrog report for Heath but Brian has not seen it; he will contact her again. Until repairs are complete, the school district is requiring facial coverings, physical distancing and having doors and windows open. There is a performance requirement on the number of air exchanges per hour for different spaces and activities. There is no estimate on the additional repairs that need to be done at 18 Jacobs Road; Jamrog will need to return and do a more extensive evaluation in order to provide an estimate.

Susan Lively offered to find volunteers who would be willing to drive to Hawlemont to pick up the student lunches for those children who are using the Heath Hub.

Gloria asked if the Board will get a report of Fire Chief Anzuoni's findings for Community Hall since he has closed the building and would not allow the building to be opened as an internet access hub. Robyn reminded the Board that a few weeks ago it was agreed that she would speak to the Fire Chief and Police Chief to make them aware of the hub plans and ask if they had any concerns. Out of that came the Fire Chief's inspection of the Community Hall. Robyn also noted that the Fire Chief has inspected all town buildings, not just the Community Hall.

**Massachusetts Interoperable Radio System (MIRS):** Both the Fire Chief and Police Chief had expressed that they believe this is the best route for the town. The current communication system is breaking down. FRCOG will be coordinating the management of the transition to the new system with new equipment. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and FRCOG.*

**Paper Compactor:** The Board reviewed the revised quote for a refurbished paper compactor. This quote was an increase of \$270 because it would not be installed in conjunction with a compactor in a neighboring town. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the revised quote of \$15,716.00 for a refurbished paper compactor purchased from and installed by Atlantic Recycling Equipment.*

**Green Communities Engineering Proposal:** In order for the heating system installation in Community Hall to be charged to the Green Communities Grant funds, the engineering analysis needs to be completed and submitted to DOER with the revised narratives. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the \$1,875.00 cost of an engineering report for a new heating system in Community Hall to be done by RISE Engineering.*

**8:00 p.m. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the Select Board meeting, move to the Municipal Light Board meeting and reconvene in the Select Board meeting.***

**8:37 p.m. The Select Board meeting was reconvened.**

**Town Coordinator's Report:**

- Educational Internet Access Hubs: Many emails and phone calls with various people involved in setting up this service for our students. Participated in Thursday walk-through of two potential sites. Prepared signage, posters, training papers, forms for use at hub. Submitted CORI forms and obtained procedural information from Hawlemont.
- Northeast IT: Spoke with Joel Mollison about applying for Community Compact Cabinet IT grant to pay for equipment on their onboarding recommendations as well as a centralized server. They will prepare a complete suggested list with costs.
- Tri-town Landfill: Received report from CEC with findings of retesting that was performed at the end of August. Initial testing had resulted in lead levels that were high but Bill Hoyerman believed it was due to the extremely dry weather. Upon retesting, the levels were found to be negligible (less than .001%).
- OnSolve/CodeRED: Emailed sales agent to inform them of Heath's timeline for making a final decision. Discussed updated information with BoH Clerk Mary Sumner.
- Open Space & Recreation Plan: Prepared SB letter of support. Emailed two groups who had not submitted letters to remind them that the deadline is Friday.
- MTWP Grant: Received notification of grant award in the amount of \$20,000. Prepared documents for signing.

**Mail:**

- M. Freeman re: thanks for keeping Heath COVID-free.
- K. McNay re: encouragement to use former elementary school
- V. Burrington re: safety concerns of children & nurse simultaneously using Comm Hall
- BDV re: conversation with Robin Pease about air exchange
- BDV re: summary of meeting/conversation with Jamrog & S. Stanton
- M. Thurber re: MTRSD update
- RPC & S. Stanton re: opening education hubs/ventilation
- EEC re: letter of exemption
- P. Porter re: communication
- M. Mendonsa re: MTRS Community update
- M. Freeman re: STM & education assessment
- M. Freeman re: words of appreciation for Robyn
- B. Rode re: post-SB meeting thoughts
- B. Rode re: Supt & Principal walk-through of 9/17/20
- M. Willis re: response to M. Thurber email
- D. Mason re: post-SB meeting thoughts
- S. Gruen re: questions post 9/18 SB meeting

- Hawlemont News 9/18/20
- M. Reich re: sign holding during open meetings
- M. Gogarty re: definition of emergency message
- S. Litchfield re: air quality & flu clinic
- FCSWMD re: Sept. recycling fee
- FCSWMD re: Executive Director's Report
- FCSWMD re: Program Director's Report
- FRCOG re: MIRS memorandum of agreement
- FCSWMD re: paper compactor revised bid
- B. Rode re: Open Space Plan omission—Hilma will check with Megan Rhode to see if narrative can be added.
- M. Freeman re: suggested draft of letter
- Board of Health--confidential
- R. McGahan re: resume for MLP Manager position
- B. Kovacs re: BoH recommendation on CodeRED
- P. Porter re: report on Educational Internet Access Hub
- S. Litchfield re: CARES Act funding & internet/remote learning
- SB re: draft letter of support for OSP

**Next Meetings:**

**September 29:** Task Force report discussion; appointment with SBUC; buildings committees

**October 6:** No meeting

**Public Forum:** The Board talked about ideas for a public forum for the Task Force report including limiting comments to a number of minutes per person, requiring each person who has a statement to sign up ahead of time.

*On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator