

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Monday, December 30, 2024

Called to Order at 5:00 p.m. With Robyn Provost-Carlson, Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator.

This meeting was recorded.

Others in Attendance: See attendance list.

Review Agenda: Added: Future meeting schedule.

Highway Department Updates: Superintendent Tyson Howard and Foreman Kyle Jarvis joined the meeting. A thank-you note addressed to the Department and sent by the mail carrier out of Charlemont was read. The mail carrier stated that, since sand was more frequently used on the roads, he found it was much easier to travel his route.

Tyson reported that he had met with Mike Smith, resident, to discuss winter treatment of paved roads. He said they each have a different opinion of preferential use of sand versus salt but had a good discussion where each man could express his position. The practice this year has been to pretreat the roads with salt, use sand during a storm, and follow with salt at the end of a storm. Using sand increases the likelihood of needing to sweep the roads in the spring. However, that cost is offset by what he is saving in not using as much salt for four snowstorms.

There have been eight storms to date this winter; two of them were of significant snowfall. During the last big storm there were several truck breakdowns which led to a delay in some of the plowing and treatment of the roads.

Salt Shed Project Update: Tyson presented an initial “to do” task list for preparation and construction of the new salt shed. He will send it to the Board and Hilma for additions of other work to be done, completion dates, or responsible person. The Department is planning to take out some ledge and trees on the backside of the salt shed area to provide more space. An RFP for sitework needs to be written.

Price quotes for demolition of the old EOC office have been requested from three different companies. One quote has been received and at least one more should be sent tomorrow. The Board authorized Tyson and Hilma to review the quotes and award the work as they deemed worthwhile.

A quote for the purchase and installation of a new diesel fuel tank has been solicited. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the quote of \$6,777.55 from Miller’s Petroleum Systems, Inc., for purchase and installation of a new diesel fuel tank.*

Public Comment: Pat McGahan commented that she has felt safe driving on the roads this winter.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of December 10, 2024, as amended.*

Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid Agreement: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept and sign the three-year agreement for Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid.*

Heat Pump System Quote: Robyn reported that she had talked with Jason at Jamrog who had provided the quote for the system. The Board agreed that there needs to be a full building review of the heating system to assess the entire system. This review would also analyze what is needed to convert the JRMC building to a new system and how it could be done step-by-step. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve contracting Jamrog to complete a full building review for \$2,000.*

2025 Mileage Reimbursement Rate: The federal reimbursement rate for work mileage will be 70 cents per mile for 2025. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve a 2025 mileage reimbursement rate of 70 cents per mile.*

Hilltown Youth Performing Arts: There has been no communication from HYPA regarding their talking points about the 2025 rental license. Hilma will send an email with a January 21st meeting invitation and a reminder to send an email with their talking points for the meeting.

Community Hall Windows Update: Hilma reported that she had sent the RFP out to several more businesses. The deadline for bids is January 6th; none have been received yet.

Appraisal Update: Hilma reported that there had been no reply from the appraiser and will send a follow-up email.

Town Coordinator's Work Report: Robyn requested that Hilma keep a calendar of the various projects and tasks that are completed to have a practical schedule of duties. The purpose would be to have a guideline for a future employee in this position.

Mail:

- Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid re: Renewal of Agreement
- Miller's Petroleum Systems re: Quote for fuel tank
- Jamrog re: Quote for heat pump system
- IRS re: 2025 standard mileage rate
- DEP re: Recycling Dividends Program funds
- C. Reynolds re: commendation to highway
- D. Clark re: questions to MTRSD regarding 2D8T study
- MMA re: notice of non-award
- FCSWMD re: Program Director & Executive Director Reports
- KP Law re: Tax title foreclosure process changes
- KP Law re: Acts relative to strengthening MA economic leadership
- KP Law re: Fair Labor Standards Act

Next Meetings: Tuesday, January 7, 14, and 21 at 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 16, at 6:00 p.m., Pole Hearing Continuation

7:01 p.m. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator