

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Virtual Meeting
March 9, 2021

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

Other Attendees: See attendance sheet.

Review Agenda: added Determination & Consent for KP Law.

Tax Classification Hearing: Assistant Assessor Alice Wozniak and Assessors member Anne Emmet were present to present the Board of Assessors recommendation that the town establish a single tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021. The Board of Assessors had met March 3, 2021 and voted unanimously to give this recommendation to the Select Board. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to establish a single tax rate for the town for Fiscal Year 2021.*

Public Comment:

Betsy Kovacs reported that the FRCOG vaccine link will be available each week mid-day Mondays for eligible people to find information about where clinics will be held and how to sign up. She also said that vaccines for homebound residents are coming soon.

Review Minutes: Because there are sentence-long amendments suggested for the minutes of March 2nd, the Board will review a second draft of the minutes at the next meeting.

Building Maintenance:

Salt Shed: The engineer suggested that a truss company be consulted about the work. Brian sent the information to Truss Engineers. They responded with an initial suggestion that did not appear to fully address the needed repairs. He then sent more information and was waiting for a second response.

Community Hall doors and Sawyer Hall doors: Robyn reported that the locksmith, John Lively expected to view the doors on Friday.

Community Hall: The donated commercial stove was delivered Saturday.

18 Jacobs Road: The electrician is scheduled to repair the Ansul system tomorrow.

COVID-19 Concerns: The Board discussed the need for preparations for both the Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting. As Town Clerk, Hilma responded that the election would be held in the open space at the former school building where there is enough room to have adequate distancing. The Board asked Hilma to research costs for a tent, public address system and any other costs related to holding the meeting outside as was done last year.

Foot Clinic: The Board reviewed a request from Senior Center Director Eileen Lively to hold a foot clinic at 18 Jacobs Road on March 16 and 17. This clinic is being mostly funded by donations that have been received. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve holding a foot clinic at 18 Jacobs Road on March 16 and 17, 2021.*

Green Communities Update: The Board acknowledged that the contract with attachments from Energia had been received and terms were in order. Brian reported that an Energy Advisory Committee meeting was held last Wednesday. The committee reviewed the Community Hall HVAC engineer's report. The engineer, Roger Harris, has been asked to provide a quote for the engineering design. The design would include minisplits which would serve the building until the climate temperature got below 20 degrees. Because of this, the engineering report recommended a back-up high-efficiency propane furnace.

Board of Health Email Re: Use of Buildings (from 1/19 mail pkt.): The Board reviewed a second draft response that Robyn had modified from the first draft. Gloria asked if there was a need to issue a response since the email to the Board was the BoH giving their opinion and she agrees with their email. Both Robyn and Brian replied that they thought it was important to send a response. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board voted by majority to approve the second draft letter to the Board of Health with Robyn and Brian in favor and Gloria opposed to the motion.*

Sawyer Hall Sign Repair: Actual repair will have to wait until spring when the snow has melted and the ground thaws. Hilma will speak to Tim Lively to see if there is a way to prop up the message portion on the building so that news messages can still be posted.

Facilities Task Force Report Review: Brian would like to make a written response to the report that includes planning for the future and how to address problems if all the buildings are kept. The Board expressed their desire to see and review what they hope will be a continuation of this report from the Building Facilities Committee. Gloria stated that, if a way to keep all buildings was determined, it would be helpful to continue using all the buildings. Robyn asked Hilma to communicate to both the Building Facilities Committee and the Building Use Committee and ask them to present written reports by March 29th that would then be reviewed at the April 6th meeting.

FRCOG and Heath Salary Review: The Board agreed that they needed to look at Heath's salaries in comparison to some of the wages listed in the FRCOG Wage and Salary Review. Hilma will send the FRCOG document to Finance Committee with a reminder to develop different COLA scenarios.

Determination and Consent: A letter of explanation from KP Law was reviewed which acknowledged that the law firm represents both Heath and the Town of Florida. In regards to the pole placement application from WiValley, KP Law has determined that there is no conflict of interest in working for both municipalities. *On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Determination and Consent issued by Town Counsel KP Law.*

Town Coordinator's Report:

- CodeRED: Recorded two CodeRED messages this week: one for Board of Health about COVID vaccinations and the other for Broadband notifying residents of the information meeting that will be held online tomorrow evening.
- Landfill Inspection: Followed up email from December to Dan Hall (DEP) about the possibility of using drone photography to do the landfill inspection. He did not rule it out but said that the drone operator/photographer would need to know everything that a licensed inspector is required to evaluate. It would mean paying for two separate services. Hilma also emailed Bill Hoyerman (CEC) to ask about inspection services. They do have licensed inspectors and he will be sending a quote to do the inspection.

- Annual Town Report: Continue to submit office and board/committee reports to Liz Canali.
- FY22 Budget Worksheet: Updated budget worksheet with all amounts that are currently known. Waiting on a few more numbers and cost estimates.
- Sawyer Hall Elevator: Elevator was inspected yesterday with both Tim Lively and Nick Anzuoni present for the inspection. It met state standards.
- Building Facilities Committee: Attended their meeting last Wednesday. They reviewed a draft report that should be finalized at their next meeting. Hilma conveyed the Board's request that the repair/construction projects that they consider the most in need of attention be researched in terms of cost estimates. Steve Thane and Will Emmet formed a sub-committee to work on these price estimates.

New Mail:

- E. Lively re: request to use 18 Jacobs Rd for foot clinic
- D. Mason re: request for PB email
- M. Medon re: receipt of \$450,000 borrowing for BB
- C. Baker re: receipt of \$35,000 regionalization grant
- B. McHugh, S. Chevalier re: CDBG grant announcement
- C. Carr re: PB decisions regarding WiValley special permit
- K. Dragon re: appointment to Regional Animal Control Advisory Committee—3/16 agenda
- J. Johnston re: detailed estimate of loader refurb
- J. Weigand re: apology & meeting request
- D. Kowacki re: FRRS retirees' COLA
- D. Kowacki re: FRRS retirees' COLA explanation
- Charlemont P.O. re: new retail hours for Heath CPO
- W. Ennen re: March monthly call notes
- Hawlemont News: March 5, 2021
- Energia Agreement for Services
- RPC & BDV re: revised response to BoH note
- D. Mason re: forget PB email request
- RPC re: response to J. Weigand's request for appt.
- D. Freeman re: position about Schoolhouse Rd. pole installation
- MDAR re: Inspector of Animals appointment—3/16 agenda

Next Meeting:

Budget Hearing for broadband expenses
 Long-term borrowing for broadband loan

On a motion by Gloria Cronin Fisher and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
 Town Coordinator