

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Virtual Meeting  
May 18, 2021

**Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.** by Robyn Provost-Carlson, with Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

**Other Attendees:** See attendance sheet.

**Review Agenda:** Robyn announced that she had to leave the meeting at 8:30 due to a work commitment.

**Review Minutes:** *On a motion by Brian De Vriese and a second by Susan Lively, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of May 4, 2021 as amended. Susan abstained since she was not a member of the Board at this time.*

*On a motion by Brian De Vriese and a second by Susan Lively, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of May 8, 2021 as amended. Susan abstained since she was not a member of the Board at this time.*

**Hawlemont Regionalization Study Team:** Team members Ken Rocke, Budge Litchfield, Barbara Rode and Bob Gruen joined the meeting to provide an update about their work. The team is meeting weekly and have developed a list of data points around which to gather information and study what is learned. They have also interviewed The Management Solution and Sarah Carleton as possible field experts to hire for consultation. If agreed by the Team, recommendations for hiring will be passed on to the Board for approval. Areas that the team has identified for study are demographic, educational and fiscal considerations. The area of OPEB costs will be the last area of study because of its enormity.

**Public Comment:**

Susan Gruen asked if the Board had given more thought to the proposal to rebuild the Community Hall windows. This will be addressed later in the meeting.

Pam Porter reported that a used convection oven has been located that can be purchased to install in the former school kitchen. She stated that there is an offer of a gift to pay for the oven and its installation.

Betsy Kovacs said that the Governor is lifting the mask-wearing requirement on May 29<sup>th</sup> and the State of Emergency on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Entities can have more stringent policies if they want.

**Convection Oven and Steamer:** Pam Porter explained more details of the cost of the oven and installation being paid for through a private donation to the School Building Use Revolving Fund. The steamer that is installed on top of the present oven will need to be removed and then reinstalled on the new oven, which, if approved by the Board would be paid out of the Revolving Fund. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the purchase of a used convection oven to be installed at the former school kitchen, with the cost of purchase and installation not to exceed the amount of the private donation.* The Board agreed that the matter of authorizing funds to be spent from the Revolving Fund to pay for the necessary work to be done on the steamer would be discussed and decided at the next meeting.

**Mosquito Control:** Board of Health (BoH) members Betsy Kovacs, Susan Gruen, Armand Clavette, Henry Godek and John Palmer joined the meeting to present their opinion letter regarding what action they are recommending the Select Board take about possible aerial spraying for mosquito control. Barbara Gordon also joined the meeting due to her research in this area. It was explained that the Town has the choice of opting out of all spraying or of just aerial spraying if the need for spraying should arise. Another consideration for not opting out entirely is the resource of state experts that would be available. The recommendation of the BoH is to opt out of aerial spraying but not the ground spraying.

If the Town were to totally opt out of the state spraying and there was a public emergency for EEE that necessitated mosquito spraying, the Town would have to bear the expense of the insecticide and the work. The morbidity rate of EEE-infected persons is 33 percent. For those people who live, there are often long-term effects with a life expectancy of 5-10 years post-infection date. It is highly unlikely to have even a need to ground spray. The Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) are already trapping and testing mosquitos to remain on top of the conditions.

When a town decides to opt-out either partially or entirely, there needs to be an alternate plan in place in case of emergency. Because the Town is a member of the PVMCD, they provide the plan, and the Town only needs to supply an education plan. The application to opt-out would remain in effect through December 2021.

The Board agreed to hold a time for public comment at the next meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at 6:05 p.m. and tentatively end at 6:30. Following this opportunity from public comment, the Board will make their decision in order to get the application in before the deadline of May 28<sup>th</sup>, if that course of action is chosen. A town-wide email will be sent out to notify residents as well as putting a posting on the website.

**ATM Results and Follow-up:** The Highway Superintendent has emailed Robyn to explain that he believes he has gotten the most economical quote for renovation of the front-end loader since it came from the one dealer located in the northeast of this make of machine. He has requested to complete a single source bid because of this. *On a motion by Brian De Vriese and a second by Susan Lively, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the single-source bid for renovation of the front-end loader.* Hilma will talk to Jeff and draft a letter stating the reason for the single-source bid.

**Procurement Officer:** The prior discussion led to questions regarding appointment of a Chief Procurement Officer for the Town. The Board requested that Hilma contact Andrea Wood at FRCOG to obtain information.

**Select Board Reorganization:** The Board reviewed their own list of position appointments and reassigned those duties that previously had been held by Gloria Fisher. Robyn was re-elected to serve as chairman of the Board.

**Summer Meeting Schedule:** The Board will be meeting on a bimonthly schedule for the summer. Dates of meetings for the next three months will be: May 24, June 8 and 22, July 6 and 20, August 3, 17 and 31. Further scheduling will be done later in the summer.

**Reopening Buildings:** Robyn proposed that an in-depth discussion about building reopening be held at the following meeting and it be the primary topic for discussion. Brian and Susan agreed that discussion of this plan needs considerable time. The Board discussed the various aspects of what needs to be considered in the process of reopening the town buildings to the public for use. There

needs to be an update on what has already been scheduled at 18 Jacobs Road. Town employees need to give updates of where they have been working and their thoughts for returning to work solely from Sawyer Hall. The Board agreed that they needed to spend the week examining what they are willing to consider in terms of options.

**Special Projects:** Planning for completing the Special Projects as have been budgeted were discussed. Hilma has spoken to the Building Maintenance Coordinator who stated that he can replace the police office door. Robyn will send the quote for replacing the hardware on the Sawyer Hall doors to accept next week. Next week the Board will review that quote plus the one for replacing the Community Hall double doors and the quote for electrical upgrades at the fire house. Robyn stated that she will talk to the Highway Superintendent concerning what is needed for exhaust ports at the Highway Garage.

**WiValley Application for Pole Installation:** Robyn recapped the conversation that she had with Attorney Eichman. He did not recommend just denying WiValley a public hearing. The Board could not deny an application based on aesthetic, health or competition reasons. Hilma will schedule a date for the hearing and email the attorney to keep him updated.

**Green Communities Update:** Brian reported that the Town had been approved for a spending extension for the Green Communities grant until September 2022.

Rebuilding the windows in Community Hall is not work that can be covered in the grant. New storm windows can be covered, however, the work would need a new narrative and DOER approval first. The Board will review the proposal that had been sent to the Heath Historical Commission to rebuilding the second-floor windows. Susan Gruen commented that she would like to organize fund raising to obtain the funds to have the windows rebuilt.

Robyn Provost-Carlson left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

**Town Coordinator's Report:**

- Art. 3 Budget Worksheet & ATM Warrant: Prepared handouts & completed last minute work.
- Annual Town Report: Picked up the hard copies May 5th afternoon and made available for residents.
- Retail Power Supply Bids: Had preliminary conversation with Colonial Power Group officials about upcoming bidding awards. Final numbers are to arrive May 18<sup>th</sup> with price selection being done on Wednesday. Hilma requests authorization from the Board to make bid awards based on their guidance.
- Tree Planting: Met National Grid arborist at the site for planting the two gifted trees on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The two flowering dogwood trees were planted at 18 Jacobs Road in the vegetation area in the center of the driveway circle.
- FY22 Transfer Station Permits: Permits are now available at the post office with updated information papers.
- Fuel Bids: FRCOG sent bid list for gas, diesel and heating oil. After confirming with the Highway Superintendent, Heath's vendors and prices will be: Diesel \$2.75/gal fixed from Burke; Gasoline

\$2.92/gal fixed from Burke; Heating Oil \$2.37/gal fixed from Sandri. Heating Oil price is \$.79 per gallon higher than last year's bids or 50%.

- Power Supply Bid: By the time of this meeting, negotiations will have become firm with Colonial Power Group to award the electric power supply bid to Dynergy for the next three years (12/1/21—11/30/24). The cost will be 0.10544 per kwh for the 3-year contract period.

#### **New Mail:**

- Colonial Power re: retail power supply pricing
- L. Johnson-Fuller re: summer reading program activities— *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the two summer programs.*
- D. Cavalier re: Mohawk Estates signs—ME President Jenny Hamilton will address this.
- B. Travers re: BUC questions about marketing—Hilma will draft a response for the Board to review.
- W. Emmet re: updated critical repair list
- M. Freeman re: list of absentee opinions regarding ATM petition articles
- P. Porter re: user and volunteer count
- E. Lively re: update on CH stoves—Tim will be asked to follow-up.
- BoH re: letter to Building Commissioner
- B. Kovacs re: required permit for J. Diamond
- S. Brzezinski (DOT) re: return of bridge
- DHCD re: CDBG One-Year Action Plan changes—The Board asked Hilma to speak with Brian McHugh about the possibility of applying for accessibility renovations for Sawyer Hall entrance rebuilding and repaving at 18 Jacobs Road.
- DEP re: Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant application
- BoH re: Recommendation regarding mosquito aerial spraying
- B. Kovacs & HAS re: Background information on mosquito aerial spraying
- R. Hesselbart re: follow-up email on BoH position on spraying
- R. Hesselbart re: first email calling for public response
- 13 Residents re: opinions to opt-out of aerial spraying
- S. Lively re: Ideas for future decision making
- L. Johnson Fuller re: additional request for summer library programming
- J. Hamilton re: Mohawk Estates road signs
- S. Gaffey (MTRSD) re: preschool tuition expenses—Information will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for their opinion and will be placed on next week's agenda.
- B. Kovacs re: camper trailer at 38 Bray Rd.
- J. Hamilton re: Papoose Lake Dam
- B. Adams & K. Maloney re: PB Special Permit applicant
- K. Dragon (ACO) re: Route 8A dog bite
- Hawlemont News May 14, 2021
- B. Gordon re: mosquito aerial spraying
- J. Gran re: opinion to aerial spraying

**Next Meeting:**

6:00 Public comment for mosquito spraying  
Awarding work for special projects  
Building Reopening & Meetings  
Preschool tuition  
CH windows project  
BUC marketing

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator