

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Virtual Meeting
November 2, 2021

Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. with Robyn Provost Carlson, Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

Other Attendees: See attendance sheet.

Review Agenda: Added: WGE invoice; MTRS capital bond schedule; Hilma schedule for next week.

Review of Minutes: *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of October 26, 2021, as amended.*

Town Coordinator Work Hours: Hilma requested that she be allowed to work long days next week on Monday through Wednesday in order to avoid working on Friday. The Board agreed that this schedule modification would be allowable.

MTRSD: A meeting with financial representatives from each of the district towns will be held tomorrow to discuss options for capital bond funding for the repair projects that were approved by the towns at their respective Annual Town Meetings in the spring. Both Tom Lively and Ned Wolf will be attending this meeting.

Whip City Fiber Invoice: The Board reviewed an invoice that was approved by the Municipal Light Board and is within the expense budget. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Whip City Fiber invoice in the amount of \$10,891.57.*

Hilltown Youth Recovery Theatre (HYRT): The Board met with members of the governing board including Jonathan Diamond to discuss possible options for entering into a long-term lease for areas of the Jacobs Road building. It was agreed that the gym would be shared space although Jonathan stated that he wants flexibility in space use. HYRT proposed paying a total of \$15,000 until January 1, 2023. That would include exclusive use of Room 126 and use of shared spaces of the gym, stage, cafeteria and atrium. They would also like to use Room 124 for five weeks in the summer, 2 weeks in the winter and have the right of first refusal to rent exclusively. The main use of the atrium is immediately prior to a production, at night when there might be a meeting or small group doing work. It was asked that the kitchen be available for use to refrigerate food, heat lunch and possibly conduct one or more fundraisers. The cafeteria would be used for snacks and lunch and dinners during the recovery theatre.

The financial oversight of HYRT is done by three board members: Jonathan, Denise Leckenby, and Theo Sweezy. They also have an attorney consult. It was agreed that, in many respects, the financial undertaking is experimental in the sense that exact utility and maintenance costs are not known and there are many factors to consider. Activities in the shared areas would need to be coordinated with town group activities and commercial kitchen rentals. It was agreed that further discussion and evaluation was needed to reach an agreement.

Axon Properties/Crucial: Company owners appeared before the Board to explain that they have a due-diligence agreement for a 55-acre property located at 11 Bellor Road. If the property is purchased there would be four Host Community Agreements with the respective farmers operating simultaneously. Each farmer would have the same business plan and be operational by the coming spring. They may look to increase the number of farmers in the future.

The charitable contribution would begin in the first year. If funds are needed before the harvest, the company would consider a partial contribution. They will erect other buildings from the same company and in the same style as the currently existing barn on the property. There will be a master grower in residence at the existing house on the property.

The Community Outreach meeting for the four different farming companies will be held virtually on November 29th.

8:35 p.m. On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn the open session and convene in Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(6), To consider the lease or value of real property after the chair declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; For deliberation and strategy for entering a long-term lease of space at the 18 Jacobs Road municipal building with Hilltown Theatre and to reconvene in open session.

Susan: Aye Brian: Aye Robyn: Aye

9:22 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session.

9:23 p.m. On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn the open session and convene in Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3), To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. For deliberation and strategy in New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Mobility v. Town of Heath, Town of Heath Planning Board and not to reconvene in open session.

Susan: Aye Brian: Aye Robyn: Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator