

## MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Virtual Meeting  
February 1, 2022

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

**Others in Attendance:** See attendance sheet.

**Review Agenda:** Added E911 and Salt Shed.

### **Public Comment:**

Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni stated that when one looks at the public service aspect of a cell tower, the Town will be able to put an emergency repeater on the structure which will mean signals will be transmitted during emergency response situations. It will also mean individuals who find themselves in emergency situations will have cell service to call for help.

Kate Peppard commented that everyone is doing a huge amount of work and many individuals are working on the town boards and need to consult with others. She asked that the Planning Board be included in cell tower discussions as everyone is on the same team.

Anne Emmet commented that she supports the public statement issued by the Select Board.

Will Emmet read his letter in support of the AT&T application. As a fire fighter volunteer, another fire fighter must call him because he cannot receive a pager signal at his home.

Bob Viarengo stated that the Planning Board is still in conversation with the Select Board, however, the application does not conform to the zoning bylaws or its psychological and emotional impact.

Doug Mason commented that he spent hundreds of hours in study and the tower will not do what Will thinks it will do. He also said that the Planning Board has been locked out and does not get to negotiate in the lawsuit.

Bill Fontes said that looking at the coverage map shows that there are still large pockets of area with no coverage.

Tara Mason remarked that the AT&T application has big holes and that no one is against public safety.

Police Chief John McDonough said that, although he was not a Heath resident, he notices vehicles pulled off the road at the bottom of Avery Road as drivers use the cell phone signal before driving into town. From a public safety standpoint, there are accidents periodically on Route 8A and a person must walk to a nearby house to make a call. He concluded with stating that people need to consider all the aspects of safety.

Barbara Rode spoke from a perspective of the experiences she has had with four young adult children, some of whom have experienced accidents and had to walk to a place where they could place a phone call. She also stated she supported settling the lawsuit to reduce the overall cost to the town.

Gloria Cronin Fisher asked if the Select Board would please poll the residents of town to get opinions before deciding whether to move the town library.

Jesse Wiegand stated he was not opposed to safety but objected to the process of cutting out the interveners and the Planning Board.

Thuy Le commented that she thought there was autonomy with the Planning Board and that the Select Board needs to hear what is driving their advice.

Jack Estes remarked that he agreed with Gloria that officials should find out what the community really wants for a location of the library.

**Senior Program Director:** The Board reviewed the classification rating for the job description. Sue and Robyn had scores that reflected a Grade 11 or 12 which would equate to an hourly wage of \$21.05--\$28.11. Brian had not been able to complete a rating for the position. Hilma reminded the Board that, when rating new positions, they should also evaluate the job in relation to already existing positions. Robyn asked that the Board be sent information about the pay grade scale and list of positions with pay grades for comparison. The evaluation will continue February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Council on Aging Room Request:** The Board agreed that room requests were part of a larger conversation of town space and all requests needed to be considered. Sue stated that the COA was preparing for when facilities and programs can be fully operational again.

**Special Town Meeting:** The Board decided to discuss the need for an STM with the Finance Committee next week.

**Covid Concerns:** An update about case rates in town and in the area had been received from the Board of Health chairman Gene Garland. Reports show that the number of new cases is beginning to decline.

**Colrain—Heath Capital Expense Agreement:** Hilma reported that the two Select Boards had met last Wednesday in a joint meeting and discussed a proposal that she had prepared that paralleled the agreements between Buckland and Shelburne and Ashfield and Plainfield for sharing capital costs with their respective shared elementary schools. All the Select Board members who were present agreed to the proposal. Hilma drafted a letter which is being signed tonight by the Colrain Board. It will then be mailed to Heath for signatures.

**Green Communities Update:** Brian reported that the Energy Advisory Committee had met. He was asked to look at the list of proposed projects and determine what can be done. Replacing the lighting at the Jacobs Road building is on the list, however, Brian is not certain if it is a project that the Franklin County Technical School electrical students could do. There is also air sealing work that needs to be completed for further efficiency. February 17<sup>th</sup> was set for the next Energy Advisory committee meeting.

**Executive Session:** An executive session meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. at the Jacobs Road Municipal Building for a personnel matter.

**Salt Shed:** This item will be placed on the agenda for future discussion. The Board discussed the possibility of asking the Building Facilities Committee to help with the research. Robyn and Hilma will compile what information has already been obtained.

**E911 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** The Board reviewed the MOU for receiving E911 dispatch services. This will renew the same services for five years. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for E911 services.* Robyn will sign the agreement.

**Library Trustees:** Library Trustees Deborah Porter, Maureen O'Malley and Emily Cross joined the meeting and called their own meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Deborah addressed what the Trustees envision for the library in the future. There is a need for more space and ADA compliance both in access to the facility and within the library itself. Space needs to be improved for families with children and the aging population.

The Trustees hope to have an informational meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> followed by a survey of the library patrons and towns people. A full assessment of the costs for each option is needed. They also would like to know the overall vision for town buildings as it is developed. At this time, the 18 Jacobs Road library will continue to be used as an annex for material drop off and children's programs.

Robyn conveyed that the Board needs to hold conversation about the buildings and financial implications of the different possible scenarios. Sue remarked that the focus needs to be on what the library should be, not on where it should be located. The library is changing because the world is changing; the town needs to look at what it needs and wants in the future.

A designer is being consulted about what steps need to be taken in the evaluation of library space. The Trustees are measuring book space and what is needed for shelf space. Even if the library remains in its current location, there will need to be a redesign to be ADA compliant. The fire egress will need to be rebuilt at Sawyer Hall or a second door will need to be put in on the outside wall at Jacobs Road. Fire Chief Anzuoni commented that at Sawyer Hall the access needs to include a walkway to the road. The upstairs exit currently empties to a flower garden and the ramp railing where it also should go to the road.

Deb spoke for the Trustees in saying that they will need help which they expect to come from those who love libraries and follow through. They are thinking about forming a sub-committee. The Trustees will write a charge and develop a list of potential members that they will suggest for appointment.

The Library Trustees adjourned their meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**Town Coordinator's Report:**

- Minutes: Prepared draft minutes of 12/1, 7, 14, 15, 21/2021; 1/10, 14, 18, 18/2022 and prepared draft minutes of fifteen executive session meetings regarding litigation.
- KP Law: Correspondence and other communication with town counsel regarding legal situations that the Town is presently having to address.
- Rte. 8A/Branch Brook Bridge: Thanks to coordination between the Highway Superintendent with the school transportation office and the fire chief as well as communication with Mark Devylder (MassDOT), an emergency repair of the bridge is slated to be done during the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>. This is also vacation week for public schools. The bridge will be closed for three to four days when the repair is being done. Hilma will send out public notices when exact dates are known.
- Colrain—Heath Capital Costs: Researched and prepared outline for discussion at tonight's meeting and at tomorrow's joint meeting with Colrain Select Board about how to assign a percentage of capital costs for Colrain Central School physical plant.
- ARPA Final Rule Webinar: Today attended an online seminar hosted by the MMA regarding the U.S. Treasury's Final Rule; the final guidelines about qualifications and spending of the awarded ARPA funds. Heath has received the first half of funding and the second half is scheduled to be released this summer. The Final Rule overview of guidelines is about 40 pages in length. The entire Rule is around 120 pages.

**Mail:**

- W. Emmet re: cell tower letter
- H. Row re: cell tower letter
- G. Garland re: BoH update on Covid
- S. Lively re: Colrain Central School open house
- S. Lively re: Animal Control meeting
- P. Porter re: ventilation in CH upstairs
- MassDOT re: bridge inspection reports
- C. Rabbitt re: January town nurse report
- K. Nartowicz re: December statements
- MA State Police re: Memo of Understanding Renewal for E911 service
- COA re: request to use Room 135 & documentation—It was requested that this be resubmitted with names redacted.

**Next Meetings:**

February 8 & 22: Budget hearings

February 15: meet with Planning Board, building use discussion

March 1: building use

**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 December 1, 2021, as amended.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021, as written.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021, as written.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021, as written.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of December 21, 2021, as amended. Robyn abstained.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 10, 2022, as written.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 14, 2022, as written.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022, as amended.*

*On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022, as written.*

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

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator