

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
18 Jacob Road
October 4, 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 Platek response letter.

Public Comment: Bill Fontes asked questions about the Green Communities grant as it related to improvements for Community Hall. Brian responded by explaining that much work was done on the Hall: exchange of all the lighting, including fixtures on the first floor and completely insulating the walls of the building. After analysis, it was found to replace the oil furnace with a heat exchange system would cost over \$300,000 which was much more than the funding remaining in the grant and, therefore, was not feasible.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of September 13, 2022, as amended. Brian De Vriese abstained from the vote.*

Community Hall 150th Anniversary Celebration: Elissa Viarengo gave an updated report of the various activities that are being planned for the day. There will be horse and carriage rides offered. With that and a parking plan, Elissa will speak to the Police Chief for a safety evaluation. Other activities that will be happening on Saturday afternoon will include, cider pressing, pickleball games, displays with pictures and objects, a video recording of interviews, the history of the Gruens' house will be exhibited on their porch, a story hour and games for kids will take place. The Heath Historical Society will have both its center museums open for visitors. The Heath Union Church will be open for visitors with the organist performing. Refreshments of pies, ice cream and cider will be served.

On Sunday, October 9th, a concert with the Uncles of the Pioneers will be held in the Community Hall.

Robyn and the entire Select Board issued a grateful 'thank you' to Elissa Viarengo, Bill Fontes, Jean Gran, Karen Brooks and Bob and Susan Gruen for all the planning and coordination they had done to make this event possible.

Town Buildings & Offices:

Jacobs Road Office Assignments: There will be a note sent to employees who have contact with the public asking them to set office hours and inform the Town Coordinator what those hours will be. The Accountant and Treasurer offices will be moved to occupy the same space as the Tax Collector and the Board of Assessors. The Municipal Light Board and the Board of Health will have office space located in Room 121.

Meeting Postings: The Board agreed that meeting notices need to be posted at both Sawyer Hall and 18 Jacobs Road. Hilma will send out an email of notification.

Nurse's Office: It was noted that in the job description the nurse is to be available at senior activities which now take place at the Jacobs Road building. Hilma will reach out to both the Board of Health chairman and the Town Nurse to discuss moving the nurse's office. Another consideration is where the exercise class would be located.

Winterizing Community Hall: Sue had looked at energy use levels from 2017-18 to determine average usage. It was noted that these amounts were from the time before the walls were insulated. The insurance coverage on the building would not change because the Building Maintenance Coordinator would continue to work in the building. The Board acknowledged that the voters approved the operating budget for the building, however, it is uncertain how much will be spent on utilities. Options such as a programmed thermostat and a lockable thermostat cover were mentioned as methods for regulating the heating.

A related concern is that people use the building appropriately and remain energy conscious during their use. The Board agreed that the question of what groups were entitled to free use and which ones would be required to pay needed to be reviewed by the Building Use Committee and by the Board in the near future. It was agreed by the Select Board members to allow Community Hall to remain open and available for use although they also reserved the right to revisit the use and costs this winter, as needed.

Annual Maintenance for Generators: Following the report from the Town Coordinator that the Highway Superintendent agreed that his department would do the additional maintenance work for the generators, *on a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Level 1 annual maintenance agreement for the generators for the five Town buildings as offered by Kinsley Co. for a total of \$1,755.00.*

Emergency Shelter Designation: *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the municipal building at 18 Jacobs Road as the designated Emergency Shelter for the Town of Heath.* Brian commented that he would like research done to see if there is any grant money available to convert one of the bathrooms into a shower which may be needed from time to time.

AT&T v. Town of Heath Intervenors: Six of the Intervenors, two representatives from AT&T, Robyn and Hilma met to discuss concerns of the Intervenors. There have also been emails with suggestions between the parties.

Platek Response Letter: The Board reviewed the response letter addressing the concerns that had been expressed by Mike Platek related to delinquent tax notifications. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the letter.*

Town Coordinator's Report:

- MTRSD FY22 Error: Met with attorneys, Brian DeVriese and Bob McGahan to discuss information. Reviewed draft letter prepared by attorneys. Researched minutes and other documents from transition negotiation meetings and provided for attorneys.
- Line Painting: Pat Geary of Infinity Line Co. blacked out existing lines, and painted new parking lines including two handicap parking spaces on Sept. 16th.
- Smoke Alarms: After the alarms at Jacobs Road went off twice in one morning, the Fire Chief dismantled the office alarm which was malfunctioning. Technician from Fire Equipment came but could not replace it as these alarms are no longer manufactured. There is also an alarm in the gym

that has the trouble light on. Quote has been received to replace the office detector, the four detectors in the gym and the high detectors in the open space. **Robyn will check with Palmeri Electric to obtain another quote. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to authorize Robyn Provost Carlson to proceed if another quote for the same work did not exceed \$6,238.66.*

- MTRSD Superintendent's Meeting: On September 27 Supt. Stanton hosted the first of monthly Town Administrator and MTRSD Administration Meetings. The primary purpose of these meetings is to keep Select Boards more informed about the district functioning and, in particular, the budget process. A secondary purpose was to provide a forum for town administrators to keep other towns informed of any significant municipal updates.
- Burrington Brook Bridge Project: The Highway Supt. and Town Coordinator met this morning with the engineers engaged to do the design work on this bridge on Route 8A. The bid document was given a final review and dates were set for the pre-bid meeting, bid submissions/bid opening (Dec. 7), and work completion (substantial: Aug. 15; complete Sept. 1). The bridge and that section of Route 8A will be closed approximately from June 1st until August 1st.
- Burrington Road Culvert Replacement Project: The Highway Supt. and Town Coordinator met this morning with the engineers engaged to do the pre-construction design and permitting in preparation for the culvert replacement. It was reported that the environmental engineer is currently writing the application for the necessary permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. It was noted that part of the necessary preparation work for construction will be removal of several trees in the immediate area. The Highway Supt. stated that he will appraise the work to determine if the department can complete this work.

Mail:

- N. Wolf re: request to speak with SB about space for HHS
- S. Litchfield re: MLB transfer of \$100,000 to Town
- B. den Ouden, J. Dane, J. Gran re: comment on Community Hall
- Fire Equipment re: smoke detector replacement quote
- E. Viarengo re: comment on Community Hall
- R. Johnson re: thank you note
- N. Wolf re: HHS thank you note
- N. Blais re: Meet & Greet invitation

Next Meeting: October 11: Meeting with Ned Wolf and Bob Viarengo for HHS

8:11 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and a second by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3), To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and the chair declared that an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. For deliberation and strategy involving dispute over the FY2022 operating assessment between the Mohawk Trail Regional School District and the Town of Heath.*

Susan Lively Aye Brian De Vriese Aye Robyn Provost Carlson Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator