

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
18 Jacob Road

February 15, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Called to Order at 9:30 a.m. With Robyn Provost Carlson, Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese, and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance.

Others in Attendance: Congressman Jim McGovern, Koby Gardner-Levine (District Representative), Tom Lively, Ned Wolf, and Will Emmet, Finance Committee, Jonathan Diamond, Zach Arfa and Laura Iverson, Hilltown Youth Performing Arts.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive an introduction to Heath’s new congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives, Jim McGovern. Accompanying the congressman was his assistant, Koby

Focus of the conversation was on the needs of the Town, which the Select Board and Finance Committee agreed were many, such as what is outlined below followed by suggested sources through which to seek possible funding.

- Fire Station and Turnout Gear—Assistance to Fire Fighters grant, USDA
- Highway Buildings—Rural Development which does public safety as well as health facilities.
- Broadband Debt—possible infrastructure monies to cover already incurred debt.
- Highway Trucks
- Utility Conversions to solar, mini-splits—energy grants
- Shared Services due to complexity of training and unavailability of personnel.
- Promoting Tourism
- Medical/Mental Health Care that would be local—WRAP monies

Rep. McGovern stated that the Baker administration had divided the ARPA funds into departmental designations possibly in the amount of \$2 billion. In the next two years, the funds should be implemented and investments made into the communities. It is hoped that the Healey-Driscoll administration will focus on the needs in rural communities.

The Board stated that some of the “asks” that they have are not just for improvement of facilities but for the welfare of the lives they hold, the residents of Heath.

Upon Rep. McGovern’s urging, the Board will send a letter outlining the essential needs of the Town.

10:30 a.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