

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
18 Jacob Road
March 21, 2023

Called to Order at 6:02 p.m. With Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese, and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, in attendance. Robyn Provost Carlson was absent.

Others in Attendance: See attendance sheet.

6:05 p.m. Age- and Dementia-Friendly Initiative Presentation: Meg Ryan, FRCOG representative, introduced the national initiative that was developed and is funded by AARP. Carol Foote is the program manager from LifePath and was unable to attend. The initiative plan has several steps in its development and is currently in Step 2 of developing an action plan for the towns in Franklin County.

Ms. Ryan explained the results of a survey that they had completed among senior citizens of Franklin County towns. Results of Heath respondents (37) were shown in comparison to results among the entire 2,000 respondents. Currently there is a steering committee that is developing a regional action plan. After the plan is finished, the town will not be required to adopt any ideas that it does not think will have effective results for the older residents.

There is no monetary requirement for Heath to join the initiative; the Select Board only would need to send a letter to LifePath requesting to become a member town of the initiative. The Council on Aging (COA) will discuss joining the initiative at its next meeting. The Board will reach a decision based on the COA's recommendation.

Public Comment: Hilma Sumner commended the Highway Department for the excellent work they had done clearing the roads during and after the March 14th snow storm. Several residents had also expressed their appreciation for the plowing and snow removal. The Board will send the highway employees letters of appreciation.

Review of Minutes: *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023, as amended.*

CEC Change Order: The Board reviewed the three-year agreement for monitoring and inspection of the tri-town landfill. Charges for each of next three years were listed in the agreement. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the CEC Change Order to continue monitoring the Tri-town Landfill for the next three years.*

Smith Vocational School: No new information.

Annual Report: Sue agreed that she would draft a report for the Select Board to review to be included in the 2022 Town Report.

FY24 Budget: The MTRSD assessments have been received. There was speculation as to whether the Municipal Light Board should be asked to pay any of the expenses that have, to date, been funded by the Town. Robyn will speak with the Accountant to get more information about his requested salary increase. It was suggested that Animal Inspector Stipend be increased to \$1,000. Vehicle Gas & Oil will be level-funded due to the cost of fuels. Board of Health Expense account: it is uncertain

what the outcome of the Mosquito District overpayment of last fiscal year will be. If they credit Heath, the account can be reduced by \$1,000. Hilma explained that the proposed increase for Salary Office Assistant would be to hire someone for 15 hours per week to include more training in anticipation of her future retirement.

Financial Picture: Discussion postponed until a full board is present.

Proposals for ATM Articles: Hilma mentioned that she and the Town Clerk are preparing one article to amend the General Bylaws. This would be to include the Jacobs Road building as a legal posting location. Following a request from the Building Use Committee, another article is being drafted to convert the Community Hall Use Account into a revolving account.

Meeting Public Attendance and Public Comment Period Policy: The Board reviewed the revised draft of the policy and raised a couple of questions about wording. It was agreed that the changes would be made and then the draft sent to town counsel for review against the latest Supreme Judicial Court ruling on the subject.

Community Hall Damages: Hilma reported that the insurance claims adjuster would like the Town to get pricing for the work that needs to be completed for the floor repairs.

Farmland of Local Importance: After a short discussion, *on a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to not accept this status for farmland within the Town of Heath.*

Naming Jacobs Road Property: This item was tabled until a full Board is present for discussion and decision.

Digital Equity: Hilma presented a brief overview of this program that is spearheaded in this area by FRCOG. There is a recently formed group of small area towns that are working together to develop a plan to further digital equity in the area. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to express the Town's desire to join this group under the direction of the FRCOG.*

Mail:

- CEC, Inc. re: agreement for services
- P. Porter re: request for warrant article
- H. Hallman re: request to close road-- *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the requests to close the section of South Road in front of Community Hall on May 21, 2023, and September 3, 2023, for the purpose of art exhibit receptions.*
- HAS re: random drug testing
- S. Lively re: BoH meeting notes
- KP Law re: SJC decision of municipal meeting conduct
- M. Ryan re: same letter to request Age & Dementia-Friendly status
- Tom Lively re: Finance Committee request
- MTRSS re: FY24 certified assessments
- H. Hallman re: request to close road for 9/3/23
- T. Lively re: MEMA and state of emergency
- E. Viarengo re: JR building name suggestions

- T. Lively re: stressed overhang
- Gov. Healey re: possible Ch. 90 increase
- Gov. Healey re: End of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in MA
- National Grid re: Notice of sideline vegetation management

8:23 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Brian De Vriese, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator