

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
18 Jacob Road
April 13, 2023

Called to Order at 3:01 p.m. With Susan Lively, Brian De Vriese, and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator. Robyn Provost Carlson recused herself due to a possible appearance of a potential conflict of interest. The meeting was chaired by Brian De Vriese.

The meeting was called to order with Michael Shattuck, highway employee, Lee Lively, police officer, Will Emmet and Tom Lively, Finance Committee members, and approximately 30 other people in attendance.

Brian stated to those present that the purpose of the meeting was for the Board to meet with the employee; others present could observe and listen but were not to participate in the meeting.

Brian reviewed the process through which the Select Board had made their decision to eliminate a highway employee and how determination of the particular position was reached. Mike was reminded that the meeting was scheduled to be held in executive session to allow Mike to address the Board regarding their decision and to discuss the severance package they were prepared to offer him.

Mike stated that he was waiving his right to an executive session meeting and wanted to continue the meeting in open session.

Mike had a letter addressed to both the Select Board and the Finance Committee that he read aloud to the Select Board. Although he spoke of his personal credentials and years on the job, he was reminded that this decision was not related to performance but was a financial decision.

After he read the letter and had spoken briefly with the Board members, some people in attendance began to speak and argue with the Board. Twice Brian stated that, if he did not get quiet, he would adjourn the meeting. Wanting to finish informing Mike of various information regarding unemployment and the severance offer, Police Officer Lively was called on to sustain order.

The Board was then able to inform Mike of the terms of a severance package they would like to offer the employee. These terms include continuation of his regular wages plus earned vacation hours through June 30th. They will also continue his health insurance for the remainder of the fiscal year. He would not have to return to work but could use the time to search for new employment. Hilma asked that Mike come talk to her on Tuesday when she could give him a more indepth explanation.

3:40 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