

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
August 21, 2023

Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. With Robyn Provost-Carlson, Susan Lively, Elissa Viarengo and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator.

Others in Attendance: See attendance sheet. A majority of Finance Committee members were in attendance through their own posted meeting.

The meeting was recorded.

Highway Department: Jeff Johnston, Superintendent, and Kyle Jarvis, Foreman, were present. Jeff gave an update of the department's work. He explained that the weekly updates he sends to the Board list the planned work for each week as well as what work was accomplished. The Board asked for a written list of the work needed for each truck in order to have the fleet prepared for the winter work. Verbally it was reported that the 2003 International needs approximately \$15,000 worth of work. This work includes replacing the front and rear main seals, bearings, wiper motor assembly, body welding and rewiring of the back-end electric. The Dodge also needs work although the 2018 large truck appears to be okay as is.

Paving is scheduled to begin October 11 for the section of South Road from the center of town to the Burrington Road intersection. The cost will be approximately \$185,000 from Ch. 90 funds. The department will do road patching, including the large areas on Burrington Road, when there is dry weather.

The bridge construction on Route 8A over Burrington Brook is complete. The bridge was reopened on August 10th.

Since Joe Saladino did not appear tonight for the meeting, he will be invited to the next meeting or meet with Jeff and Robyn outside of a Select Board meeting. Hilma will contact MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) to ask if they have any relevant contract forms.

Salt Shed: There is no final report on the possible locations for a new salt shed. The response from town counsel about locating a driveway to access the building area from Colrain Stage Road concluded that it would not be within the parameters of the conservation restrictions. Discussion then moved to take a tentative look at developing a long-range plan for both the Highway and Fire Departments with either location being used. Questions remain as to whether a better option would be for the town to repair the Highway/Fire building that already exists or build with new construction. Robyn will contact the landscape architect to ask if he is able to do a building analysis.

For the Finance Committee, Tom Lively stated that they took the position that it was more important to have a fleet of reliable trucks than a new Salt Shed. Earlier in the evening at their meeting the Finance Committee had voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend using half of the ARPA money to purchase a truck.

Public Comment: Bill Fontes reported that he had unplugged the fire alarm of the Fire Department to prevent continual alerts until a phoneline was installed.

Review of Minutes: Review of the 8/8/23 minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Heath Historical Society: Per town counsel the town cannot include payback in a license or lease for funds that have not previously been appropriated at a town meeting. HHS officers who were present at the meeting indicated that they would not want to continue discussion of a license without promise of financial compensation for early termination on the part of the town.

Late Bus: The Finance Committee commented that, even though the Rowe School Committee has sent a letter requesting that Heath pay one-third of the cost of the late bus that delivers high school students in the towns of Charlemont, Heath and Rowe, it was the wrong time of year to request funds that had not been budgeted. They did not know where the town could get approximately \$7,000-\$8,000 additional money.

Employee Holding More Than One Paid Position: The Board reviewed a letter of request from Alice Wozniak who holds more than one paid position in town (Director of Assessing and Boards Clerk) for the Board to authorize her to hold these positions. : *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve holding more than one paid position within the Town of Heath by Alice Wozniak.*

Community Hall Floor: Booska Flooring will begin replacement work of the lower-level floor on September 18th. The plumber will come the week before to remove the fixtures temporarily to have the work done. The entire building will be closed from the day the plumber comes until the flooring work is completed and the plumbing fixtures are back in working order, approximately three weeks.

Recording of Meetings: Recordings are audible through the town website. Hilma will put an announcement on the website news and mention that the work is through volunteer efforts.

Boards and Committees Appointments: *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Laura Holdsworth as a Post Office Substitute.*

Unfinished Business List: Hilma will contact the Planning Board and the Board of Health to schedule a joint meeting to discuss questions concerning unregistered mobile units, zoning and general bylaws that pertain, and enforcement of violations. The Police Chief will also be asked to join the meeting regarding the area of jurisdiction for enforcement.

Study of ADA Access to Sawyer Hall: The Board reviewed a resident's offer to fund an assessment of Sawyer Hall in relation to determining what work would be needed to make the building's access ADA compliant. Elissa and Hilma will work on a favorable response to the resident to bring to the Board at the next meeting. Although the individual would bear no obligation to share the study with the Board, if he chose to do so, it could hopefully be used in preparing an application for CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) monies to get the work done.

Mail:

- A. Wozniak re: request for approval to hold more than 1 appt. position
- R. Viarengo re: offer to have accessibility study done for SH
- L. Holdsworth re: interest in P.O. substitute
- FCSWMD re: August recycling processing fee

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 5th, 6:00 p.m.

9:30 p.m. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Susan Lively, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator