

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
SELECT BOARD  
Jacobs Road Municipal Center  
September 19, 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.

The meeting was recorded.

**Review Agenda:** Added: Community Hall flooring, Letter regarding power outage, Landfill update, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) update, Unfinished Business list.

**Review of Minutes:** *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of September 5, 2023, as amended.*

**6:05 p.m. Pole Hearing:** A pole hearing was held regarding removal of a utility pole and installation of two new poles on Route 8A immediately south of the intersection with Sumner Stetson Road. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the plan of National Grid for utility pole relocation.*

**Public Comment:** None.

**Community Hall Flooring:** The flooring installers found wetness in the men's bathroom when they removed the old flooring. They recommended that, rather than laying individual tiles, sheet vinyl be installed in the bathrooms. It was also important that there tended to be water spills in bathrooms that would also compromise the adhesiveness of the tile glue. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve installing sheet vinyl in both bathrooms and selected a pattern to be used.*

**Senior Foot Clinic:** The Board reviewed a letter drafted to support the foot clinic program. The letter will be included in an application for grant funds. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the letter of support.*

**6:20 p.m. Landfill Mowing Bid Opening:** The Board reviewed the one bid that had been received by the submission deadline of noon today. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the bid submitted by Saladino Property Management for \$4,172.00.* Each of the three towns will be responsible for one-third of the total payment.

**Bylaws and Enforcement:** In review of the previous meeting's discussion with the Planning Board and Board of Health, the Select Board agreed that it was a good initial conversation. There now needs to be analysis of what infringements are to be prioritized and how enforcement would be enacted. The first step would be to draft a letter that would be mailed to every property owner with a date for compliance.

The Board also discussed the need for the town office to have a central filing system for complaints and infractions. The suggestion was that these duties might be added to the office assistant position. Hilma will send out the position description to the Board for their review. Elissa will research for names of junk car dealers to be included in the letter.

**Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD):** Budge Litchfield, School Committee Representative, joined the meeting as the Board reviewed the discussion held during the previous meeting with administration from the district. It was noted that the numbers that were presented this time were slightly different from those presented in May. It appears that, over the course of several years, Heath's assessment will have significant increases.

Resident Ken Rocke, who was also present, stated that Superintendent Stanton asked if he would share his calculations. When he responded that he was willing to meet to discuss his approach, there was no answer from the administration. Ken then stated that, as a town resident, he wants to share with Heath first. He acknowledged that the MTRSD business manager had done extensive work with his calculations and the excel workbook.

Budge remarked that the calculations are a very complex process. Projecting numbers is a forecast and not definite numbers. Ken responded that he thinks there is a way to look forward and see what the difference would be for Heath under the current method or under the new method. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has no recommendations to offer a school district because there is more than one legal method. It is left to each district to determine the method that will be used.

The Board members expressed concern because they want to understand the process and want voters to understand the process so that the vote taken reflects that the best is being done for the students, the towns and the district. Ken agreed that he will be prepared to give a presentation to the Select Board at their October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and would like a projector and screen to use.

**11 Bellow, LLC:** There was a recap of the site visit. The Board directed Hilma to email town counsel to ask what the advantages and disadvantages are of renegotiating the HCA with True Cannabis given that it has become obvious they intend to transfer the farm to another entity. Information also needs to be sought about how the new state regulations will impact the HCA and the town benefits going forward. There are also questions regarding how the developer agreement will be coordinated with another entity operating the farm.

**Salt Shed:** The landscape architect has asked for up to a possible additional \$1,500 to pay for the extended research to evaluate related aspects of location of a new salt shed. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve up to an additional \$1,500 for extended research done by the landscape architectural firm.*

**Special Municipal Employees:** A complete list of all municipal positions will be sent out to the Board members for review and preparation for discussion at the following meeting.

**Power Outage Letter:** Following review of an email from the Fire Chief, the Board agreed that a letter should be sent to National Grid stating concern about the eight-hour power outage that had occurred on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Tri-town Landfill:** DEP agent Dan Hall had called to notify the town that the federal government, beginning on July 1, 2024, will require that the monitor wells be tested for PFAS contamination. The

town will receive official notification in January. He recommended that the testing engineer be contacted for costs associated with this additional test. Hilma will notify the towns of Charlemont and Hawley to inform them.

**FCSWMD Update:** Elissa reported that she had spent time speaking with Jan Ameen to get more familiar with the role of the FCSWMD to the town. She also stated that the town was sending single container hauls, and it was mentioned that the town may save money if two containers were hauled at the same time even if one was not full. Hilma will follow up with the Highway Superintendent.

**Unfinished Business List:** It was requested that a date be added to each update, that there be a second section to list what items had been finished, and that it was put on the agenda for each meeting.

**Fall Meeting Schedule:** The Board set tentative meeting dates for the months of October, November, and December with meetings held every two weeks, unless an additional meeting was needed. It was decided that topics will not be discussed, nor appointments be held, unless information was received before the agenda is posted so that the Board has time to review it before a meeting.

**Executive Session:** The Board reviewed a written complaint regarding a municipal employee. An executive session will be scheduled to meet with the named employee.

**Mail:**

- National Grid re: pole hearing documents
- SB/HAS re: letter in support of senior foot clinic
- RPC re: salt shed update
- N. Anzuoni re: illegal burning issue
- Tim Lively re: MEMA meeting report
- Tim Lively re: CH parking and lower doorway issues—Robyn will contact “Mister Gutter” to ask about fixing the gutter on the north side of Community Hall.
- B. Viarengo re: availability of ADA assessment firm
- M. Freeman re: senior patio committee update
- National Opioid Settlement statement of disbursement—The Board discussed the possibility of having posters made of various crisis hotline information.
- Lt. Gov. K. Driscoll re: invitation to listening session
- FCSWMD re: August processing of recycling report
- KP Law re: eUpdate-Change to Standards for Investment of Trust Funds

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

**10:10 p.m. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.***

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator