

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**SELECT BOARD**  
Jacobs Road Municipal Center  
November 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.

The meeting was recorded.

**Review Agenda:** Rural Aid Education bill and Snow Plowing were added.

**Review of Minutes:** *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of November 7, 2023, as presented.*

**6:06 p.m. Pole Hearing—State Farm Road:** A representative from National Grid explained that the plan was to install eight new utility poles along this road and remove three old poles that no longer conformed to the distance standards between poles. Some of the poles are needed to extend service to a parcel of land where a new house is scheduled to be built. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the placement of eight new utility poles and the removal of three obsolete poles.*

**6:15 p.m. Tax Classification Hearing:** An email was read from Director of Assessing, Alice Wozniak, recommending a single tax rate for the entire Town. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve a single tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024 as recommended.*

**Public Comment:** Pam Porter spoke as the Building Use Committee chairman stating that the committee recommended that the Community Hall remain open through the winter unless it can be shown that there will be more than \$1,000 in savings by closing.

Marie Forster, 3 Flagg Hill Road, asked what the Community Hall is used for. Robyn gave a brief overview in response,

**Boards' Clerk:** *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept with regret the resignation of Alice Wozniak from the Boards' Clerk position.*

It was requested that Alice review the job description and comment on any suggested changes. The Select Board briefly discussed the possibility of combining this position with other work such as the Office Assistant and/or Highway clerical work. More discussion will be held before posting the position for applicants.

**Salt Shed Feasibility Study:** Brian DeVriese, who has continued to work on this project, was at the meeting to discuss the study reports. He has received the cut and fill numbers for possible construction of a new salt shed. After analyzing the two sites for possible construction, the landscape architect did not recommend rebuilding on the current site. There remain several pieces of the entire

plan where more information is needed before forming a conclusion. Robyn said she would begin forming a list of the various options for construction of a new salt shed, highway garage and fire house in different locations that are possibilities. Brian said he will send the file of the latest revision of a fire house design.

**Exit Interview:** Alice Wozniak, who had just resigned from the Boards' Clerk position, discussed her impressions and experiences of the work. Much of the time during her tenure had been spent updating the various webpages for the boards. She also sorted and filed old records. Alice also expressed concerns about the Temporary Occupancy Permit process and the inability to access the file with the owners' information.

**11 Bellow, LLC:** In an email from town counsel, it was noted that the HCA states that it will end at the "election" of the Select Board. If there is no formal action to terminate the agreement, it will continue. The Board agreed to continue discussions with 11 Bellow, LLC, and the Planning Board. There needs to be further study and understanding of how the new state regulations will impact the Town and future allowance and negotiations with cannabis businesses.

**Community Hall Window Fundraising:** Five more residents had sent emails expressing interest in appointment to the fundraising committee. The Board decided they would consider the residents in the order in which each email was received. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Janis Carr, Gloria Cronin Fisher and Jean Gran as members to the Community Hall Window Fundraising Committee.*

**Community Hall Building Needs:** The Board reviewed a work estimate from Mr. Gutter in the amount of \$1,370. It was requested that the company be asked what their protocol is if there is more work uncovered when they remove the old fascia board. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve Mr. Gutter to replace the broken fascia board and gutter on the north side of Community Hall.*

**Community Hall and Sawyer Hall Mold Remediation:** The Board reviewed two quotes that had been received. A third company has viewed the work and may submit a quote as well. An insurance claim will be filed so it is unknown when work can commence.

**Community Hall Winter Status:** Sue had researched utility costs for use of the building for the period of December 2022 through March 2023. The totals were: Oil--\$2,700; Electric--\$696; and Propane--\$413. Sue also noted that the estimate for draining the water pipes and then reopening them in the spring was approximately \$500. It was noted that closure could be one of two different options. The first would be to drain the pipes and not have any heat in the building. Concern was expressed as to whether this would affect the curing of the new flooring. The second option would be to drain the pipes but keep a minimum level of heat in the building. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

**Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) Proposed Assessment Amendments:** The Board reviewed a letter of invitation that will be sent to the MTRSD administration to join the Select Board and Finance Committee in a round table discussion in January. Hilma will contact Ken Roche with an invitation to this discussion and ask about his availability. *On a motion by Susan Lively and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the letter of invitation with a definite date to be determined later.*

**Rural Aid Education Bill:** Many towns in the MTRSD have sent letters of support to state legislators. Hilma will prepare a letter for the Board to review.

**Snow Plowing Concern:** The Board discussed situations of large objects, such as trailers or vehicles, that are parked near the edges of roadways. There is concern that these may interfere with snow plowing and clearing the roads this winter. An email of concern will be sent to the Police Chief asking him to speak with any residents where he notices such a situation.

**Mail:**

- National Grid re: petition for pole locations
- Mr. Gutter re: Gutter repair quote for Community Hall
- A. Wozniak re: Boards' Clerk resignation
- J. Gran, J. Carr, S Litchfield re: volunteer to serve on the fundraising committee
- W. Cudnohufsky re: salt shed preliminary plan design commentary
- FCSWMD re: scrap metal revenue, changes in battery recycling, proposed FY25 budget
- A. Gobi re: rural check-in & letter to Lt. Gov. Driscoll in support of aid to rural communities

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

**9:50 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