

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
December 5, 2023

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

Others in Attendance: See attendance sheet.

The meeting was recorded.

Review Agenda: Snow Plowing was added.

Review of Minutes: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Susan Lively, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of November 21, 2023, as amended.*

Public Comment: Pat McGahan commented that the Facilities Task Force report was a thorough and unbiased report and she asked why it was not referred to as plans were formed to address building needs.

Bob Gruen reported that he had observed Mr. Gutter trucks and employees at the Community Hall for a brief period today.

Elissa Viarengo thanked those who had hung holiday decorations around the town center.

Execute FY20 Community Development Block Grant Program Revision Form—Because of the recent repayment to the program, there are more funds that can be used to fund another home project if the deadline is extended for another six months. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Susan Lively, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve extending the FY20 Community Development Block Grant Program until June 30, 2024.*

11 Bellow, LLC: In an email exchange with the attorney, it was learned that the key owners of 11 Bellow and True Cannabis had met and discussed proceeding with development of the initial cannabis farm. They had also held a phone conference with Planning Board chairman, Doug Mason. Elissa is going to have a follow up conversation with Doug to get his perspective on the conversation.

Salt Shed Feasibility Study: On Thursday Bob McGahan will meet with a representative from Iron Horse, a company that constructs salt sheds. They will view the current site so that the company can give an approximation of cost. It was also mentioned that Robyn is working on cut-and-fill cost estimates.

6:15 p.m. Discussion with Finance Committee and Ken Rocke Regarding Proposed MTRSD District Agreement Changes: Several members of the discussion group expressed concern about the narrative in a recent newspaper article that School Committee Chairman Martha Thurber stated that she was consulting legal counsel to determine if the proposed district

changes could be enacted without a vote of all the towns. Hilma stated that at a recent meeting with Superintendent Stanton, she had reported that the administration was consulting with DESE to see if the proposed changes need to be presented at the 2024 town meetings of each district town since the stated start-dates will have expired. The Town will ask for clarification about this matter.

Ken noted that there had not been a common set of facts agreed upon so he questioned how productive a discussion would be to the process. It was agreed that Town officials should have more understanding into the process used to calculate the assessments for the district towns. Ken offered to teach a series of small workshops for Select Board and Finance Committee members, at a slower pace than his previous presentation, the different components that are used in the calculations. If there is a deeper understanding of the process, it will lead to better informed voters at town meeting.

This offer was met with a favorable response. It was decided that Ken and Hilma will set a schedule of four dates for workshops with each lasting 90 minutes. Once set, an email containing the information will be sent to the other seven district towns with an invitation for two to three officials from each town to join Heath. Research will be done to see if there is an easy method to video record the training so that anyone who is unable to attend in person will be able to gain the same information through the recordings.

Community Hall Window Fundraising: The Board reviewed a charge and overview document which included the scope of the committee's responsibilities and the process for submitting monetary gifts. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Susan Lively, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Community Hall Window Fundraising Committee Charge and Overview.*

Community Hall Building Needs: Workmen from Mr. Gutter came to briefly view the work that was needed.

Community Hall and Sawyer Hall Mold Remediation: An insurance claim has been filed. The adjuster made a site visit, took pictures, and will send the pictures, his report and the two estimates for repair to MIIA to see how they would like to proceed. It is a question whether it will be listed as one collective claim or two individual claims.

Snow Plowing Concern: Sue will contact the Highway Superintendent to see where things stand in terms of a contract with Saladino Landscaping.

Mail:

- K. Rocke re: Questions regarding MTRSD agreement change proposals.
- FRCOG re: Andrea Woods' retirement celebration—Hilma will draft letter of appreciation.
- P. McGahan re: salt shed, fire, and highway garages
- HAS re: request to address large object close to road.
- Library Trustees re: Library Behavior Policy
- C. Rabbitt re: November Town Nurse report
- N. Anzuoni re: Will Emmet volunteerism—Letter of appreciation will be sent.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 19th, 6:00 p.m.

8:29 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