

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Monday, February 26, 2024

Called to Order at 4:00 p.m. With Robyn Provost-Carlson, Susan Lively, Elissa Viarengo and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator.

Others in Attendance: Jonathan Diamond, Laura Iveson, Judith Roberts

Hilltown Youth Performing Arts (HYPA): Robyn gave a recap of the first joint meeting and the request for a reduction in rent from \$30,000 per year to \$20,000 per year. There was also a brief history of the HYPA entering into a lease agreement with the Town. In determining a cost analysis Robyn reported that she had consulted with area realtors and business owners. She had also made calculations based on the short-term rental rates. The Board had agreed that \$30,000 was a fair price but they had not had an open discussion with the executives of HYPA.

Jonathan read an email from Matthew Glassman, HYPA visiting faculty, who emphasized that the performing arts program improves lives, has an economic impact to the area, and provide a vibrant center for the town. At the 2024 winter program there were approximately 15 out of 20 youth.

Both Laura and Judith are involved in other non-profit organizations in the area. Located in Shelburne Falls, the organization in which Laura is engaged rents 2,600 square feet of space for approximately \$1,000 per month. Judith is involved in the Literacy Project that rents approximately 2,000 square feet of space for \$1,600 per month in Greenfield. Rates for both of these spaces is approximately \$5 per square foot of space.

After review of various calculations based on different possible usage levels, the Select Board members each stated that they were willing to vote to offer a one-year lease for the annual amount of \$24,000, payable at an amount of \$2,000 per month due on the first day of each month.

The HYPA board members asked that they be sent a spreadsheet of the calculations so that they could review them and discuss the situation among themselves before making an agreement.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 27th, 6:00 p.m. Joint meeting with Finance Committee for Police, Fire, and Highway Departments budgeting hearings.

4:50 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