

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Town of Heath  
**SELECT BOARD**  
Jacobs Road Municipal Center  
Tuesday, July 2, 2024

**Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.** With Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator. Robyn Provost-Carlson was absent.

**Others in Attendance:** See attendance sheet.

The meeting was recorded.

**Review Agenda:** Ambulance agreement added.

**Review Minutes:** *On a motion by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of June 18, 2024, as amended.*

Review of the June 20, 2024, minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Order of Taking for Property along Rte. 8A by West Branch Brook Bridge:** The original vote to do a temporary taking of property was approved at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. This document is what needs to be filed at the Registry of Deeds. The property is needed to relocate utility poles outside of the Town's Right of Way. *On a motion by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the Order of Taking for property along Rte. 8A by West Branch Brook Bridge.*

**Franklin County Solid Waste Management District:** The Board reviewed the annual agreements for Hazardous Waste collection, Third Party Inspection of the Transfer Station, and the Hauling Contract. *On a motion by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the three agreements with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for FY 2025.*

**MTRSD School Committee Representative:** Budge Litchfield spoke with the Board to provide an update on activity within the school district. Foremost in activity is the sustainability study that is being conducted for both MTRSD and the Hawlemont School District. Tucker Jenkins will be the Town's new representative on the steering committee for the study. Budge explained that he has written and presented to BERK12, the entity that is conducting the study, a history of the previous six decades of Heath schools. He pointed out that Heath has experienced instability in educating its children that other towns in the districts have not experienced.

Budge stated that he would like to present an update to the Board approximately once a month to keep them apprised of activities and plans.

**Highway Superintendent Position:** Steve Thane and Kyle Jarvis joined the meeting. On June 27<sup>th</sup> Steve and Will met with Jeff Johnston to become informed regarding department passwords, professional contacts, orientation to the Ch. 90 website, and a list of jobs to be completed. There

was also conversation about the need to purchase a plow for the pick-up, a wing plow for the Freightliner and either one 40-foot, or two 20-foot Connex container(s). Other issues discussed were vehicle repairs, truck replacement, and building a new entrance into the pit owned by Tom Danek.

Steve said he is willing to work 15-20 hours per week including being around on Fridays when Kyle is not at the Highway Department. The Board reviewed the list of duties that Will had written from the Superintendent's job description. Duties were assigned to either Steve or Kyle as appropriate. Most of Kyle's duties were ones he shared with the Superintendent. Steve and Kyle will develop an alternating on-call schedule.

***On motion by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Steve Thane as Acting Highway Superintendent for three months, for a maximum of 20 hours per week for an hourly wage of \$33.50.***

***On a motion by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve increasing the hourly wage of Kyle Jarvis by \$2.00 per hour for three months or until a permanent Superintendent assumes responsibilities.***

Will is contacting the New York county that the tractor was purchased from to obtain the title and get it registered. Representative Natalie Blais was contacted by Will regarding the possibility of developing other means by which people seeking to obtain their CDL license could do it without the expense of going to a particular training center. The cost of having to complete training by means of an expensive institution is thought to be a hindrance to many individuals who would otherwise qualify.

***Select Board Appointments: On a motion by Will Emmet and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Julie Smead, Virginia Mayer, Lorena Loubsky and Laura Holdsworth as Post Office substitutes.***

***On a motion by Will Emmet and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Dana Davidson and Kathy Stosz to the Historical Commission.***

***On a motion by Will Emmet and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Janis Carr, Gloria Cronin Fisher, Karen Brooks, and Robert Gruen as members to the Community Hall Windows Fundraising Committee.***

There are vacant seats on some of the boards and committees as well as one of the School Committee seats. Elissa offered to prepare a list and circulate a list of what positions are available.

***Community Hall Windows Fundraising:*** The Board reviewed the updates that had been made to the overview and charge for the committee. ***On a motion by Will Emmet and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the updated overview and charge.***

***Community Hall Update:*** The building has been opened although the kitchen remains closed since the dish sanitizer is still in need of repair. The second floor still needs thorough cleaning and furniture put back in place.

**Lawn Mowing Agreement:** *On a motion by Will Emmet and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept and sign the one-year lawn mowing agreement with Snow & Sons Landscaping.*

**Vincent Road Update:** Hilma provided a brief update of the conflicts that are presently occurring between property owners on Vincent Road which center around whether the first one-quarter of a mile of the road is private property or a statutory private way. The Board would like to ascertain if the court rules in the defendants' (including the Town) favor, can we get reimbursement for legal costs.

**Agreement for Ambulance Services:** *On a motion by Will Emmet and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept and sign the agreement for services with the Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Association for a fee of \$22,000 for Fiscal Year 2025.*

**Mail:**

- Order of Taking for Temporary Easement of Rte. 8A Land
- FCSWMD re: FY25 agreements for services, inspection, hauling
- Snow & Sons re: Mowing for Summer 2024
- CH Windows Fundraising Committee Overview and Charge
- D. Davidson re: Volunteer for Heath Historical Commission
- K. Stosz re: Volunteer for Heath Historical Commission
- A. Schwenger re: response on spools of fiber wire

**Next Meetings:**

Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

**8:18 p.m.** *On a motion by Will Emmet and seconded by Elissa Viarengo, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner  
Town Coordinator