

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Called to Order at 6:01 p.m. With Robyn Provost-Carlson, Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator.

Others in Attendance: See attendance sheet.

The meeting was recorded.

Review Agenda: No changes.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of July 30, 2024, as amended.*

Highway Department Update: Will reported that he and Steve want to develop a five-year road improvement plan. They will be driving across all the roads in order to write up a prioritized list. There were also questions about the steps through which invoices are submitted and processed by the accountant. Steve will reach out to David Stokes to get an updated Ch. 90 report of spending.

School Committee Representative Update: Budge Litchfield reported on three different areas that the school district focuses on in the summer.

Buildings: Custodians and administration are extra busy trying to ensure that the buildings are well maintained and ready to welcome students when classes begin. MTRSD looks for green energy solutions which includes the solar panels installed on the high school roof. Colrain Central School has had both window repair and insulation work done. Most projects involve outside funding sources. Then there needs to be money raised to pay up front for the project before reimbursement from a grant can be obtained.

Finances: FY 2024 ended with a \$290,000 credit for the year. It will be moved to Excess & Deficiency (E&D) funds and a revolving fund for tuition. The revolving fund is to cover the cost of any child who moves into the district mid-year and the cost was not included in the budget for the present year. Budge also spoke to the fact that the one bus the District owns has aged beyond reasonable repair. The School Committee is entertaining options of purchasing two or three big vans in its place. These would be more practical given the small size of the classes.

Staffing: Leann Loomis has resigned from her position as Director of Pupil Personnel Services. A replacement is being trained to fill the position. At the moment, overall staffing looks to be complete although, at times there are unexpected vacancies that arise.

Public Comment: None.

Community Hall Windows Fundraising: The current balance for the fundraising account is \$22,529.15. Bob Gruen asked that the committee be allowed to send out a general ‘thank you’ in the Heath Herald and on the Town website. They will continue as a committee but inactive unless further funds are needed. The Board commended the committee members for all the demanding work they had done with fundraising and with the concert.

Town Building Appraisal Project: Hilma reported that she had spoken with an area real estate appraiser, Kitchell Lee, about completing an appraisal for rental value of Sawyer Hall rooms. He stated it would be difficult to find comparables since there was little for comparison in the surrounding area. He gave an estimate for the work of a \$2,800 to \$3,200 fee. The Heath Historical Society had suggested the possibility of the Town conducting an auction for rental spaces. Town counsel responded that this process is not allowed for in the Law. Elissa, along with Alice Wozniak, had gone to view the former assessors' office and discussed which items were of no value to the Town and which had to be kept.

Hilltown Youth Performing Arts (HYPA) Lease Update: The rent is up to date and there are current insurance certificates on file, however, the lease remains to be signed. Robyn had suggested to HYPA that the lease be signed and then the Board would consider the nine requests that had been sent in an email. The Board agreed that there is significant importance of the program for those it serves, and it will be said if this matter cannot be brought to an agreeable conclusion by both parties. The Board was also in agreement that an email be sent to HYPA asking for a meeting, perhaps on August 26th. It is assumed that since there was no feedback on the content of the lease as it exists, HYPA has no issue with it but wants their other requests addressed. Robyn will write an email with the necessary information to make the HYPA Board aware of the Town's position.

Space Rental for Storage Request: The Town has received a request of interest for available space that would be adequate for storage of items needing about 1,100 square feet of space. There would need to be definite availability in the next few weeks. The Board discussed the possibility of officers of the Historical Society joining a meeting to discuss space availability.

Vincent Road Update: The Board held an executive session meeting with town counsel to discuss the Town's reply to the amended complaint. Counsel had drafted a response and had several questions regarding accuracy. There is some fact-finding that Hilma will complete and send the information to the attorney for incorporation into the response. Another executive session meeting was scheduled for August 21st, 4:00 p.m.

Salt Shed Progress Update: Robyn will join the landscape architects for a site visit to help firm up what their final site design will look like. The date has not been scheduled yet.

Mail:

- J. Diamond re: returned check
- K. Baringer re: salt shed site plans
- N. Wolf re: Historical Society rental proposal
- J. Hamilton re: request for nuisance dog hearing
- FCSO Regional Animal Control re: documentation & opinion on dog hearing—
- N. Anzuoni re: lease agreement of forestry firefighting truck—*On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Robyn Provost Carlson, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the lease agreement. Will Emmet abstained since he is a member of the Heath Fire Department.*
- D. Clark re: transfer station permitting
- RPC re: note to Highway Dept.
- C. Rabbitt re: July Nurse's Report

- FCSWMD re: July recycling expense report

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, August 21st, executive session

Tuesday, August 27th

9:00 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