

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Called to Order at 4:07 p.m. With Robyn Provost-Carlson, Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator.

The meeting was recorded.

Others in Attendance: See attendance list.

Review Agenda: Added: Review Palmeri Quote, Review Green Communities Annual Report, Community Hall Windows Fundraising, and Meeting Schedule.

Public Comment: Pat McGahan expressed concern that the wooden spools being used in the gym were creating scratches on the floor.

Will Emmet commended Town Clerk Mary Sumner for conducting a flawless election with integrity on the November 5th election day.

Highway Superintendent and Department Update: Superintendent Tyson Howard and Foreman Kyle Jarvis presented an update for the department. Truck and equipment preparation for the winter season is almost complete. Price estimates are being obtained for the most immediate of future projects of road repair. These projects include paving of Sumner Stetson Road, and chip sealing in the town center and Branch Hill Road. Leaves have been cleared from the roads, a collapsed culvert on Number Nine Road has been replaced, and the beaver activity on Route 8A has been remediated. There has been other work either completed or is being planned for next year.

The department was requested to evaluate the lower parking area at the Community Hall to see what is necessary to re-route the runoff of storm waters that freeze in the winter. There was also discussion about the drainage and unevenness of the roadway that provides entrance to the ramp at Sawyer Hall. Tyson stated that they will continue to evaluate feasible options for improvement.

Salt Shed Update: The last invoice has been received from Walter Cudnahofsky for site design services. This will be paid for by ARPA funds. If the firm continues to work on the construction project, a new contract will need to be drawn up and signed. The Highway Superintendent stated that a new gas tank is needed when it is relocated.

For the Fire Department to safely relocate tools and equipment that has been stored in the former Emergency Operations Center they need to procure two storage containers. These can be obtained using ARPA funds and located on the Jacobs Road property. An estimate of expenses is being prepared. Estimates for the demolition work will be obtained and compared with the cost of the department doing the work.

Indoor Pickleball Court: Pat McGahan presented a proposal to have an indoor pickleball court in the gym. It will require using a special tape to lay out the court. The expenses for the tape, a net, paddles and balls will be paid from a Parks & Recreation account. It was mentioned that the gym floor needs to be mopped after each use of the silks since the gymnasts use a powder on their hands which accumulates on the floor and causes slippery conditions. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the development of one or two pickleball courts in the JRMC gym.* Hilma reported that the Building Maintenance Coordinator will be refinishing the gym floor during the last week of November. The floor has not been refinished since the school was operating and now the finish has deep scratches. This area will be entirely closed for the week.

Appointment of Veterans Representative: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Gene Garland as Heath's Veterans Representative to the Pioneer Valley District and the Veterans Grave Officer.*

Rental Licensing: Revisions to the rental license for Hilltown Youth Performing Arts are in progress. Hilma will recontact the appraiser that the Board would like to engage to evaluate all possible rental spaces in town buildings.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of October 22, 2024, as amended.*

Community Hall Windows Fundraising: It was reported that, with recent donations, the total money raised is \$22,879.15.

Palmeri Electric Quote: The final phase of lighting exchange for JRMC is to have the high lighting in the gym and office corridor replaced with energy efficient fixtures. There are fifteen lights in the gym and fourteen lights in the corridor. This work would be covered under the Green Communities Grant. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the quote of \$15,600 from Palmeri Electric.*

Green Communities 2024 Annual Report: The Fiscal Year 2024 annual report had been prepared by FRCOG personnel and is ready for submission to the state office. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Green Communities Annual Report.*

Mail:

- P. McGahan re: documents for indoor pickleball request
- G. Garland re: volunteer to be vet's representative
- W. Mooney re: rental market evaluation
- K. Baringer re: salt shed project
- FCSWMD re: contract extension-- *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the contract extension.*
- Town Clerk re: Notice to Abutters, pole hearing
- D. Clark re: National Grid poles
- M. Thurber re: representative for paraprofessional union negotiations
- W. Lataille re: emergency capital expenditure

- 2Districts8Towns re: October update
- FCTS re: selection of municipal collective bargaining representative
- C. Rabbitt re: October monthly town nurse report
- S. Gruen re: PVMCD update
- MMA re: ARPA funds & obligation deadline
- LifePath re: new program director & annual meeting notice
- FCSWMD re: MRF Processing Recycling Expense for October
- FRCOG re: 5th Wednesday Rural Advocacy Session (10/30/24)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, at 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 21, at 4:30 p.m., Executive Session.
Thursday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m., Pole Hearing
Tuesday, December 3, at 5:00 p.m.

5:47 p.m. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hilma A. Sumner
Town Coordinator