

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Called to Order at 5:01 p.m. With Robyn Provost-Carlson, Elissa Viarengo, Will Emmet and Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator.

This meeting was recorded.

Others in Attendance: See attendance list.

Review Agenda: No changes.

Public Comment: Pat McGahan commended the Highway Department for its good job of road clearing after the last snowstorm.

Review Minutes: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of November 19, 2024, as amended.*

The November 21, 2024, minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Appointments: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Gale Hubley as a member of the Library Trustees until the next Annual Town Election.*

On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to appoint Ken Gilbert as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. This is a five-year term that expires June 30, 2029.

Transfer Station Annual Inspection: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept the annual inspection report of the transfer station.* The inspection was completed by Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District with no deficiencies found at the transfer station.

School Transportation Reimbursement Programs: School Committee Chairperson Martha Thurber had sent a request that towns send letters of support to Governor Healey encouraging legislation that would allow for transportation reimbursement when students attended out-of-district vocational schools. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to sign and send a letter of support for transportation reimbursement to Governor Healey.*

MLP Manager Search Update: The position was advertised in the Greenfield Recorder on November 23 and 30. It is also posted on the town website and there are posts at the town buildings. To date there have not been any applications submitted.

Community Hall Windows Update: The RFP for the renovation work needs a final proofreading. It will then be ready to send out to companies in the area that do restoration work and posted on the town website.

Salt Shed Update: Robyn reported that she expects to receive a proposal by the end of the week from Walter Cudnohufsky Associates for the site preparation and construction planning and oversight.

The Board reviewed a proposal for upgrade and relocation of the alarm system for 124 Branch Hill Road buildings. This does not include the electrical upgrade that needs to be done. *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept the proposal dated November 15, 2024, from Fire Equipment, Inc., for \$10, 947.41 to upgrade and relocate the alarm system at 124 Branch Hill Road.*

Appraisal Update: Hilma reported that the building appraiser had requested pictures and the assessors' property cards of the two buildings that he will appraise for long-term rental values. The pictures and links to the online assessors' cards were sent.

Hilltown Youth Performing Arts License Review: After review of the updates, the Board agreed that it was ready to send to the HYPAs directors for their review. It is anticipated that they will want to meet with the Board before signing.

FY 2024 Final Financial Report: Robyn summarized the latest report by stating that the Other Funds Expense Report now shows that almost all of the accounts now reflect a positive balance after several entries were reassigned to the correct accounts. Elissa and Will expressed their thanks for the many hours of work that Robyn and Hilma had spent helping to track down some of the errors or deposits that had not been credited to accounts. It was agreed that after a complete account expense report is issued there should be a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to review the new format of the VADAR reports.

Board of Health: Gene Garland, chairman of the Board of Health, presented an overview of the CPHS Regional Opioid Settlement Program. He explained that the amount of money that each town receives was determined by data from 2007 to 2016 about opioid usage reports of the CDC and shipment data from 2006 to 2014. The regional program allows all the towns who are participating to contribute their funds toward community programs. This year a pilot program was launched that engages three area agencies known for their work in helping people with opioid dependencies.

Gene also explained that the Board of Health has received two air quality monitors that will monitor air in real time. They would like to install both monitors with one located at Sawyer Hall and the other at JRMC. Each will be attached to the outside of the building where it can be protected from direct exposure to the elements and near an electrical outlet and close to Wi-Fi so that the readings will be immediately transferred.

Mail:

- K. Gilbert re volunteer to serve on ZBA
- G. Hubley re: volunteer to serve as Library Trustee
- Heath Library re: recommendations for G. Hubley

- HAS re: draft thank you letter to FCSO crew
- M. Thurber re: request for letter of support
- R. Viarengo re: his agreement with Cudnohufsky Assoc.
- N. Anzuoni re: Oct & Nov Fire Department reports
- S. Litchfield re: letter to Sen. Paul Mark's office regarding relocation charges
- D. Clark re; MTRSD sustainability questions
- S. Totino & W. Rheinheimer re: NGrid project
- J. Mirin re: NGrid project
- FCSWMD re: FY2026 proposed budget
- FCSWMD re: November recycling processing costs
- FCSWMD re: Hazardous Waste Collection Day data
- Opioid Task Forces re: introduction
- EOPSS re: grant recipients of Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program
- Cannabis Control Commission re: outline of reforms in law
- Senator Mark re: December office hours

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 10, at 5:30 p.m.

7:04 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