

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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: Add Trowbridge agreement with Town for trail.

Review of Minutes: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of April 29, 2025, as written.*

Public Comment: None.

Salt Shed Update: Trees that would be in the way for construction have been cut behind the salt shed. When the highway crew attempted to clean out the stone from the same area, it could not be accomplished because the ground was too wet. It is thought that the Fire Department personnel will be sealing up the doorway between the old EOC and the fire garage.

The Board discussed the options for switching the propane service to George Propane. The annual total gallons of propane purchased for the highway garage and the fire garage only total about 3,000 gallons per year. Because of the company's requirement of a 4,000-gallon-per-year minimum purchase, the Board will explore accounts with possible available funds to purchase the tank outright.

Sawyer Hall Repair Update: The holes in the ceiling and wall have been repaired. The repaired areas need to be repainted and then the work will be complete. Robyn will be contacting two masons to get estimates for repairing the porch brick wall. Outside painting is scheduled to begin on May 14th, weather permitting, by the Franklin County House of Correction painting crew.

Community Hall Windows Update: Robyn reported that it is difficult to find a company that will manufacture storm windows as large as the size needed for these windows. She is still researching options.

Town Buildings' Needs: Two quotes have been received from companies for replacing generators at four locations: Sawyer Hall, Community Hall, Fire Garage and Highway Garage. A third company will be looking at the sites to submit a quote. The immediate concern is to replace the generator at Sawyer Hall since it needs repairs to run properly.

Trowbridge Agreement: The Board reviewed an email from Tom Trowbridge stating that he was revoking the agreement he signed with the Town to allow a hiking trail to be cut through his property.

The work on the property was to be paid for with funds from a Woodlands Partnership grant that is being organized by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

FRCOG Charter Changes: Bob Dean, Director of Municipal Services at FRCOG, explained that when the organization was formed 28 years ago a charter was written and has not been updated since that time. There are sections in the charter that are no longer applicable and should be updated. Updates are needed to ease the transition for new leadership staff that will be assuming positions as some present administrative staff members retire in the next several years. A FRCOG staff member will be present at town meeting to give an explanation and answer any questions that voters may ask.

ATM Warrant Discussion: Moderator Eric Sumner and Town Clerk Mary Sumner joined the meeting to review the warrant articles and the Article 3 operating budget handout. The tables for the Finance Committee members will be set up at an angle so they will be more visible to both the moderator and the Select Board. Eric thinks he will be able to borrow a wireless microphone to use for any voters who prefer to remain in their seats to speak. Bill Fontes volunteered to be the runner during the meeting and bring the microphone to different people.

Mary reported that she has details planned for the Annual Town Election that will be on May 9th. Polls will be open between 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the Town of Heath 2025 Annual Town Meeting warrant and the Fiscal Year 2026 Article 3 operating budget.

Mail:

- FRCOG re: Agreement for inspection and zoning enforcement-- ***On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve and sign the FRCOG agreement.***
- Palmeri Electric re: Generator replacement estimate
- MTRSD re: operating procedure for distinguishing capital costs from operating costs
- Mass-Care re: updates on house and senate bills
- J. DeRose re: April 14th meeting follow-up

Next Meeting: May 6th

7:06 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