

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Heath
SELECT BOARD
Jacobs Road Municipal Center
Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Called to Order at 5:00 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 Minutes: *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of May 20, 2025, as amended.*

Public Comment: Greg Rode asked that clarification be given that the new brush truck is owned by the Firefighters Association and that it is this organization who is having difficulty getting the vehicle registered.

Lemelin Well Water: Paul and Alice Lemelin joined the meeting and explained that they had a well drilled in 2023. The water was tested on three separate occasions, each time with comparable results. Findings for sodium and chloride were both high. The well depth is 500 feet, and, after the initial test results, the driller did a fracking procedure. The test afterwards yielded approximately the same results on the water test.

One possible solution would be to install a reverse osmosis system that would purify the water. The Lemelins have asked the Town to pay for a second well to be drilled in a different location on their property. The total estimated cost would be \$26,665 with approximately \$10,000 of that amount paying for a truck roadway to access the area. The Select Board will research the history of well water contamination around the Highway Department buildings and include the remedies that were made for other homeowners. The Lemelins gave permission to the Select Board to speak with their well driller to obtain further information and ask what factors he had used in the determination of a new location.

Sawyer Hall Generator: The quote from Kinsley does not include the electric or plumbing work, the hook up of the remote alert, or disposal of the old generator. Robyn will contact one of the other companies who provided a quote to get more information from them.

Appointment with Tax Collector and Treasurer: Tax Collector Betty Nichols and Treasurer Kris Nartowicz joined the meeting to discuss the process of instituting a property lien when an owner owes back taxes. The lean process is enacted after tax payments are twelve months delinquent. This year Betty mailed out over 300 demand letters due to unpaid taxes. Once a lien is put on the property the responsibility for collection is passed to the Treasurer. Although Kris sends a series of letters to request payment, there is usually no response until the attorney sends a letter.

The process of notification of a lien has been changed by revisions in state law. A server now has to personally deliver notification papers to the property owner. The fee for the service is approximately \$80. It is not known whether the town can recoup the fee from the property owner when the taxes are paid.

On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to change the length of time for the lien process to be initiated four months after taxes are delinquent.

The demand fee that is charged for late taxes has been \$10 for many years although other towns have increased the fee. ***On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to increase the demand fee to \$25 effective July 1, 2025.***

Annual Appointments: The Board reviewed the FY 2025 list of appointments to boards, committees and other positions. Hilma will send emails to ascertain people's interest in being reappointed. It was agreed that Robyn will attain the Board chairmanship while Elissa will continue with the board secretary.

Hilltown Youth Performing Arts: Jonathan Diamond, Laura Iveson, and Judith Roberts spoke with the Board about the coming theatre performance, rental for property use, and the months of unpaid rent. Jonathan explained he thought he would only owe \$2,000 per month through March because of the upcoming RFP issuance. Response from Board members included that they are charged with making decisions for the betterment of the town while also managing town property. If HYPA's plan was to decrease the number of rooms, why didn't they vacate a room? Robyn proposed that the rent for April, May, and June be set for \$500 for each month and the group would reduce their use to two rooms. Beginning June 4th any use of the shared spaces will be charged at the block rental rate. This will continue through August and \$500 per month will be charged for the use of two rooms and the equipment closet.

The Board stated that cleaning up after use would be a firm policy and there were many areas of remaining debris outside that needed to be cleaned up. It was agreed that Jonathan, Laura, and Select Board members would meet this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. to walk the property and agree on what needs to be cleaned. The room that is being vacated is to be cleaned out of all belongings by the end of June.

RFP for Rental Spaces: Hilma will add a sentence about viewing spaces can be done by contacting her. A few slight changes need to be made for description of the rooms in Sawyer Hall. After the changes are made, Notices will go out to various locations to advertise the space availability.

Facilities Repair Report: The Board did a brief review of the updated report that had been prepared by Robyn. A more thorough review and discussion will occur at a future meeting.

Mail:

- P. Lemelin & BOH re: well water testing
- RPC & J. Diamond re: lack of rent payments
- P. McGahan & HAS re: outside HYPA debris

- Vet. Memorial Comm. Re: resignations— *On a motion by Elissa Viarengo and seconded by Will Emmet, the Select Board unanimously voted to accept the resignations of Jerry Gilbert, Pete Smith and Hormidas Lively.*
- Bldg Use Comm re: draft short-term advertisement
- M. Schofield re: municipal empowerment bill
- M. Thurber re: state legislature hearing on education bills
- D. Clark re: comments on 5/20 meeting
- D. Gordon (MLB) re: invitation to open house for Sheila Litchfield
- M. Cucchiara re: road signs shipped
- C. Rabbitt re: May Town Nurse report
- Sen. Paul Mark re: June district office hours

Next Meeting: June 17th

9:20 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