

# TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

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## MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:00PM.  
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

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**Called to order at 5:01PM** with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

*Others present included Tyson Howard (Highway Superintendent), Patricia McGahan, Ned Wolf (Finance Committee), Madison Schofield (Greenfield Recorder), Barbara Gordon, Robert McGahan (Finance Committee), Dena Briggs (Finance Committee), Nicholas Anzuoni (Fire Chief), Phoebe Walker (FRCOG), Tucker Jenkins (Board of Health), Gene Garland (Board of Health), Susan Gruen (Board of Health), Robert Gruen, Sheila Litchfield (Board of Health), Alice Wozniak (Finance Committee).*

**R. Provost announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.**

Review Agenda Added: Town of Colrain Surplus Vehicle Offer; Annual Town Report Dedication

**5:00PM Budget Hearing: Highway Department – Tyson Howard, Highway Superintendent**

T. Howard presented the Highway Department's capital expenditure requests to the Select Board and Finance Committee.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ARE REQUESTS ONLY AND HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED NOR DENIED FOR INCLUSION ON THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT.**

***Roadside Mower - \$12,000 - \$15,000***

The side arm mower that the Highway Department uses currently needs extensive repair, as does the tractor that it is attached to. The tractor that it is attached to cannot have a blower mounted on it, so roadside mowing currently requires two people: one to drive the tractor with the side arm mower and the other to drive the newer tractor with the blower on it. The new roadside mower would be attached to the newer tractor, along with the blower, therefore allowing roadside mowing to be done by one person. If a new roadside mower was purchased, the current tractor and attached side arm mower would be sold as surplus equipment. The repairs needed on the current tractor and attached side arm mower would likely cost just as much as the new roadside mower.

***Ford F350 (One-Ton) Truck with 8' Bed - \$89,374***

The current pick-up truck has a 6.5' bed. With the toolbox and fuel transfer tank installed, a sander does not fit. Plowing with the current truck is redundant as another truck must follow behind and sand. If the Ford truck with the 8' bed is purchased, a sander will fit in the bed with the toolbox and fuel transfer tank. This would allow another person to plow during snowstorms, cutting back on overtime costs. The

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Ford truck with the 8' bed can also be driven by anyone with a regular driver's license. The current pick-up truck would be given to the Fire Chief to be utilized as a chief's vehicle.

***Jacobs Road Municipal Center (JRMC) Parking Lot & Jacobs Road - \$184,250 – Grant Funding***

This project would include the repaving of both Jacobs Road and the Jacobs Road Municipal Center (JRMC) parking lot.

***Replacement of Overhead Doors - \$12,975***

The overhead doors at the Highway Department do not work as they should.

***Number Nine Road - \$242,550 - \$457,162 – Grant Funding or Chapter 90 Funds***

This project would include the repaving of Number Nine Road.

***Colrain Stage Road - \$209,765 – Chapter 90 Funds***

This project would include the repaving of Colrain Stage Road.

***East Main Street - \$24,650 – Chapter 90 Funds***

This project would include the repaving of East Main Street. The repaving would improve the drainage problems in front of Sawyer Hall.

***Sumner Stetson Road - \$166,805 – Chapter 90 Funds***

This project would include the repaving of Sumner Stetson Road.

T. Howard will be evaluating the culverts beneath all above listed roads and will be obtaining quotes from outside contractors for all culverts that need replacement/repair. M. Francesconi and T. Howard will be meeting with the engineering company who began work on designing the Burrington Road culvert in a couple of weeks. Pricing for the Burrington Road culvert replacement will be presented once it is available. M. Francesconi will be following up with the engineering company who is designing the 8A over Underwood Brook culvert replacement to solidify pricing and will present that as well once it is available. T. Howard was asked about the status of the Highway Department's surplus vehicles. He will be working on preparing them for sale. The Highway Department budget was reviewed. T. Howard requested a new budget line for \$3,000 to be used for non-Winter overtime. He noted that the amount of damage caused by non-Winter storms had been increasing in recent years. Jordan Lively's Flagg Hill Road maintenance proposal was reviewed. T. Howard noted that he did not have the manpower, money, or equipment to maintain the road himself. He will obtain quotes from outside contractors for the work.

***5:45PM Budget Hearing: Fire Department – Nicholas Anzuoni, Fire Chief***

N. Anzuoni resented the Fire Department's capital expenditure request to the Select Board and Finance Committee.

***Replacement of Overhead Doors - \$17,250***

The overhead doors at the Fire Department do not work as they should.

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The Fire Department budget was reviewed. N. Anzuoni explained that he had increased his budget for the purchase of new bunker gear for one of the new members.

### **Fire Department Fee Schedule – Inspection Fee Increase – Vote Anticipated**

A. Wozniak and N. Anzuoni expressed the need for an inspection fee increase and presented the fee schedule from the Fire Department in Colrain. They expressed their desire to have Heath's Fire Department fee schedule be consistent with Colrain's. A small percentage of the fees would be transferred to the Town as compensation for administrative work. Per State law, the fees needed to be approved by the Select Board.

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to adopt the Fire Department's fee schedule as presented.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

### **6:30PM Budget Hearing: Board of Health – Sheila Litchfield, Member**

*G. Garland called to order the meeting of the Board of Health at 6:30PM.*

G. Garland, S. Gruen, and S. Litchfield all made statements in support of the Town Nurse and the continuation of the position into future years. The Town Nurse currently provides residents with numerous services including medication management and wound care. The Town Nurse has extensive knowledge of the at-risk community in Heath. This allows the Nurse to aid in the mitigation of safety issues and help emergency services identify those who may need assistance in the event of an emergency. The Nurse can also be a source of comfort for grieving families. P. Walker explained that the funding that Franklin County towns allocate to public health is reported to the State by the FRCOG yearly as a part of their application for the Public Health Excellency (PHE) grant. This grant is used to fund many of the Community Public Health Service (CPHS) programs, including some of the ones that Heath participates in. If Heath was to decrease the amount that is spent on public health, i.e., decreasing/removing the Town Nurse position, the Town would no longer be eligible for those programs through the CPHS. Select Board and Finance Committee members asked questions, and all were satisfied with the responses given.

*The meeting of the Board of Health was adjourned at 7:32PM.*

### **Review Minutes: 02/10/2026**

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2026, as amended.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

### **Public Comment**

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W. Emmet expressed his gratitude towards local news outlets such as the Greenfield Recorder in their work to keep residents of Franklin County informed.

**Planning Board – Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment(s) Language – Vote Anticipated**

Tabled pending Zoning Bylaw Amendment(s) language from the Planning Board.

**Parks & Recreation Committee – Enforcement Order; PARC Grant FY '26 Next Steps – Vote Anticipated**

M. Francesconi explained that the Conservation Commission had approved David Cameron's (Wetlands Consultant) approach for the remediation of the enforcement order. D. Cameron will be sending M. Francesconi a quote and scope of work very soon.

The unanticipated financial requirements of the FY '26 PARC grant were reviewed by the Board. These requirements included the need for a survey and subdivision of the lot before the warrant article deadline on March 13, 2026. The Board expressed their gratitude towards the Parks & Recreation Committee for their work in maintaining public spaces, including their attempt at resurfacing the basketball/pickleball court in the center of Town. They agreed that resurfacing the court is important but explained that the Town cannot comply with the unanticipated requirements set forth by the grant.

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to forfeit the funds awarded through the Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs' PARC grant for fiscal year 2026.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

**Sawyer Hall Rental Proposal – Discuss Draft Lease Agreement Details**

Tabled pending a draft lease agreement.

**REVISED PROPOSAL – Green Communities Grant Project – Heat Pump/Mini Splits for JRMC Front Offices – Vote Anticipated**

Tabled pending additional information.

**Board/Committee Email Addresses – Discussion; Post Office Email Address**

M. Francesconi explained that the Chairmen of both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission had expressed their interest in having Town-owned email addresses. A. Wozniak expressed her interest in having one for the Zoning Board of Appeals as well. M. Francesconi will acquire prices for the email addresses.

**Community Hall Storm Windows – Replacement Updates**

R. Provost explained that she had reached out to a company who was considering building the storm windows. She will provide updates as soon as possible.

**JRMC Security Camera System – Discussion/Review – Vote Anticipated**

Tabled pending additional review.

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## **MTRSD/HRSD 2D8T Plan of Action – Discussion/Update**

No updates.

## **FRTS Proposed New School Building – Discussion/Update**

M. Francesconi explained that Richard Martin, Superintendent of Franklin Regional Technical School, would be attending the Select Board meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00PM to present the FY '27 budget and capital expenditures.

## **New Business: Town of Colrain Surplus Vehicle Offer**

M. Francesconi explained that the Town of Colrain had accepted the offer of \$8,500 for their surplus vehicle. She will work with the Colrain Town Administrator in drafting a Memorandum of Understanding.

## **New Business: Annual Town Report Dedication**

Members reviewed the list of previous years' annual town report dedications. Members will submit requests for the 2025 Annual Town Report Dedication to M. Francesconi.

## **Mail**

- W. Emmet re. Winter Storm FERN
- J. Lively re. Flagg Hill Road Maintenance Proposal
- A. Wozniak & N. Anzuoni re. Fire Dept. Inspection Fee Increase
- Council on Aging re. Town Nurse Position
- Board of Health re. Town Nurse Impact Report
- P. Walker (FRCOG) re. Regional Public Health Contributions
- B. DeVriese (Conservation Commission) re. Board/Committee Email Addresses
- D. Mason (Planning Board) re. Board/Committee Email Addresses
- JAMROG re. Town Offices Heat Pump System Install Quote 02/02/2026
- REVISED – NE Security Solutions re. Interior Security Cameras Proposal
- FCSWMD re. February 2026 Recycling Costs
- FCSWMD re. 2025 Recycling Cost Breakdown
- J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. RDP Fund Balance and Spending
- Mass-Care re. HCGIT Financial Crisis
- MassDPU re. Utility Agreement with MassDTC
- J. Atwood (FRCOG) re. FRCOG Updates

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 5:00PM

**Meeting Adjournment**

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*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 8:57PM.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mia Francesconi', is written over the typed name.

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator  
*Town of Heath*