

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 5:30PM.
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 5:41PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

Others present included Patricia McGahan (Heath Connects), Barbara Gordon, Robert McGahan (Finance Committee), Ned Wolf (Finance Committee), and Budge Litchfield (MTRSD School Committee Representative, Town of Heath).

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

Review Agenda

Added: Snow Day Pay

Removed: Sawyer Hall Rental Proposal – Discuss Lease Agreement Details

Review Minutes: 01/13/2026

Tabled.

Review Minutes: 02/17/2026

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by R. Provost to approve the meeting minutes from February 17, 2026, as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Public Comment

None.

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

A motion was made by R. Provost and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the language, submitted by the Planning Board, for three proposed amendments to the “Protective Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Heath” regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit(s) (ADU), Battery Energy Storage System(s) (BESS), and amendments to the “Definitions” section.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail Enforcement Order – Review Scope of Work & Cost Estimate – Vote Anticipated

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

M. Francesconi received a proposal from David Cameron of Fleetwood Environmental Solutions, a Wetlands Consultant, for his services during the remediation of the Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail Enforcement Order.

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by R. Provost to accept the proposal and scope of work from David Cameron, Fleetwood Environmental Solutions, for the remediation of the Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail Enforcement Order, dated February 24, 2026, for \$2,985, to be paid out of "Legal Fees."

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

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

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by R. Provost to accept the proposal from JAMROG for the installation of a heat pump/mini splits in the front offices at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center (JRMC), dated February 2, 2026, for \$29,926.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

JRMC Security Camera System – Discussion/Review – Vote Anticipated

M. Francesconi explained that the addition of three more security cameras would not increase the central station burglary alarm monitoring monthly fee.

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by R. Provost to accept the proposal from Northeast Security Solutions for the installation of three interior security cameras in the Jacobs Road Municipal Center (JRMC) dated February 12, 2026, for \$8,625, to be paid out of "School Building Use Revolving."

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

FRTS Proposed New School Building – Discussion/Update

None.

Northeast IT Annual Review – Next Steps/Budget Planning

Tabled pending discussion with Finance Committee.

Printer/Copier Replacement Proposal – Discussion

M. Francesconi received a request from an employee to replace the front office printer/copier. She was waiting for quotes from W.R. Baker Corporation and would present them upon receipt.

Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) Fund – Discussion on Project Ideas

Tabled pending discussion with Highway Department.

Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser – Discussion/Updates

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

None.

Highway Department – Overview/General Discussion

W. Emmet explained that he and the Highway Superintendent had come up with a new idea for roadside mowing, a sickle bar mower. They would be obtaining quotes as soon as possible. All States Construction will be coming out within the next couple of weeks to give updated quotes for the road paving projects that the Highway Superintendent had presented the week prior.

New Business: Snow Day Pay

M. Francesconi explained that she was asked about the possibility of paying employees on days where Town Offices and the Post Office were closed due to inclement weather. Members explained that they had previously allowed employees to either take these days unpaid or utilize accrued time. A policy would need to be adopted to pay employees in any other manner.

7:00PM Appointment: Budget Litchfield – MTRSD Discussion & Updates

B. Litchfield explained that many member towns were being faced with hefty increases in their MTRSD assessments. However, Heath was lucky and was assessed a minimal increase in comparison. The main factors driving increases for FY '27 are level-funded or decreased State and rural aid allotments, inflation in the cost of goods and services, astronomical increases in health insurance costs, and increased transportation costs. MTRSD will continue to work on budget cuts, though roughly twenty staff positions have already been removed. In calculating assessments, MTRSD utilizes a variety of factors including minimum required contributions (a State-required figure based on average property values and aggregate income), transportation costs unique to each Town, capital assessments, and above minimum contributions (an enrollment-based figure). He noted that combining the MTRSD and the HRSD could cut down on costs as less administrative staff would be needed. MTRSD would no longer be asking voters to consider elementary consolidation at special town meetings in the Fall of 2026 as this would not give voters enough time to familiarize themselves with the project. Members asked questions and all were satisfied with the responses given.

Mail

- J. Ameen re. Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) Fund Spending
- D. Mason re. Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Bylaws
- A. Wozniak re. Catalis (AssessPro) Subscription Services Quote
- Northeast IT re. IT Infrastructure Pathways Assessment
- D. Maly (Northeast IT) re. New Account Manager
- Northeast Security Solutions (NSS) re. Interior Security Camera Quote
- JAMROG re. Town Offices Heat Pump System Install Quote
- A. Wozniak re. Front Office Copier Proposal
- R. McGahan re. Pay Phone at Sawyer Hall
- N. Wold re. MTRSD Assessment

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

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- K. Stosz re. Heath Community Resource Fair
 - A. Hope re. Receiverships
 - Planning Board re. Proposed Warrant Article (Zoning Bylaw) for BESS
 - Planning Board re. Proposed Warrant Article (Zoning Bylaw) for Definitions
 - Planning Board re. Proposed Warrant Article (Zoning Bylaw) for ADU

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 4:00PM

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by R. Provost to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 8:15PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator
Town of Heath