

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 5:00PM.
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 5:04PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

Others present included Dena Briggs (Finance Committee), Edwin Wolf (Finance Committee), Alice Wozniak (Finance Committee), Wendy Whalen (Finance Committee), Tyson Howard (Highway Superintendent), Kyle Jarvis, John McDonough (Police Chief), Barbara Gordon, Stan Swiercz, Jesse Weigand, and Kate Barrows (Library Director).

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

5:00PM Highway Superintendent, Tyson Howard – Budget Hearing w/ Finance Committee (After 5:30PM); Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) Project Ideas; FY '27 Chapter 90 Apportionment

Members reviewed the list of approved spending categories for Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) funds, focusing on the replacement of the platform used to access the recycling container/bin at the Transfer Station. M. Francesconi would be obtaining quotes for a prefabricated metal platform and T. Howard would be obtaining quotes for a custom-built, wooden platform. Discussion was had regarding the salt shed and the lowering of the front face/opening. T. Howard explained that some trucks only had a few inches of clearance when lifting their dump bodies to deliver salt/sand this winter, so he did not think that lowering the front face/opening would be possible. Members agreed. M. Francesconi received a letter notifying the Select Board and Highway Department of the Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal Year 2027, \$377,713.67. Upon arrival of the Finance Committee, T. Howard presented updated quotes for the re-paving of Colrain Stage Road, Number Nine Road, and Sumner Stetson Road. Factoring in the Fiscal Year 2027 Chapter 90 apportionment, he noted that enough Chapter 90 funds were available to work on all three roads in the summer months. Most of the culvert work would be completed in-house. T. Howard withdrew his capital expenditure request for a roadside mower, noting that he and Select Board member W. Emmet were in the process of exploring another, more cost-effective option. D. Briggs stated that the Finance Committee recommended that replacement of the overhead doors in both the Highway Department and Fire Department be paid for using free cash and that the Highway Department wait one additional year to discuss replacing the pick-up truck.

6:00PM Police Chief, John McDonough – Budget Hearing w/ Finance Committee

J. McDonough stated that he has requested eighty additional hours of patrol time for his officers in Fiscal Year 2027. He had received numerous reports of speeding and reckless driving at specific times of day and felt that the additional patrol hours could help slow drivers down.

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Finance Committee – Budget Hearings w/ Highway Superintendent and Police Chief; General Budget Discussion with Select Board

Following the budget hearings with the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief, the Finance Committee discussed the Fiscal Year 2027 budget with the Select Board. The main topics of discussion included salaries, stipends, technology upgrades, maintenance/utility costs for Town buildings, short and long-term rentals, and the consolidation of accounts. The Finance Committee will meet with the Select Board again at the end of March.

Citizen’s Petition – “Resolution in Support of “Act Establishing Medicare for All” – Review/Approval for Inclusion on Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Vote Anticipated

S. Swiercz presented his petition for inclusion on the Annual Town Meeting warrant entitled “Resolution in Support of Act Establishing Medicare for All” noting that the passage of this Act could significantly reduce health insurance costs in Massachusetts. If it is passed at Annual Town Meeting, the Select Board will write a letter of support.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to include the petition entitled “Resolution in Support of Act Establishing Medicare for All” on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Liquor License – Decide if an Event needs a One-Day Special Permit

An email was received from a person who would be having their wedding at the Heath Fairgrounds in September asking if they needed a liquor license to serve alcohol at the reception. The alcohol would not be for sale and would be served “open bar” style by a TIPS-certified server. M. Francesconi had reached out to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) who had advised that the requirement for a liquor license in this scenario was at the discretion of the Select Board. E. Viarengo and R. Provost agreed that a liquor license would not be necessary.

Route 8A Over Underwood Brook Culvert/Small Bridge Project – Discussion re. Easements

A warrant article would need to be included on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for permission to move forward with obtaining necessary easements. Town Counsel was working on drafting letters to the property owners and would be keeping the Select Board in the loop.

FY ’26 Department of Ecological Restoration (MassDER) Culvert Assessments – Review Proposal to Evaluate Culvert Conditions in Heath; Letter of Support

An email was received from a company named Geosyntec requesting a letter of support from the Select Board for their proposal to MassDER to conduct culvert assessments in Heath and surrounding Towns, free of charge.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to sign the “Letter of Municipal Support for Culvert Assessments under the FY26 MA DER Ecological Restoration Technical Service Master Agreement.”

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

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Board's Clerk Resignation – Discussion & Acceptance – Vote Anticipated

Tabled pending discussion with the Board's Clerk.

Appointment of Library Substitutes – Molly A. Lane and Caitlyn Irene Semanie

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to appoint Molly A. Lane and Caitlyn Irene Semanie to the position of Library Substitute effective immediately.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Meeting Minutes: 01/13/2026 (ES)

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to accept the open session meeting minutes from January 13, 2026.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Meeting Minutes: 02/24/2026

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to accept the meeting minutes from February 24, 2026, as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Meeting Minutes: 02/24/2026 (ES)

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to accept the open session meeting minutes from February 24, 2026.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants

Members reviewed and signed the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

New Information/Updates

None.

Public Comment

None.

Mail

- K. Barrows re. Library Substitute Recommendations for Appointment
- C. Graves (HCGIT) re. FY '27 Health Insurance Costs
- C. Garland re. Letter of Resignation
- MassDOT re. FY '27 Chapter 90 Apportionment

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- J. Hobert (ABCC) re. Liquor Licensing Recommendation
 - J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. RDP Fund Spending
 - L. Cregan (Franklin Land Trust) re. Meeting with Select Board
 - Citizen's Petition "Resolution in Support of "Act Establishing Medicare for All"

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 5:00PM

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 9:51PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Respectfully submitted,



Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator
Town of Heath