

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 4:30PM.
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 4:31PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

Others present included Barbara Gordon, Bill Fontes, Art Schwenger (Franklin County Technical School, School Committee, Heath Member), Ned Wolf (Finance Committee), Devon Clark, Alice Wozniak (Finance Committee), Dena Briggs (Finance Committee), Wendy Whalen (Finance Committee), Kyle Jarvis, and Richard Martin (Franklin County Technical School, Superintendent).

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

Review Agenda

Added (New Business): National Grid 1019W1 Project; Heath Elementary School Sign

Meeting Minutes: 03/24/2026

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the meeting minutes from March 24, 2026, as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants

Approved by signature.

Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser – Review/Discuss Statement of Quality, Memorandum of Understanding, and Bill of Sale

W. Emmet explained that he had test driven the surplus cruiser with the Fire Chief, Nicholas Anzuoni, over the weekend. He noted that N. Anzuoni had driven as he (W. Emmet) was not insured by the Town of Colrain, but he had ridden along. The surplus cruiser performed well on different road surfaces; however, when driving on paved roadways, a hum could be heard from one of the wheels that corresponded with road speed. W. Emmet believed that this could signify a failing wheel bearing. Having inspected the underneath of the surplus cruiser, he noted that the exhaust piping was intact, but corroded, and wear bars were visible on all four tires. The Colrain Police Chief, who happened to be present, believed that the Town owned an extra set of tires for the vehicle. The emergency lights would need to be switched from blue to red and the vehicle would need to be inspected as the inspection sticker was expired. The trunk of the vehicle had a lockable cabinet that would be ideal for fire equipment. The rear seats were fiberglass with a cage between the front and rear seats, so additional equipment could be

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stored there. N. Anzuoni had stated to W. Emmet that the vehicle would work for him. Members will make edits to the Bill of Sale and Memorandum of Understanding and present them at the next meeting.

Lease Agreement Next Steps – Hilltown Youth Performing Arts; Valerie Isaacs; Heath Historical Society; Carin Freeman

M. Francesconi explained that Hilltown Youth Performing Arts had not had a chance to send their edits to her, but they had confirmed receipt of the final draft lease agreement and explained that they would be submitting edits, and April's rent, very soon. Valerie Isaacs had expressed concerns about some of her painting supplies being considered hazardous materials, so the Fire Chief was looking into State regulations and would be submitting recommendations very soon. V. Isaacs was in the process of obtaining the required insurance. M. Francesconi did not yet have draft license agreements ready for the Heath Historical Society or Carin Freeman.

New Business: National Grid 1019W1 Project

M. Francesconi explained that some of the drill trucks that were being used to install the new poles for the National Grid 1019W1 Project had been blocking roadways without a road detail or closure. The Highway Superintendent had been informed of a four-day road closure once the road was already closed. Given that the Select Board had been firm with wanting a week's notice, at least, ahead of closing roads for this project, she had reached out to Robert Ide, the Lead Community Manager at National Grid, who had suggested that the Town send out a generalized alert, notifying residents that they should avoid Avery Brook Road for the next forty-five days as work continues. He had also informed her that, moving forward, the Project Manager would be sending weekly updates with planned road details/closures to her, the Highway Superintendent, and the Police Chief. B. Gordon stated that she did not believe that National Grid was complying with their Order of Conditions issued by the Conservation Commission as she didn't believe the Commission had been notified of the work and she didn't believe that the backfill being used was local, as required. M. Francesconi will follow up with the Commission.

New Business: Heath Elementary School Sign

Hilma Sumner, the former Town Coordinator, had informed M. Francesconi that she had instructed Jason Clark of Clark's Custom Paint to have the Jacobs Road Municipal Center sign complete by May 1, 2026. H. Sumner had also informed her that the Highway Department would be removing the current sign the following day as J. Clark would be attempting to use the material for the new sign. Members expressed concern as they did not recall seeing a final design or a price for the sign. M. Francesconi will follow up with J. Clark.

5:00PM Richard Martin, Franklin Regional Technical School (FRTS) – FY '27 Budget Presentation

R. Martin handed out the FRTS budget book to the Board. He explained that Heath's enrollment rates at FRTS are steadily rising, with the cost-per-pupil being \$9,243, and Heath's enrollment being 19 students, the total operating assessment for Heath in FY '27 would be \$175,613. The new lottery system that was adopted may affect enrollment rates in future years as Heath is only allocated two slots per year; however, if other Towns don't use all their allocated slots, there is always the possibility that

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additional Heath students would be accepted. He stated that most of the budget increases for FY '27 were directly correlated to rising insurance costs, increased retirement contributions, and a lack of Chapter 70 funding.

5:30PM Finance Committee – Review/Discuss Draft Budget & Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Members welcomed the Finance Committee.

FY '27 Budget – General Discussion; Review/Discuss

Members reviewed the draft budget with the Finance Committee, with discussions focusing on building maintenance costs, stipends, and legal fees. The Special Projects line item was removed, so additional money was placed in the building maintenance/utility lines. A quote for lawn mowing was reviewed, and additional money was placed in the lawn mowing line. The Building Maintenance Coordinator was allocated two additional hours per week, and the legal fees line was decreased in hopes that ongoing litigation would slow down in the coming year. Stipends were reviewed, with further discussion being tabled to the following meeting.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Review/Discuss

Members reviewed the draft Annual Town Meeting warrant with the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee took a unanimous vote to recommend all warrant articles, as amended, except the budget article, as it is not finished, and the Town of Rowe late bus article, which will be removed.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to recommend all Annual Town Meeting warrant articles, as amended, except the budget article, as it is not finished, and the Town of Rowe late bus article, which will be removed.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Public Comment

None.

Mail

- N. Anzuoni re. Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser Transition
- D. Parsons re. Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser Status
- D. Parsons re. Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser Bill of Sale & Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- J. Rush re. 2D8T Educational Visioning Community Convening
- S. Lively re. Curbs & Walkways at Jacobs Road Municipal Center
- M. Muller (Montague Webworks) re. ADA Compliance Report
- J. Eberwein re. 2D8T March Update

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 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 8:41PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Mia Francesconi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator
Town of Heath