

# TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

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## MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 5:00PM.  
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

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**Called to order at 5:00PM** with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

*Others present included Pat McGahan, Barbara Gordon, Dena Briggs (Finance Committee), Mary Sumner (Town Clerk), Eric Sumner (Moderator), Alice Wozniak (Finance Committee), and Ned Wolf (Finance Committee).*

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

### Review Agenda

#### Meeting Minutes: 04/07/2026

Tabled to the next meeting of the Select Board.

#### Finance Committee – Final FY '27 Budget, Final Annual Town Meeting Warrant & Warrant Recommendations

Members welcomed the Finance Committee.

**\*\*The Finance Committee called their meeting to order at 5:08PM.\*\***

#### FY '27 Budget – Review Final Draft; Vote to Accept for Inclusion on Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Vote Anticipated

E. Viarengo proposed that the Franklin County Technical School, School Committee member's stipend be increased to \$1000. Members discussed and decided to increase the stipend to \$800 rather than back to \$1000. She had spoken with the current School Committee member who had informed her of some requirements that she had not factored into her stipend analysis. R. Provost, D. Briggs, and A. Wozniak expressed their concern with the Board of Health's stipends being increased when all other stipends were either being removed, level funded, or lowered. They recommended that the Board of Health stipends be level funded. M. Francesconi explained that Phragmites and additional Japanese Knotweed was found at the Tri-Town Landfill. This would have to be factored into the budget as the eradication of these species would have to be completed by a specialist. D. Briggs proposed that the Landfill Expense line be increased by \$1,000. Members agreed to make these changes.

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve and recommend the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, as amended, and to include the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, as amended, on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

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**Motion Carries: 3-0**

***\*\*The Finance Committee carried a motion to approve and recommend the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, as amended.\*\****

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Review Final Draft; Select Board Recommendations; Vote to Accept, Sign, and Move to Post for Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election – Vote Anticipated**

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to accept, sign and post the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election warrant, as written.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

***\*\* The Finance Committee carried a motion to rescind their previous vote recommending all warrant articles on the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election warrant. They then carried a motion to recommend Articles 1 through 17 on the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election warrant.\*\****

**6:00PM Eric Sumner, Moderator & Mary Sumner, Town Clerk – Discussion re. Annual Town Meeting**

Members, E. Sumner, and M. Sumner, discussed the Annual Town Meeting warrant and the way Annual Town Meeting is carried out. A. Wozniak suggested that E. Sumner consider a different way to vote on the operating budget. She also expressed concern with the length of Town Meeting and how it relates to the number of younger people who attend. E. Sumner explained that he would like to propose the idea to Town Meeting and let them decide if they'd like to change the way that the operating budget is voted.

**Town Nurse – Discuss Next Steps & Position Posting – Vote Possible**

Tabled pending special Board of Health meeting on April 22, 2026, at 9:00AM.

**Office Assistant & Boards' Clerk Positions – Review/Discuss Next Steps; Job Descriptions**

M. Francesconi explained that M. Sumner had agreed to be the third person conducting the interviews for the Office Assistant position. M. Francesconi will schedule interviews with the current applicants. There were still no applicants for the Boards' Clerk position.

**Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser – Review/Discuss Vehicle Information, Memorandum of Understanding, and Bill of Sale**

Tabled pending additional information.

**FRCOG – FY '27 #2 Heating Oil, Gasoline, Diesel Bids – Authorize Town Coordinator/CPO as Contract Signatory – Vote Anticipated**

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*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to designate the Town Coordinator/CPO as the contract signatory for the Fiscal Year 2027 Heating Oil, Gasoline, and Diesel Collective Bid through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

**FRCOG – Fire Extinguisher, Alarm, and Sprinkler Testing/Inspection Services Bids – Review/Approve Bid; Authorize Town Coordinator/CPO as Contract Signatory – Vote Anticipated**

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to submit the Town of Heath's request for Fire Extinguisher, Alarm, and Sprinkler Testing/Inspection Services for the Collective Bid for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2029 through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), and to designate the Town Coordinator/CPO as the contract signatory for the same.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

**Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District – Approve Two-Year Membership Continuation – Vote Anticipated**

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the extension of the Town's membership with the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District (UPVVS) to July 1, 2028.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

**Highway Department – General Updates**

M. Francesconi stated that the electrical contractor would be working on running power to the salt shed in the first week of May. The street sweeper was able to be used throughout most of the paved roadways in Town, but it ultimately broke down. The Highway Superintendent would re-evaluate the need for a rental street sweeper after the rain in the coming days. If the rental of a street sweeper was necessary, he had found one for a good price. The Highway Superintendent submitted, and was granted, a Chapter 90 request for the paving of Colrain Stage Road.

**May, June, & July Meeting Schedule – Discuss & Set Dates/Times**

Members set their meeting schedule for the months of May, June, and July.

**Lease Agreement Next Steps – Hilltown Youth Performing Arts; Valerie Isaacs**

R. Provost will follow up with Jonathan Diamond about his edits to the draft lease agreement. M. Francesconi will be taking over the scheduling of Hilltown Youth Performing Arts block rentals. This will allow for a more streamlined process as M. Francesconi currently handles the block rental invoices.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Mail**

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- A. Schwenger re. Municipal Light Board (MLB) Stipends
  - D. Briggs (Finance Committee) re. Meeting Update
  - D. Parsons (Town of Colrain) re. Surplus Police Cruiser
  - L. Phelps (FRCOG) re. FY '27 Fuel Bids
  - L. Phelps (FRCOG) re. FY '27 Fire Equipment Inspection Bids
  - C. Demars (UPVVSD) re. Two-Year Contract Extension
  - T. Howard re. Salt Shed & Street Sweeping
  - D. Stokes (MassDOT) re. Chapter 90 Project Request Approval
  - R. Dane (Planning Board) re. Heath Center Park Kiosk
  - V. Isaacs re. Decision to Not Rent Studio
  - T. Lively re. Community Hall Storm Window & Elevator
  - J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. March Recycling Costs

**New Business that could not be anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting**

None.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:00PM

**Meeting Adjournment**

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 7:55PM.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 3-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator  
*Town of Heath*