

# TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

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## MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, April 28, 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 Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

*Others present included Pat McGahan, Barbara Gordon, Sabra Billings, and Devon Clark.*

**E. Viarengo announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.**

**Review Agenda:** Added: Route 8A Culvert/Small Bridge Project Easements; Jacobs Road Municipal Center Signage; Fall Special Town Meeting

**Meeting Minutes: 04/21/2026**

*A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve the meeting minutes from April 21, 2026, as presented.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 2-0**

**Select Board Annual Town Meeting Hand Outs – Review Final Draft Hand Outs; Approve Hand Outs for Distribution at Annual Town Meeting**

Members proposed their edits to the Select Board Annual Town Meeting handout. M. Francesconi will revise the handout prior to the next meeting when the handout will be finalized.

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

M. Francesconi had begun the process of scheduling interviews for the Office Assistant position. E. Viarengo noted that the Boards' Clerk position may need to be reenvisioned with discussion to continue at the next meeting when the full Board is present.

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

Tabled pending additional information.

**Lease Agreement, Hilltown Youth Performing Arts – Approve & Execute One-Year Lease**

*A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by E. Viarengo to execute the lease agreement between the Town of Heath and Hilltown Youth Performing Arts for the term beginning on May 1, 2026, and ending on April 30, 2027.*

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion Carries: 2-0**

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## **Community Hall – Elevator & Cupola**

M. Francesconi explained that the broken elevator part was fixed and was being shipped back to the elevator company from the State of Florida. She was waiting on a price for the repair and would follow up with the Building Maintenance Coordinator.

The Highway Superintendent had yet to hear back from the Town of Colrain's Highway Superintendent about the use of their bucket truck to remove the remaining two sides of the cupola trim.

## **Highway Department – Salt Shed; Taylor Brook Road Bridge; Street Sweeping; Colrain Stage Road Paving**

The appointment with the electrical contractor to run power to/wire the salt shed was confirmed and the Highway Superintendent would be renting a trencher to dig the necessary trenches.

The Highway Superintendent had called the contractor who was supposed to fix the Taylor Brook Road bridge and had gotten back onto the schedule. The contractor will follow up with a date.

The Highway Department began using a blower to blow excess sand off the roadways.

The paving contractor will begin the paving process on Colrain Stage Road on May 7, 2026. The Highway Superintendent believes that closing the road during the paving will be safer and more cost effective than closing one lane and hiring a traffic detail. He will follow up in the coming week.

## **5:30PM – Sabra Billings, Candidate for State Representative – Discussion re. Challenges with State Funding**

S. Billings explained that she is a long-time Franklin County resident with thirty years of experience in project management. In speaking with other local Town Administrators and school administration, she had been informed of a variety of issues that small, rural communities face in Western Massachusetts. She cited some of these issues as a lack of Chapter 70 funding for schools, a lack of general rural aid, the unfairness of the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program, the high cost involved with energy code compliance as it relates to the Affordable Homes Act, and a generalized lack of resources when compared to Eastern Massachusetts Towns/Cities. Members agreed that the Town of Heath is faced with many of these issues but emphasized the impact that the lack of Chapter 70 funding has in small communities.

## **HVAC – Sawyer Hall & Jacobs Road Municipal Center**

Tabled pending additional information.

## **Tri-Town Landfill – Clearing of Vegetation; Invasive Species Eradication**

Tabled pending quotes for clearing of vegetation and invasive species eradication.

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## **Public Comment**

B. Gordon stated that the blower that the Highway Department was using to blow excess sand off the roads had blown dust and debris onto the windows of her home and had blown gravel approximately twenty feet off the road and into her yard. She expressed concern that the use of the blower may not be the best approach for removing excess sand from roadways, especially given that after two passes of the blower, there was still excess sand on the road. She suggested that the Department rent a traditional street sweeper in the future.

## **New Business: Route 8A Culvert/Small Bridge Project Easements**

M. Francesconi explained that per Town Counsel, a metes and bounds plan would need to be created by the engineering company for the easement process to continue. She had been informed by the engineering company that the creation of the plan would cost the Town additional money and had emailed a bridge engineer at MassDOT to confirm that information. She will follow up when she receives a response.

## **New Business: Jacobs Road Municipal Center Signage**

M. Francesconi explained that the Jacobs Road Municipal Center sign will need to be completed and invoiced prior to the new fiscal year. W. Emmet will follow up with Jason Clark about his progress on the sign.

## **New Business: Fall Special Town Meeting**

M. Francesconi explained that the Fire Department has a new member that will need a waiver to be active on the Department over the age of sixty-five. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

## **Mail**

- DRAFT Annual Town Meeting Warrant & Budget Notes
- Hilltown Youth Performing Arts Lease Agreement FINAL
- Office Assistant Job Description, Approved October 26, 2021
- Boards' Clerk Job Description, Approved June 18, 2024
- Town of Colrain re. Surplus Police Cruiser Information
- W. Lattrell re. Taylor Brook Road Bridge
- B. Kovacs re. Property on Bray Road
- C. Curtis (DRWA) re. Letter of Support for Waterway Designations
- L. Cregan (Franklin Land Trust) re. Behl-Amter Conservation Restriction
- FCSWMD re. April Recycling Costs

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 5:00PM

## **Meeting Adjournment**

*A motion was made by W. Emmet and seconded by E. Viarengo to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 6:46PM.*

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**Vote: Unanimous**  
**Motion Carries: 2-0**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator  
*Town of Heath*