

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 5:00PM.
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 5:01PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), William Emmet (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present.

Others present included Barbara Gordon and William Fontes.

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

Review Agenda

Meeting Minutes: 06/02/2026

Tabled until the next Select Board meeting.

Accounts Payable/Payroll Warrants

Signed.

Public Comment

None.

Town Nurse Position – Discuss Next Steps

R. Provost explained that the applicant for the Town Nurse position withdrew their application. She suggested that the Select Board and Board of Health investigate the possibility of hiring a per-diem or contract nurse for a year which would give both boards an adequate amount of time to solidify what the tasks are that would be expected of the expanded Town Nurse position and to use that information to regrade the position. It would also give the boards additional time to explore other avenues such as entering into an agreement for shared nursing services with another town that already has a Town Nurse. Going with a temporary option for a year would also allow voters to consider a new amount of money for the position. R. Provost will inform the Board of Health of these ideas and invite them to the next meeting of the Select Board to discuss them further. The position will remain posted for the time being.

FY '27 Appointments – Make FY '27 Appointments; Vacant Positions & How to Advertise – Vote Anticipated

Members reviewed the FY '27 appointment list. M. Francesconi explained that she was still waiting on information from a few different people to complete the list. M. Francesconi will have a final appointment list ready for the next meeting.

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Retail Power Supply Pricing – Review Pricing; Authorize Town Coordinator as Signatory for Rate Acceptance – Vote Anticipated

R. Provost explained that the Town's current electricity supply contract expires in December, so the Town will need to draw up a new contract in the coming months. She and M. Francesconi met with the Town's consultants who explained that the market is unpredictable and suggested that the Board authorize the Town Coordinator to accept a new electricity supply rate on the Board's behalf if lower rates are suddenly proposed.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to authorize the Town Coordinator to accept a new electricity supply rate on the Board's behalf, at the recommendation of the consultants, provided that it is the lowest possible rate, for a period of up to eighteen months.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Transfer Station Rules – Advertisement/Posting of Transfer Station Rules

R. Provost stated that she had been informed that residents would like to be able to purchase bag tags/stickers at the Transfer Station. The Board had previously decided to not allow this, but she wanted to consult the full Board to ensure that this was still the consensus. Members agreed and discussed how best to advertise that bag tags/stickers are only sold at the Post Office and Town Coordinator's Office. M. Francesconi noted that it was written on the Transfer Station pamphlet, but it wasn't clear that it was a rule that bag tags/stickers would not be sold at the Transfer Station. E. Viarengo volunteered to edit the pamphlet to avoid any confusion. M. Francesconi explained that the Attendant had asked if the Transfer Station would be open on Independence Day as the only holidays on which the Transfer Station was closed, according to the pamphlet, were Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Members discussed and agreed that the Transfer Station should be closed on any holiday that is recognized in the personnel policy and that falls on a day that the Transfer Station is open. M. Francesconi will ask the Highway Superintendent to communicate this information to the Attendant and E. Viarengo will include it in the new pamphlet.

Salt Shed – Progress Update; Retaining Wall

No updates per M. Francesconi.

ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan – Priorities, Next Steps & Funding

R. Provost explained that she, M. Francesconi, and Brian DeVriese would be meeting with an engineering firm in the center of Town the following Monday to obtain a proposal for pricing-level plans to carry out accessibility upgrades and to conduct a feasibility study. She will update the Board after the meeting. The Highway Superintendent received a quote of approximately \$500 to chip/grind down the slate slabs on the Sawyer Hall ramp to level out the elevation differences caused by the settling/shifting of the slabs over time. This work is being scheduled and will be completed as soon as possible. The same contractor gave a quote of \$85,000 to completely reconstruct the porch, ramp, and stairs. Members noted that the engineering plans would be needed to get an accurate proposal, but they appreciated the estimate, noting that it was good to have a price range in mind when thinking of the project.

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Citizen's Petition Letters – Vote to Sign & Send – Vote Anticipated

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to approve, sign, and send the letters endorsing an "Act Establishing Medicare for All" per the citizen's petition that was approved by Town Meeting on May 9, 2026.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Tri-Town Landfill – Review & Accept Vegetation Clearing Quote – Vote Anticipated

M. Francesconi explained that she had only received one proposal for the vegetation clearing at the Tri-Town Landfill. Members reviewed this proposal.

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by W. Emmet to accept the proposal from Berkshire Hills Forestry Mulching LLC for the clearing of vegetation at the Tri-Town Landfill on Burrington Road, for one year, for a total of \$6,300 to be paid in three equal parts by each of the three towns: Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

Town Center Kiosk – Possible Locations; Update from Planning Board

Tabled pending inspection by Highway Superintendent.

Deerfield River Watershed Association – Wild & Scenic Initiative – Vote Possible

Tabled pending additional information.

Tax Title/Taking – Update from Treasurer

Members reviewed the tax title/taking spreadsheet supplied by the Treasurer and asked M. Francesconi to follow up regarding the timeline of tax title/taking as a whole.

Highway Department – Taylor Brook Road Bridge; Number Nine Road; Roller; Roadside Mower

M. Francesconi had no updates on the Taylor Brook Road bridge or roller. The Highway Department had begun replacing culverts on Number Nine Road in preparation for paving. W. Emmet had driven down to Pennsylvania and picked up a sickle bar mower for the Highway Department to use for roadside mowing. He would be installing it, free of charge, for the Highway Department so they could begin mowing as soon as possible. Members expressed gratitude to W. Emmet for this donation of his time.

Route 8A (Jacksonville Stage Road) Over Underwood Brook Culvert/Small Bridge

No updates.

Town Buildings – Elevator & Storm Windows (Community Hall); Heating System (Sawyer Hall); Roofing, Signage, Mini Splits (Jacobs Road Municipal Center)

M. Francesconi explained that the mini split installation was complete and she would begin working on the final grant narrative and obtaining reimbursement. She had no further updates.

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End of Fiscal Year

No updates.

Boards Clerk Position

No updates.

Carpenter Award

E. Viarengo had presented the Frank E. Carpenter Award ahead of the meeting to Olivia Brennan, a 6th grade student at Colrain Elementary School, whose teacher stated when asked why she should be presented with this award “Olivia is an exceptionally dedicated student whose commitment to doing her best work sets an example. She applies her wide background knowledge and her curiosity to all classroom activities. She has strong mathematical problem-solving skills, and consistently demonstrates deep analytical thinking.” Members expressed their congratulations to Olivia for this accomplishment.

Town of Colrain Surplus Police Cruiser

No updates.

Mail

- Board of Health re. Town Nurse Position Next Steps
- Board of Health re. Town Nurse Job Description
- Town of Heath Retail Power Supply Pricing Matrix
- T. Howard (Highway Dept.) re. Quote for FDR of East Main Street Section
- Citizen’s Petition – Medicare for All Support Letters
- Berkshire Hills Forestry Mulching Quote for Tri-Town Landfill Mowing
- K. Nartowicz (Treasurer) re. Tax Title/Takings Update
- E. Viarengo re. Town Center Kiosk & Planning Board
- A. Wozniak, P. McGahan & J. Lively re. Town Center Kiosk Property
- T. Howard (Highway Dept.) re. New Number Nine Road Paving Proposal
- W. Emmet re. New Holland Sickle Mower for Roadside Mowing
- T. Jenkins re. Professionalism, Public Discourse, & Community Engagement
- P. McGahan & E. Viarengo re. Padded Chairs for Community Hall
- K. Stosz re. Select Board & Town Coord. Participation in Heath Fair Parade
- S. Staton (MTRSD) re. MSBA Educational Profile Questionnaire
- J. Briggs (PVMCD Director) re. PVMCD Spring 2026 Newsletter
- J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. DEP Recycling Dividends Program Results
- J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. May Recycling Costs

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 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 8:04PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 3-0

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