



## Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
READING, MA.  
2023 JUN 21 PM 2:46  
GX

### Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Select Board

Date: 2023-05-23

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Final

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Jackie McCarthy, Mark Dockser, Karen Herrick, Carlo Bacci, Chris Haley

**Members - Not Present:**

**Others Present:**

Town Manager Fidel Maltez, Executive Assistant Caitlin Nocella, HR Director Sean Donahue, DPW Director Jane Kinsella, Assistant DPW Director Chris Cole, Bill Brown, Peter Kramer, Nancy Ziemplak, Heather Clish, Community Planning and Development Director Andrew MacNichol

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted By:** Executive Assistant Caitlin Nocella

---

### Topics of Discussion:

*This meeting was held in person and remote via Zoom.*

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

#### Public Comment

Bill Brown noted the preparation for Memorial Day will start tomorrow if anyone wishes to help. They will be putting the markers up by all the veteran's graves.

Peter Kramer expressed his dissatisfaction with non-ADA compliant port-a-potties in town.

Nancy Ziemplak asked the board to please support the RFP for a feasibility study for the Senior Center which is on their agenda later tonight.

#### Liaison Reports

Haley attended the Police and Fire badge pinning ceremony and the ribbon cutting for a new business on Haven Street.

Herrick attended a 101 birthday celebration for a veteran resident in town. She attended an MAPC update with our Economic Development Director Ben Cares in which they discussed MBTA Communities. She attended the RPD open house. She attended the Killam School Building Committee in which they heard from the firms bidding the project.

Dockser noted PAIR had their monthly meeting and they have a lot of activity going on and would love to have some more volunteers. He also noted the Police and Fire badge pinning specifically noting Tanya Jarzyniecki also received an award for her efforts at the Coalition.

McCarthy noted Board of Health met last week and they discussed the high presence of rodents this spring that they are keeping an eye on. They also got an update on emergency preparedness drills. They will be holding a hearing on updating their tobacco regulations and body art regulations.

#### Town Manager Report

Maltez thanked DPW for going out in their trucks and picked up scrap metal that was not picked up by our trash vendor. They believe they have gotten everyone's but if yours hasn't been picked up, please call DPW.

#### National Public Works Week Proclamation

Herrick read the proclamation.

**Herrick moved to accept the proclamation as presented. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### Arbor Day Proclamation

Herrick read the proclamation.

**Herrick moved to accept the proclamation as presented. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### Classification and Compensation Schedules Hearing

Herrick read the hearing notice opening the hearing regarding the FY24 Non-Union Classification and Compensation Schedules.

Human Resources Director Sean Donahue was present to answer questions.

**Dockser moved to close the hearing; with a second from Herrick the motion passed with a 5-0 vote.**

**Herrick moved to approve the FY24 Non Union Classification and Compensation Schedules as presented. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### Pride Month Resolution

Herrick read the resolution.

**Herrick moved to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Docker and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### Juneteenth Resolution

Herrick read the resolution.

**Herrick moved to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Haley and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### MBTA Communities Grant Letter of Support

Maltez explained they are asking the board for a letter of support for a newly created grant. The grant would provide up to \$100,000 for community outreach and technical assistance to achieve compliance of the MBTA Communities Legislation.



**Herrick moved to approve signing a letter of support for the MBTA Communities Grant as presented. Dockser seconded the motion and it was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### Water & Sewer Rates Hearing

Maltez gave the board a presentation about water and sewer rates and what the numbers would look like with a tiered system. The presentation can be found in the Select Board meeting packet on the town website. There will also be a public forum next Wednesday for residents with any thoughts/comments/questions about water rates.

The board will have more discussion at their next meeting.

**Herrick moved to close the hearing on the water and sewer rates. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### CPDC Committee Report

Director of Community Development Andrew MacNichol and CPDC Chair Heather Clish gave the board a presentation an overview of what CPDC has been up to lately. The presentation can be found in the Select Board packet on the town website.

#### Town Masterplan Next Steps

There was recently an instructional motion to instruct the Select Board to put together a committee to discuss a townwide master plan. The board discussed timing on when to form the committee and when it should get to work. They discussed forming the committee the end of the year for work to begin in the new year of 2024.

#### COLA Increase for Retirees

The board received a presentation and information regarding this request from Town Accountant Sharon Angstrom at their last meeting. It was noted again this is a one-year request for the retirees only. The board will now vote on that request.

**Herrick moved to increase the Cost of Living Adjustment (“COLA”) for Fiscal Year 2023 to up to 5 percent on the base amount specified pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 103, for retirees. The motion was seconded by Haley and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### Liaison Assignments

The board discussed their liaison assignments making some changes and noting that there a lot of boards and committees for them to cover. They also felt a few were unnecessary to keep on the list.

**Dockser moved to approve the Liaison Assignments as amended. The motion was seconded by Herrick and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### ReCalc Charge and Sunset Date discussion/vote

ReCalc is set to sunset on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. Dockser feels the committee may be needed in action for a little longer. As we go forth and do another RFP for a feasibility study, the committee may be useful. He would like to speak with the committee once more before voting but he would like to see them extended one more year if they agree as well. He would like to come back to the board at their next meeting for a vote.

#### SWEC Charge Discussion/Vote

At their last meeting the board was asked to discuss include new land in the SWEC charge. The map of the land is in the Select Board packet on the town website. The board discussed adding specifically the new senior center/community center to the charge. They also discussed how close this land is to the refile club and how that will impact what will go there.

**Herrick moved to revise purpose of the Symonds Way Exploratory Committee to include the area shown on Exhibit A (page 40 of the Select Board Packet). The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

Vote on issuing RFP for Feasibility Study for new Senior Center

Maltez explained in their packet is a copy of Newton's RFQ that can be a template for Reading to use. Dockser noted that since things didn't work out with 17 Harnden, this feasibility study should be done to find more potential sites that exist.

**Herrick moved to direct the Town Manger to issue a Request for Proposal for a Feasibility Study for a New Senior/ Community Center in Reading. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.**

Future Agendas

The board discussed future agenda items.

**Dockser moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Herrick and approved with a 5-0 vote.**