

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024**

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. for open session via Hybrid participation. Participating members were Mr. Wallner, Mr. Stuto, Mr. O'Leary and Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto. Ms. Manupelli was absent. A full recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheNorcam1>

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

SUBSECTION 3 - TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO PENDING LITIGATION AND THE CHAIR DECLARES THAT AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE POSITION OF THE TOWN (MICHAEL BAKER V. NORTH READING SELECT BOARD (DANGEROUS DOG – FLOYD))

SUBSECTION 7 – TO COMPLY WITH, OR ACT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF, ANY GENERAL OR SPECIAL LAW OR FEDERAL GRANT-IN-AID REQUIREMENTS (MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 22(F), (G) (2) TO REVIEW THE SELECT BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING DATES: 10/16/23, 11/06/23, 11/20/23, 12/04/23, AND 12/18/23; VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

AND TO ADMIT:

ATTORNEY JEFF BLAKE, KP LAW, TOWN COUNSEL

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH THIBODEAU

MOTION BY:	MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY:	MR. O'LEARY

VOTED BY:	MR. STUTO	AYE
	MRS. GONZALEZ	AYE
	MR. WALLNER	AYE
	MR. O'LEARY	AYE
	MRS. MANUPELLI	ABSENT

VOTE: 4-0 (1-ABSENT)

7:34 Chair Gonzalez reconvened in open session.

First order of business. **BOARD MEMEBER REPORTS**

Mr. O'Leary said that the Hillview renovations are progressing nicely except by being interrupted by the recent snowstorm.

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024**

Mr. Wallner said that the town census will be coming out soon and urged people to please fill out the new survey re: Transportation & Commission on Disabilities even if it does not apply to you. He is looking forward to the results.

The Forest Committee recently got some new information on the Swan Pond project from the consultant. They are happily anticipating bringing it back to the way it was.

Mr. Stuto- None

Ms. Manupelli- Absent

Chair Gonzalez reported on the Community Impact team's new free programs as follows: Noggins and Noodles that includes Setting Social Media & Digital Boundaries, Understanding how a Noggin Grows, Community Naloxone training, Mental Health First Aid and several more. Go to the CIT Website at:

<https://www.northreadingma.gov/community-impact-team/pages/events>

Next order of business. **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Stuto see Board Member Report

Ms. Gonzalez see Board Member Report

Mr. O'Leary see Board Member Report

Mr. Wallner see Board Member Report

Next order of business. **Review Updated Intersection Design**

Sam Gregorio and Dylan Skinner from TEC were present with an updated PowerPoint on Haverhill St. and Chestnut St. & North St. and Central St.

DPW Director Joseph Parisi and Town Engineer Dan O'Donnell were present as well.

Mr. Gregorio reviewed the updates to design in response to Select Board feedback from the last meeting. Since the Haverhill St. and Chestnut St. was well received he focused on North St. and Central St. He added they are at the final design and are preparing to go out to bid.

There was discussion of the second radar speed feedback sign, lack of speed cushions, work that will be done on Central Street, and the fact that the intersection does not qualify for a traffic light.

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024**

There were further talks about the radar signs and the calming issues presented.

The Select Board thanked TEC.

Mr. Gilleberto said they now intend to go out to bid

8:47p.m. there were reports of brownouts in the Town of North Reading. NORCAM was down and the meeting was now only available through zoom.

Next order of business. One (1) Central Street – Transaction / Special Town Meeting Update

Mr. Gilleberto stated that the Special Town Meeting warrant article hearing will be January 29, 2024 followed by the Town Meeting itself on January 30, 2024 at NRHS at 7:00 p.m. He added that the property is more than intriguing. It is dry and directly abutting town-owned property. Possibilities on what can be is a recreation center, intergeneration center or indoor recreation facility. No decision has been made.

Lieutenant Joseph Thibodeau updated on the power outages

Next order of business. FY 2024 Capital Project Funding - Update

Mr. Gilleberto provide an updated ARPA project status per the request of the Select Board.

Laurianne Galvin joined meeting at 9:07 p.m. She reported the total free cash is \$4,351,109.

Chair Gonzalez asked what the rest of the Select Board thought about this.

Mr. Stuto, Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Wallner agreed to ask for additional funding at the Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Gilleberto added that they are in good shape with free cash. It is on the high side.

There was discussion of the risk that a quorum doesn't attend Town Meeting, and the potential that the fire station could be delayed.

Pat Filmore, Fieldcrest Terrace. stated that we are looking for money on new projects when there is no decision on yet on other projects. We must have more money than God.

Chair Gonzalez requested all to please talk the Special Town Meeting up on social media. She also thanked the DPW, Public Works for doing a great job with the recent snow storm.

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024**

Next order of business. Recycling Committee

John Rogers and Dan Greenberg were present for the Recycling Committee and Mr. Rogers explained the request for the name change to Sustainability Committee.

The Board discussed the request and the work of the Committee.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AND FURTHER TO ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING CHARGE FOR THE COMMITTEE:

THE MISSION OF THE NORTH READING SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE IS TO ADVISE AND SUPPORT THE TOWN ON CLIMATE AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUES, TO PROMOTE EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS IN THE AREAS OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY, WATER CONSERVATION, GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS, A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TOWN FLEET OF VEHICLES, RECYCLING, COMPOSTING, EFFICIENT REUSE OF RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

MOTION BY: MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY: MR. O'LEARY

VOTED BY:	MR. STUTO	AYE
	MRS. GONZALEZ	AYE
	MR. WALLNER	AYE
	MR. O'LEARY	AYE
	MRS. MANUPELLI	ABSENT

VOTE: 4-0 (1-ABSENT)

Next order of business. Select Board Policy Updates – Discussion

Mr. Gilleberto wanted to start a conversation on policies. Some need updating and they will be

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024**

making recommendations on an ongoing basis

Next order of business. Public Comment

Rita Mullin, Abbot Road, urged everyone in town to show up for the LUC and Park and Rec on the 1 Central Street warrant article at the Special Town Meeting. She promised that it is in the best interest of the town to support this purchase. This land is extremely important to Parks and Rec and LUC. Please come to the meeting as we need 2/3rds vote. She thanked the Wheeler family for standing behind their parents wish to give the town responded that first right of refusal to purchase property at the cost they are paying taxes on only. Please help get the quorum and help not hold up the Wheeler family.

Next order of business. Appointments

Passed Over

Next order of business. Meeting Minutes

Passed Over

Acknowledgement of release of following Executive Session minutes as the purpose(s) of the executive session(s) have expired:

2/06/2017	SECTION 6	104 LOWELL RD
2/06/2017	SECTION 6	WINTER ST
2/27/2017	SECTION 6	104 LOWELL RD
2/27/2017	SECTION 3	DPW UNION
03/06/2017	SECTION 6	104 LOWELL RD
03/09/2017	SECTION 3	NONUNION
03/09/2017	SECTION 6	104 LOWELL RD

Acknowledgement of release of portions of the following Select Board Executive Session minutes, subject to any necessary redactions under the Public Records Law:

2/06/2017	SECTION 3	PENDING LITIGATION
2/06/2017	SECTION 3	SSBC LITIGATION
03/20/2017	SECTION 3	SSBC LITIGATION

Acknowledgement of review and continued non-disclosure of portions of the following Select Board Executive Session minutes:

2/6/2017	SECTION 3	LIBRARY UNION
2/27/2017	SECTION 3	LIBRARY UNION
2/27/2017	SECTION 3	HEALTH INSURANCE
03/06/2017	SECTION 3	HEALTH INSURANCE
03/20/2017	SECTION 3	HEALTH INSURANCE

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024**

03/20/2017 SECTION 3 FIRE UNION

Next order of business. Set Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Passed Over

Next order of business. Legal Bills

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE LEGAL BILLS FOR NOVEMBER, 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,798.05 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL	\$10,175.55
LABOR	\$ 1,292.50
20 ELM	<u>\$ 330.00</u>
TOTAL	\$11,798.05

MOTION BY:	MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY:	MR. O'LEARY

VOTED BY:	MR. STUTO	AYE
	MRS. GONZALEZ	AYE
	MR. WALLNER	AYE
	MR. O'LEARY	AYE
	MRS. MANUPELLI	ABSENT

VOTE: 4-0 (1-ABSENT)

Next order of business. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gilleberto reported that they have had no RFP's for filling the Conservation agent position yet. He is working to address temporary and long-term plans. Please contact him with any conservation issue for the time being.

He just received a text from Greg Fipps from RMLD. Downed tree branches have left several hundred people without power this evening, down to 38 now.

There was discussion about the Special Town Meeting for sewer. The target is late March or early April, but we are awaiting additional information from our consultants.

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024**

Last order of business. **ADJOURN**

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO ADJOURN.

MOTION BY: MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY: MR. O'LEARY

VOTED BY:	MR. STUTO	AYE
	MRS. GONZALEZ	AYE
	MR. WALLNER	AYE
	MR. O'LEARY	AYE
	MRS. MANUPELLI	ABSENT

VOTE: 4-0 (1-ABSENT)

ADJOURN: 9:49 p.m.

DATE



RICHARD WALLNER, CLERK