

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023**

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. via in-person and remote participation. Participating members were Ms. Manupelli, Mr. Stuto, Mr. Wallner, Mr. O'Leary and Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto.

**#1. Executive Session**

**#2**

Routine.

**First order of business. Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs)**

Mr. Gilleberto explained how the short-term borrowing worked and that they are in the mist of closing out the process. The bids go to the lowest bidder.

Maryann Mackay explained the four bids that were received.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE THE VOTES OF THE BOARD AS PREPARED BY BOND COUNSEL TO THE TOWN AND PRESENTED TO THIS MEETING, WHICH VOTES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FORMALLY AWARD THE NOTES TO THE LOW BIDDER DETERMINED AT A COMPETITIVE SALE HELD ON MAY 18, 2023, AND ESTABLISH THE TERMS THEREOF. THE FORMAL TERMS OF THE VOTES PREPARED BY BOND COUNSEL TO THE TOWN AND APPROVED BY THIS MOTION SHALL BE INCORPORATED IN THE MINUTES OF THE THIS MEETING.

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	AYE

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

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**Next order of business.            One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License – St. Theresa’s Church,  
63 Winter Street**

Mr. O’Leary wanted to disclose that the beautiful Ms. Nicole Coviello is his niece to be transparent and he is a member of Saint Theresa’s Parish. Ms. Manupelli & Chair Gonzalez also stated they are members.

Ms. Nicole Coviello & Ms. Jennifer Sullivan, who is TIPS certified were present to answer any questions. Ms. Coviello informed that this is the same event that they did back in 2020. She added they will be selling alcohol on June 23 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. To attend you will need a ticket but it is open to all.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO GRANT A ONE DAY WINE AND MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE TO SAINT THERESA’S CHURCH FOR AN EVENT TO BE HELD AT 63 WINTER STREET ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 5:00 P.M. AND 9:00 P.M SUBJECT TO ALL REGULATORY DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS.

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	AYE

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

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**Next order of business.            Update on Chestnut Street Ipswich River Culvert**

DPW Director Joseph Parisi, Town Engineer Dan O’Donnell, Sam Gregorio from TEC, Chief Michael Murphy, Lieutenant & Executive Officer Zimmerman were present to update on Chestnut Street Ipswich River Culvert. Joseph Parisi presented a PowerPoint. This has become a more prevalent issue and MASS Dot has rated the bridge at a #3 and informed it needs to be closed until repaired. He also defined the traffic impact and estimated costs. There is already an RFP out and they will be due to the DPW June 8, 2023.

Select Board members asked questions of Joseph Parisi on what the safety rating MASS Dot changed the stability of the bridge to means, the possibility to close Chestnut St. to all trucks and allow local traffic over the bridge and add a “no right turn” sign, or adding a large steel plate like are used in Boston, and if there were a temporary fix like concrete sleeves to avoid a total road closure especially if this could be a 2-3 year project.

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Mr. Stuto left room 14 at 8:03 p.m. and returned at 8:06 p.m.

Chair Gonzalez asked for Joseph Parisi to get clarification on the MASS Dot rating for this project.

Joseph Parisi will get the answers to the Select Board questions and will schedule a workshop to respond.

Mr. Wallner left room 14 at 8:19 p.m. and returned at 8:22 p.m.

Abigail Hurlbut added that the original estimate for this project was \$3M and now is \$3.5M. If this projects gets pushed out more the price will only go up.

**Next order of business.      Discuss Park/Central Street Intersection**

Mr. Gilleberto said that 2 meetings ago the Select Board had some additional questions on the Park & Central St. intersection options. The Town of North Reading was able to get an updated traffic count by TEC, Inc.

Sam Gregorio from TEC, Inc. presented a PowerPoint and answered questions. He detailed that the traffic count is more accurate as he is reporting post-Covid numbers. The Town of North Reading is now eligible for a traffic light at this intersection based on these new numbers.

The Select Board questioned if a light was implemented could the 3 traffic lights on Rte. 62 be synchronized. Mr. Stuto also inquired if we could first use the temporary light suggested due to the Chestnut street project be a "trial" for a permanent light.

Ms. Manupelli thinks that there is enough information to add the permeant light with the data of 7/10 accidents.

Mr. Wallner asked for NRPD input.

Chief Michael Murphy feels the light is best and agreed with Ms. Manupelli that 7/10 accidents seals the deal for them. He also recognized that this will add more traffic especially during the Chestnut St. detouring. He will also look at the "NO Trucks" on Central.

Chair Gonzalez took a poll for a consensus.

MR. STUTO	IN FAVOR OF PEDESTRIAN LIGHT
MRS. GONZALEZ	IN FAVOR OF FULL LIGHT
MR. WALLNER	IN FAVOR OF FULL LIGHT
MR. O'LEARY	IN FAVOR OF PEDESTRIAN LIGHT
MRS. MANUPELLI	IN FAVOR OF FULL LIGHT

Mr. Stuto left room 14 at 9:19 p.m. and returned at 9:20 p.m.

Further discussion ensued.

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**Next order of business. Warrant Article Informational Hearing – June 12, 2023 Spring Annual Town Meeting. Receive Additional Information on Article 33 (Funds for Elderly/Disabled Needs Assessment and Transportation pilot) Vote Remaining Warrant Article Recommendations**

Chair Gonzalez read the Public Informational Hearing Notice.

Ms. Manupelli left room 14 at 9:20 p.m. and returned at 9:23 p.m.

Mr. Gilleberto noted that the Warrant Articles were mailed out and there was an error as it was missing the operating budget. There was 6 months of really hard work done on this budget and he wants the Town of North Reading to be able to view it. A corrected copy will be mailed out soon. He then went over the PowerPoint on the 35 Warrant Articles.

Please note that there are two errors on this PowerPoint. In Article #21 \$60K is for Municipal and \$130K is for the school. On Article #25 the description pages need to read article #25 not #24.

Joseph Parisi provided an update to Article #29 and how Subaru is not able to take care of this water issue on their own property due to hard ground water prohibiting the use of an underground solution. The only option is through a pipe on Town Owned Land Property and to discharge on private property at two addresses.

Ms. Manupelli asked if the engineer was paid for by the property owners.

Joseph Parisi answer yes.

Ms. Manupelli suggested we have our own people review the plan.

Mr. O'Leary asked if there another solution.

Ms. Manupelli said they do not have enough info. She voted no a few weeks ago and wants to know what is being diverted and rerouted into Martin's Pond and have Conservation weigh in on this.

Mr. Stuto agreed to a peer review.

Chair Gonzalez took a poll:

MR. STUTO	YES
MRS. GONZALEZ	YES
MR. WALLNER	YES
MR. O'LEARY	YES
MRS. MANUPELLI	NO

Lillian Hartman was present and provided a PowerPoint on Article #33 and took questions.

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Mr. Stuto wanted to make sure that people were not going to take advantage of the program and that they in fact have a need.

Ms. Manupelli asked about how many rides have been for medical and are there insurance reimbursement possibilities.

Mr. O'Leary confirmed that the bulk of the \$60K is geared toward transportation.

Christina M Gandolfo- 138 Chestnut Street "regarding the \$60K for a needs assessment that's specifically for senior services and the Elder Services Department because undoubtedly this is a necessary initiative and it's important for supporting our seniors but it raises a concern about the equitable distribution of resources across other departments. I recall Lillian brought up last Monday at the Youth Services Committee meeting that the pressing need for a similar assessment for the Youth services department which as you know has been completely shuttered. In light of this, it's perplexing to see resources allocated only sustainable Services follow the needs of not only our youth remain unaddressed. In addition it also brings to question the approach toward the needs assessments for other public service departments and are there plans in place to conduct AIDS assessments across all departments or is this a one-off decision for senior services. So many questions tonight are why has the needs assessment been specifically allocated for the senior services department leaving other departments including Youth Services overlooked. Moreover what is the plan if they're conducting these assessments across other public service departments to ensure that every demographic in our community is being geared to equitably"

Mr. Gilleberto replied that the request has come due to the fact that the current service is ending.

Mr. Wallner added that the needs assessment covers many needs of several demographics.

Ms. Manupelli also added the pilot program is being started due to the loss of services but specifically do not have the data of just the medical rides.

There was further discussion.

Diane Norris a member of the transportation Committee "I appreciate how frustrating this is as some of the data is from the pandemic expectation now but what we're looking at in North Reading is about 30% of the people are 60 or older so this is not a situation that we've lived with before and we're going to be having many people who just don't drive. I think that's one of the focuses of this committee. What's important for us to fund are there medical needs. I can tell you that some of the programs that are funded they do go to Boston hospitals but they're very restrictive and they only go between two and three hours so if your therapy lapses you're on your own to find your way home so it's not exactly the easiest system to use but I think the value of the assessment is to find out what people are doing. We can all bring our own personal experience and I said I drive I don't need anything that's not really reflective of the community and that's what we want with the assessment and as you said the rest of the money will go to kind of fill in what we've lost"

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Nick Mirlocca- "part of the program is to apply for a matching Grant I think that's correct if the probability is high to receive that matching Grant we're talking adds \$120K to the program I guess the main question is if that grants approved is all the money going to be earmarked towards this program is there a good place or a way to use it."

Mr. Gilleberto answered the town is hoping to be the beneficiary of a \$50K earmark in the state FY2024 operating budget secured by Representative Jones. Hopefully it will be able to be advocated for by Senator Tarr. The thinking is not to use both funding sources at least that's not my thinking but we won't know a final answer on whether that money is available to us until well into the month of July. It needs to be approved at the Senate level, it needs to be approved in a conference committee report which likely won't be till the very end of June. If history prevails then it needs to survive the governor's approval or a veto and then the veto being overridden. All those things have to break our way that won't all be resolved until probably the end of July or beginning of August in the meantime the program expires June 30<sup>th</sup>. We need to have the funding in place but the intention is not to spend both funding sources. The hope is we can rely entirely and only on that \$50K but it won't be immediately available so that's why we're pursuing this dual path

Abigail Hurlbut clarified that the \$50K that is earmarked is not a matching grant.

Rebecca Griffin- 4 Emerson Rd. is a member of the Commission on Disabilities & Transportation Committee said the survey is going to reach out to the Town of North Reading to find out the needs of the community. They do not want to assume they know the needs.

Christina M Gandolfo added 30% are 18 and under in Town of North Reading. Needs to cover more comprehensive.

Mr. Gilleberto said the pilot program and needs assessment are related to the MVRTA and he defers to the transportation committee to see about other demographics.

**ARTICLE 33 - FY2024 APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR ELDERLY/DISABLED NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT AND TRANSPORTATION PILOT**

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 33 - FY2024 APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR DISABILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND TRANSPORTATION PILOT.

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	AYE

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

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Mr. O'Leary, Chair Gonzalez & Ms. Manupelli all added comments

**Next order of business.            Integrated Contract – DPW – Teamsters, Local 25**

Mr. Gilleberto said that this MOA is the previously approved agreement

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO RATIFY AND SIGN THE INEGRATED CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF NORTH READING AND NORTH READING DPW UNION LOCAL 25 FROM JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024.

MOTION BY:	MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY:	MRS. MANUPELLI

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

**Next order of business            Public Comment**

None.

**Next order of business            Select Upcoming Board Meeting Dates**

After consultations the following Select Board meeting schedule has been set:

Monday, June 12, 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Monday, July 17, 2023

Monday, August 7, 2023

Monday, August 21, 2023

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 Sign Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Monday, September 18, 2023 Fall Annual Town Meeting Informational Hearing

Monday, October 2, 2023 Fall Annual Town Meeting

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Monday, October 16, 2023

Monday, November 6, 2023

Monday, November 20, 2023 Tax Classification

Monday, December 4, 2023 License & Appointment renewals

Monday, December 18, 2023 License & Appointment renewals

**Next order of business          Minutes**

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MINUTES AS WRITTEN FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES:

May 3, 2023

MOTION BY:	MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY:	MRS. MANUPELLI

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MINUTES AS WRITTEN FOR THE FOLLOWING DATE:

May 8, 2023

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	AYE



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VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

Mr. Wallner read the acknowledgements:

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

1/8/2018	SECTION 3	FIRE UNION
1/22/2018	SECTION 3	NUE AGREEMENT
1/22/2018	SECTION 3	OPIOID LITIGATION
1/22/2018	SECTION 2	NONUNION
2/12/2018	SECTION 2	NONUNION
2/12/2018	SECTION 3	NUE AGREEMENT
2/12/2018	SECTION 3	HEALTH INSURANCE
2/26/2018	SECTION 3	OPIOID LITIGATION
2/26/2018	SECTION 2	NONUNION
2/26/2018	SECTION 3	HEALTH INSURANCE
3/19/2018	SECTION 7	PRIVACY
3/19/2018	SECTION 3	HEALTH INSURANCE

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

1/8/2018	SECTION 3	SSBC LITIGATION
1/22/2018	SECTION 3	SSBC LITIGATION
2/26/2018	SECTION 3	SSBC LITIGATION
3/19/2018	SECTION 3	SSBC LITIGATION

**Next order of business**      **Review Warrant Article Assignments**

The Select Board returned to the previous agenda item #8 and set article assignments.

Ms. Manupelli 1-7  
Mr. Stuto 8-14  
Mr. O'Leary 15-21  
Chair Gonzalez 22-28  
Mr. Wallner 29-35

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**Next order of business.                    TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Gilleberto informed that the Town of North Reading is in the process of issuing the quarterly water and trash bills. The normal \$75 trash bill will be \$65 as a onetime reduction. It is a credit for the cost that were incurred. Also there is reduction of the overall cost of \$25K prorated for this fiscal year. We're going to monitor the performance of this program moving forward. We'll be back to the \$75 and we'll continue at that level in all likelihood through the course of the fiscal year. If there are changes either to the structure or the amount as I mentioned earlier they'll probably be reviewed as part of the budget process in the spring.

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

Mr. O'Leary – See you at the Annual Town Meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wallner – Serval events are upcoming: Saint Theresa's Block Party on June 23. Town of North Reading/Reading joint Juneteenth at the Reading Town Common on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Also on June 23<sup>rd</sup> there is the Annual Pride Parade at noon. He would like to announce the proclamation again and have it on the Annual Town Meeting agenda. Also the recycling Committee is thinking of expanding to more sustainability options in town. Ms. Manupelli said she won the "Most Spirit Award" at the last Pride parade and she challenged the rest of the Select Board for this year.

Ms. Manupelli – Reiterated that the opportunity to have some extra time on the Wastewater project with the Mass DOT and she still supports the idea to asked business owners and residents to "Take to the Streets" to get the word out on how important the project is. Chair Gonzalez supports this idea as well.

Mr. Stuto- None.

Chair Gonzalez- the CIT is holding a RAD Program on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. One needs to attend all dates. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Ipswich River Park. It is a great event

**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

Chair Manupelli see Board Member Report

\*Included in case a matter not reasonably anticipated by the Select Board needed to be discussed.

**Last order of business.                    ADJOURN**

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO ADJOURN.

MOTION BY:	MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY:	MR. STUTO

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

ADJOURN: 11:46 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD WALLNER, CLERK