

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. for open session via Hybrid participation. Participating members were Ms. Manupelli, Mr. Wallner, Mr. Stuto, Mr. O'Leary and Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto. A full recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheNorcam1>

Chair Gonzalez began with an apology for last meetings zoom bomb and the hate speech that occurred and informed that the North Reading Police Department are investigating the situation.

Mr. Gilleberto added that attendees in the zoom will be unable to unmute or turn on their cameras.

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

SUBSECTION 3 - TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IF THE CHAIR DECLARES THAT AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE POSITION OF THE TOWN (ALL UNITS; HEALTH INSURANCE)

AND TO ADMIT:

FINANCE DIRECTOR LAURIANNE GALVIN
HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR ROBERT COLLINS
POLICE CHIEF MARK ZIMMERMAN

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)

First order of business. Public Hearing: Spring/Fall Annual Town Meeting Dates for 2024. Vote to Set 2024 Annual Town Meeting Dates

Chair Gonzalez read the Hearing Notice.

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Mr. Gilleberto gave a brief update about the plans for this year's Spring/Fall town meeting dates.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION BY: MR. O'LEARY
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, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN OF NORTH READING CHARTER SECTION 2-4-1, I MOVE TO SET THE DATES FOR THE 2024 TOWN MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

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)

Next order of business. March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election. Vote to Sign Warrant

~~Sue Duplin went over her website that~~ Town Clerk Susan Duplin reviewed a webpage on the Town website that has all the information needed for voter registration and the upcoming voting opportunities.

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MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO SIGN THE MARCH 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION WARRANT.

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

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. **BOARD MEMEBER REPORTS**

Mr. O'Leary- Informed the Board that the Superintendent of the Northeast Metro Tech reports that the District has secured additional funding for the school building project resulting in a \$23 Million-dollar savings on the project.

Mr. Wallner-None

Ms. Manupelli- Congratulated NOTEorious for their win and added they will be moving on in the ICHSA competition in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Stuto- wanted to applaud on how things can be done on time.

Chair Gonzalez- The Community Impact Team will be showing the movie "Beautiful Boy" which is about a father and son relationship regarding drugs and it is so good. The Viewing will be February 28th and it will include dinner and will begin at 5:00 p.m. for dinner and movie will start 7:00 p.m. there will be discussion afterward. It will be at the NRHS DLL and people can sign up online. March 7th there will be a Bullying and cyber bulling presentation with Dr. Englander presenting. Peabody Court ~~is~~and the Housing Authority are still searching for a new director. Chair Gonzalez recently had the pleasure in accompanying Chief Donald Stats and Mr. Gilleberto for a ceremonial singing of the Regional 911 agreement.

Mr. O'Leary asked when it will be implemented.

Mr. Gilleberto replied in September of next year.

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Chair Gonzalez asked for the Select Board members to think about who would like to be on the NRAS, DPW and Library Negotiations teams.

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. Dollars for Scholars. Vote to Approve Proclamation

Mr. O'Leary gave a brief introduction about this annual phone-a thon to raise money for this long running scholarship program. This year May 11th -24th will be the week calls will be made.

Chair Gonzalez added people can also go online and donate now.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO PROCLAIM MARCH 11-14, 2024 AS NORTH READING DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS WEEK.

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

Mr. O'Leary read the proclamation.

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. Review Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 Audits

Laurianne Galvin went over a PowerPoint. She explained that they had an auditor for 20 years and he retired. The company Melanson did the audit in 2021 and they were bought out by Markum in 2022. The auditor for 2023 started today. There is a different process since Covid. She reviewed the PowerPoint.

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Mr. O'Leary applauded her and her staff for the miniscule findings.

Chair Gonzalez added that they are lucky to have her.

Next order of business. Federal Grant Policy / First Reading of Policy

Laurianne Galvin continued to go over a PowerPoint

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF THE FEDERAL GRANT POLICY FOR THE MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE TOWN OF NORTH READING.

MOTION BY: MR. WALLNER

SECONDED BY: MR. STUTO

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. Fiscal Year 2025 Revenue/Expenditure Plan Update

Mr. Gilleberto shared his screen. Scott Buckley, Donald Kelliher were present for Finance Committee and Dr. Daly and Rich McGowan via zoom. ~~Mr. Gilleberto reported that 1.3M from the Debt Service Stability fund has been transferred to balance the budget.~~

Laurianne Galvin ~~continued~~ reviewed the revenue and expense plan for Fiscal Year 2025.

Scott Buckley, 5 Aldean St. Chair of the School Committee: He said that Mr. Stuto, Chair Gonzalez, Dr. Daly, Laurianne Galvin, Mr. Gilleberto & Rich McGowan have been working together on the challenges. ~~Free Lunches has been hiding systemic problems and years of free cash have helped~~ Utilizing Free Cash for one-time expenses has helped alleviate financial problems. The labor market is changing. This is the first time since he has been on a committee that they did not finish a contract negotiation within the year. They want to give a fair wage to all their employees and keep in line with other districts. They used to have 30 people apply for a job and now they have 2 or 3. Even specialized positions are not being filled within a school year. The challenges are just getting higher and higher. In looking at the 3 budgets. In Budget 1 there is a

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change in revenue source, Budgets 2 is the same as last year, & Budget 3 the school side makes cuts and he is not comfortable making cuts and would prefer to change the revenue structure. He thinks they should ask the Town of North Reading resident what they want.

Chair Gonzalez said a change of revenue means override.

Mr. Buckley responded that yes but to maybe spread it out over 5 years. There has not been a budget override since 2003. The goal is not to put a burden on people and to do it gradually. 83% of the school budget is salaries.

Mr. Stuto agrees with Mr. Buckley that both boards owe it to the public to let them decide. He said we need more money and prices are going up. He said we owe it to the town to be honest. "Cost is only an issue in the absence of value" He added that for the shortfalls it should be put to a vote

The Select Board further discussed what added budget issues need considering.

Chair Gonzalez added that it was a good discussion and thanked the Select Board, Donald Kelliher and Laurianne Galvin.

Next order of business. Wastewater Project Update

Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Wallner recused themselves per advice of counsel. They reserved the right to participate as town residents. Joseph Parisi joined. Laurianne Galvin left the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Temporary recess commenced at 10:18 p.m. Recess ended at 10:20 p.m.

Mr. Gilleberto wanted to provide an update on a few items. He had a meeting with to other local Town Administrators involved in this project. They hope to have a conclusion very soon. They are still looking at the MassDOT project and will continue to see if it makes sense or do our own contract. The work being done on a cost analysis is concluding soon with FXM and Kleinfelder. He hopes to bring the info back to the Town of North Reading to consider by the March 4th meeting.

The Select Board discussed further options with Mass Works and MassDOT and the possibility of an earlier STM. They will also consider extending the Wastewater project committee terms. Mr. Gilleberto said no new news has occurred but he hopes to have answers for the March 4th meeting.

Next order of business. Wastewater Project Committee. Vote to Extend Term

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~~The Select Board discussed further options with Mass Works and MassDOT and the possibility of an earlier STM. They will also consider extending the Wastewater project committee terms.~~

~~Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Wallner returned at 10:43 p.m.~~

MADAMADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO AMEND THE CHARGE OF THE WASTEWATER PROJECT COMMITTEE TO END DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND EXTEND THE TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2024:

- TIMOTHY M SUTHERLAND
- STEVEN CORREALE
- VICTOR HUI
- VINCENZO STUTO
- STEPHEN CASAZZA
- JEFFREY GRIFFIN

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

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VOTED BY: MR. STUTO TIMOTHY M SUTHERLAND, STEVEN CORREALE,
VICTOR HUI, VINCENZO STUTO, STEPHEN CASAZZA & JEFFREY
GRIFFIN

MRS. GONZALEZ TIMOTHY M SUTHERLAND, STEVEN
CORREALE, VICTOR HUI, VINCENZO STUTO, STEPHEN
CASAZZA & JEFFREY GRIFFIN

MR. WALLNER ABSTAIN
MR. O'LEARY ABSTAIN

MRS. MANUPELLI TIMOTHY M SUTHERLAND, STEVEN
CORREALE, VICTOR HUI, VINCENZO STUTO, STEPHEN
CASAZZA & JEFFREY GRIFFIN

VOTE: 3-0 (2-ABSTAIN)

Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Wallner returned at 10:43 p.m.

Next order of business. Discussion: Use of Virtual Meeting Technology (Zoom)

Chair Gonzalez asked for this to be put on the agenda, it has been discussed before and due to the recent zoom bombing ~~and~~ she wanted to revisit the discussion. She would like to vote on not continuing using zoom. Town of North Reading is the only town around using zoom still. She suggested using it occasionally if a Select Board member cannot attend a meeting.

There was a conversation regarding the continued use of Zoom.

It was suggested to ~~hire an outside contractor to~~ bring in additional help to run the zoom portion of the meeting.

Chair Gonzalez said she will do research on why other towns are not using it. The Town Administrator will talk to IT and Laurianne Galvin.

Next order of business. Public Comment

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Adam Austin- 403 Vanguard Dr, White Sands New Mexico- Said the Select Board has no obligation to allow public comment. North Reading Select Board should be commended for always allowing public comment even for their most vocal opponents. Listening to ridiculous troll's spew hate is terrible and it should be mitigated but participation in Select Board meetings is not widespread reducing the well- meaning Public's ability to participate. It is too high a price to pay to filter out "stupidity".

Valerie Schioyonne-7 Greenbriar Dr. Commented that she feels as though there needs to be more attention to having others participate without worrying about Zoom bombing and being able to hear and the echo in the room and all of these things three years post pandemic.

Mr. O'Leary said he is in favor of continuing zoom.

Paul Denaro-402 Park St. He made suggestions of how to try to get the budget balanced. He also wanted to add that the Select Board doesn't need a full-time person to run zoom.

Next order of business. Legal Bills

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE LEGAL BILLS FOR DECEMBER, 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,603.26 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL	\$ 9,887.76
LABOR	\$ 352.50
20 ELM	<u>\$ 363.00</u>
TOTAL	\$10,603.26

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

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

Next order of business. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gilleberto said that the upcoming storm for tomorrow has been downgraded twice since the beginning of the meeting. It is now just an advisory and not a foot of snow as was earlier predicted. Regardless, decisions and announcements have already been made regarding school and municipal closures.

Last order of business. ADJOURN

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO ADJOURN.

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

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS) ADJOURN: 11:35 p.m.

DATE



RICHARD WALLNER, CLERK