

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019**

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Chairwoman Manupelli called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. in Room B-15 at North Reading High School in the presence of members Mrs. Gonzalez, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Wallner, Mr. O'Leary, and Town Administrator Michael Gilleberto. Town Council Darren Klein was also in attendance.

**CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION**

Chairwoman Manupelli called to order open session at 6:06 p.m.

**VOTE TO APPROVE 2020 RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN**

Mr. Gilleberto states there is a 4.11% increase which is within the budget. Mr. Gilleberto further stated there are no plan design changes and Blue Cross Blue Shield will stay as the carrier.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE THE RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020.

MOTION BY: MRS. GONZALEZ  
SECONDED BY: MR. O'LEARY  
VOTED: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

**OCTOBER TOWN MEETING - VOTE REMAINING WARRANT ARTICLE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ARTICLE 2 – PRIOR YEAR BILLS**

Mr. Gilleberto states there are no prior year bills and he recommends passing over.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO PASS OVER ARTICLE 2 – PRIOR YEAR BILLS.

MOTION BY: MRS. GONZALEZ  
SECONDED BY: MR. O'LEARY  
VOTED: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

**ARTICLE 6 – APPROPRIATE MONEY TO PARTICIPATING FUNDING ARRANGEMENT FUND**

Mr. Gilleberto states there is no change in the number that was stated at the Select Board meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gilleberto further states that the total amount in the fund is approximately \$750 Thousand Dollars.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 6 - APPROPRIATE MONEY TO PARTICIPATING FUNDING ARRANGEMENT FUND.

MOTION BY: MRS. GONZALEZ  
SECONDED BY: MR. SCHULTZ  
VOTED: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

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**ARTICLE 7 - AMEND FY 2020 OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. Gilleberto states this article is for a transfer of \$125 Thousand Dollars from free cash for legal expenses regarding 20 Elm Street. He further states that no transfer is required for the establishing of an Executive Officer position in the Police Department.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 7 – AMEND FY 2020 OPERATING BUDGET.

MOTION BY: MRS. GONZALEZ  
SECONDED BY: MR. O'LEARY  
VOTED: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

**ARTICLE 10 - APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR SURVEY, ENGINEERING DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF A PORTION OF SWAN POND ROAD**

Mr. Gilleberto states this article is to fund the paving of a portion of Swan Pond Road by authorizing a transfer of \$175 Thousand Dollars from free cash to be matched by \$175 Thousand Dollars from the residents.

DPW Director Pat Bower and Town Engineer John Klipfel were in attendance.

Mr. Bower states:

- There are 4.6 miles of gravel roads that would cost approximately 2.3 Million Dollars to pave and \$28 Thousand Dollars to maintain.
- Swan Pond Road costs approximately \$3,350 annually to maintain.
- Maintenance costs of the dirt roads would be approximately 50% less if paved.

Mr. Schultz states:

- He is concerned the paving could be an “engineering nightmare” due to the width of the road.
- He wants a policy in place before appropriations are passed.

Attorney Klein states:

- Cost sharing could be done on a betterment eligible road.
- A policy will provide a consistent frame work to apply to this project and future projects.

Mrs. Gonzalez states:

- She attended a meeting with the residents of Swan Pond Road and didn't get the feeling that all residents were willing to contribute to the paving of the road.

Mr. O'Leary states:

- Put the Town's money up front then establish a timeline for the residents to come up with the money.

Mr. Gilleberto states:

- It will be at the Board's discretion to cancel the appropriation and transfer it back to free cash.

Mr. Bower states:

- Paving Swan Pond Road will not be an issue with the paving management plan.
- If everything was in place, construction could commence next year.

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Mr. Klipfel states:

- The paving project could be worked into next year's schedule.

Mrs. Manupelli states:

- She is concerned with the street going through private parcels.
- Wants to put a timeframe on getting agreements and money from the residents.
- She wants to release the Town and hold the Town harmless and no damage claims in the agreement.

Mr. O'Leary states:

- A policy should be in place before an agreement to give the residents the opportunity to either accept it or decline it.

Attorney Klein states:

- The earlier a policy is created, the better.
- The key date is the expenditure of the funds, not the appropriation.
- The Board does not have to spend the money Town Meeting voted to appropriate.
- If the project costs are less than budgeted for, rebates to the residents will be prorated.

Mr. Gilleberto states:

- The budget was escalated to build in a contingency in case of cost overage.

Mr. Bowers states:

- There will be a formal design before the project goes out to bid and the Town will have a better understanding of the costs.

The Board responds:

- Mr. Wallner – in favor because there is an “out”.
- Mr. Schultz – not in favor because he wants a policy in place and a deposit from the residents.
- Mr. O'Leary – states there are no risks and wants to move forward. He further stated the residents can either meet the costs or not.
- Mrs. Gonzalez – wants to go forward with all the contingencies and a policy. She further stated that as long as the Town can back out and everyone puts money up front she is in favor.
- Mrs. Manupelli – states a deposit up front is not needed, and the Town is held harmless and the paving plan won't be affected she is in favor.

Mr. Schultz indicates he is in favor of passing over this article on the Town Meeting Floor.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 10 – APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR SURVEY, ENGINEERING DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF A PORTION OF SWAN POND ROAD.

MOTION BY: MRS. GONZALEZ

SECONDED BY: MR. O'LEARY

VOTED: 4-1 (MR. SCHULTZ OPPOSED)

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**ADJOURNMENT**

MADAM CHAIR, I MR. O'LEARY, MOVE TO RECESS AND RECONVENE ON THE TOWN MEETING FLOOR.

MOTION BY:	MR. O'LEARY	
SECONDED BY:	MR. SCHULTZ	
VOTED BY:	MR. O'LEARY	AYE
	MR. SCHULTZ	AYE
	MRS. GONZALEZ	AYE
	MR. WALLNER	AYE
	MRS. MANUPELLI	AYE

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

RECESS: 6:56 p.m.

7:49 - RECONVENE TOWN MEETING FLOOR

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 2 – PRIOR YEAR BULLS

MOTION BY: MRS. GONZALEZ  
SECONDED BY: MR. SCHULTZ  
VOTED: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

10:13 – ADJOURN

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DATE

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LIANE R. GONZALEZ, CLERK