

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021**

Chairwoman Manupelli called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. via remote participation. Participating members were Mrs. Gonzalez, Mr. Wallner, Mr. Stuto, Mr. O’Leary, and Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto.

CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION

Chairwoman Manupelli called to order the open session at 7:11 p.m.

Members recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**DESIGNATE POSITION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER
AS SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE**

Mr. Gilleberto gave a brief introduction stating the Town planner sent an email on behalf of the Economic Development Committee requesting consideration to designate the members of the Economic Development Committee as Special Municipal Employee. The reason for this request is that the Economic Development Committee would like to host a Business-to-Business event at an outdoor venue in North Reading which is owned by a committee member so that the event could offer food and beverages. Locations in North Reading are fairly limited. In order to lawfully enter into an agreement, and to contract with that entity, the members of the committee would need to be designated as Special Municipal Employees.

Mr. Stuto - Thanked Mr. Gilleberto for the introduction and requested Ms. Eagan, North Reading/ Reading Chamber of Commerce to present the information on the event to the Board.

Ms. Egan - Thanked the board for taking the time to meet to discuss and adding it to the agenda. Ms. Egan has been meeting with the Economic Development Committee frequently. She and the Economic Development Committee agree there is a desire for people to connect in safe way. The Economic Development Committee would like to have an annual event, as they have had in years past, to bring the business community together to share ideas and best practices and to give them a chance to have safe in person networking as well as the opportunity to connect with people who may have opened businesses recently. The Committee identified priorities for having the event. It is in the best interest of public safety to have an outdoor venue or a venue that is in a tent. The priorities pointed toward one venue with the best set up for it. The date of the event will be Tuesday, June 8, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It will be an opportunity for the Economic Development Committee to bring the business community together. She thinks the venue they are discussing is best suited for this event and understands there needs to be a special vote due to any perceived conflict of interest.

Mrs. Manupelli – I believe we had an opinion rendered which is why it’s come up for a vote. Mr. Gilleberto is there anything you would like to add to the discussion to inform the members as we take a vote?

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Mr. Gilleberto – We consulted with Town Counsel and he provided feedback which has been provided to the board in the meeting packet. My understanding of the discussion regarding the planning and the cost of this event, we would be complying with the procurement law which allows for following sound business practices for any contract up to \$10,000 and we expect this event would not exceed that amount.

Mrs. Manupelli - This is an event that the Economic Development Committee sponsored and Economic Development Committee will be paying the venue and that is where the conflict of interest arises. The Economic Development Committee, through the committee, has chosen what it believes to be the best venue to host this and Economic Development Committee will use its funds to host and promote economic development in our community. The Economic Development Committee will use a portion of their funds to pay for the event and that event will invite business owners from our community and from surrounding communities to this venue. Then asked, is the issue the fact that the venue owner also serves on the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Gilleberto – Correct with the exception that the event will go outside the community. Defers to Mr. Stuto or Ms. Egan.

Mrs. Manupelli – asked Ms. Egan if the event was open to other businesses in other communities.

Mrs. Egan – The intention is for this to be a North Reading specific event, especially because there is Economic Development Committee town money to be spent.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked Mr. Gilleberto if the vote was to deem anyone who serves in that role, members of the Economic Development Committee will be considered Special Municipal Employee.

Mr. Gilleberto – Correct, it will be every member of the committee. They have asked for this on a temporary basis but is unaware of a classification for a temporary designation. The Select Board reviews Special Municipal Employee designation annually in December. It would review this and make a separate determination as to whether or not the designation needs to continue or not.

Mrs. Manupelli – Members of the Economic Development Committee are unpaid for their service; it is a volunteer service on that commission. Asks the board members if they have any questions or comments.

Mr. O’Leary – Stated the Board should designate Special Municipal Employee on a cautionary basis. Encouraged the Board to look at this on a semi-annual/annual basis. If the intention is to evaluate the Designation on an annual basis he will support it.

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Mrs. Manupelli – The Board can rescind the designation the same as we vote it.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Stated she is in full support of this, it's a great thing to do for the community.

Mr. Wallner – June 5th is the Town Meeting which we will follow all CDC protocol to keep people apart and then 3 to 4 days later this event will occur. He asked if there are a maximum amount of people that can attend, does the Board of Health have input and has that been discussed.

Mr. Stuto – The Horseshoe is allowed to have 100 people outside in a tent for an event. He doesn't feel the Town meeting and this event are the same thing. This is a specific event for a specific group of people who want to do this verses Town meeting were the Town is obligated to make it for everyone. The event will be held in June and there was a consensus among the members that many of the current mandates would be lifted. If for any reason the reopening slows, the event could easily be rescheduled.

Mrs. Manupelli – I am hearing Mr. Wallner's question as more pointed to making sure the social distancing guidelines are followed at this event. Will they be?

Mr. Stuto – Stated the rules the State allows for will be followed and under those rules this is an allowable event.

Mr. O'Leary- Stated what is before the board is if we are going to designate this group as Special Municipal Employee, or not.

Mrs. Manupelli – Agreed with Mr. O'Leary but then also stated this is a rational question when the Board is taking a vote and encouraging this kind of activity and we aren't sure if the venue is going to be compliant with the requirements. We don't want to propel an outbreak in North Reading. We have been doing so much to maintain things. She thinks the question is valid.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Stated this event is being held at the Horseshoe - it is a restaurant that she has faith in and the owners deal with restrictions on a daily basis. She has no question that everything will be followed.

Mr. Manupelli – With no other questions or comments do we have a Motion

Mr. O'Leary – Are we going to revisit this annually? Do we do the Special Municipal Employee status annually, Michael?

Mrs. Manupelli – If we don't we should

Mr. Gilleberto – Yes we do every December

Mr. O'Leary – Asked that everybody who is designated as a Special Municipal Employee, we

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revisit it every December

Mr. Gilleberto - Through the Chair, the Human Resources Director solicits from those who have previously been designated whether the need is continuing and they bring it back to the Select Board to review about the same time we consider appointment and re appointments.

Mrs. Manupelli – Stated it is position specific, not person specific. We are not looking at names so much but that we revisit these positions annually.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO DESIGNATE THE POSITION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER AS A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE.

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

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

148-150 PARK STREET DEVELOPMENT/ZONING PROPOSAL

Mr. Gilleberto - states Town Planner, Mrs. McKnight, Chair of CPC, Mr. Pearce, Developer/Applicant Mr. Bruce Wheeler, Mr. Peter Ogren from Hayes Engineering, Mr. Craig Seymour of RKG Associates, Mr. Michael Gittin from ATC Services as well as many members of his team, including Attorney Latham, are in attendance.

This is a follow up to a previous warrant article discussion to answer further questions from the Board. Attorney Latham sent the board a letter requesting an opportunity to formally present the proposed Senior Housing Overlay Zoning District bylaw warrant article. This is a follow up on the last discussion of this matter where the Zoning Article was reviewed.

Mrs. Manupelli asks to hear from Attorney Latham, and asks board members if they have any questions.

Attorney Latham – Begins his presentation by introducing members of the team who are in attendance: Developer Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Ogren from Hayes Engineering Craig Seymour of RKG Associates and Michael Gittin from ATC Services. He went over why there is a need for Senior Housing, the objective of the proposal and the bylaw. He reviewed the proposed location. He displayed the existing condition.

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Mr. Ogren - Discussed the engineer aspect, existing conditions, improvements to the site, proposed site conditions, preservation of the historic downtown architecture and the proposed development.

Craig Seymour – Discussed the financials; the fiscal impact, revenues and the intangible benefits to the community.

Attorney Latham - Mentioned Mr. Mark Hall, Chairman of the Historic District Commission is in attendance. We request the Select Board support the Overlay District and if the Board members don't support this, we request that you give some positive feedback as to how you think we can improve this project and what the issues are.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked if Mr. Hall had a comment but there was no response.

Mr. O'Leary - In the bylaw, it stipulated that one occupant has to be 55 or older - what happens if 55 year old passes away or has to move into a nursing home, will the other occupant be forced to sell?

Attorney Latham - In the proposed bylaw section 200-165, in the event of the death of a qualifying occupant of a unit or foreclosure or other involuntary transfer of a unit in a Senior Housing development, a two year exception shall be allowed to transfer the occupancy of the unit to another eligible household. A Senior Housing Development doesn't include nursing home or hospital. The reason it was originally drafted with the two year clause was to not cause an immediate dislocation of the family and possibly allow time for the spouse to reach eligibility. We are open to the Board's suggestions and Community Planning Commission.

Mr. O'Leary – Asked Mr. Ogren regarding the access and egress of the Public Safety Facility - I thought there might be an encroachment on the Town's part on to the property, have you had a chance to look at it?

Mr. Ogren – There is a little encroachment and we said we would grant the Town an easement.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Asked if all of the affordable units are all being handicap accessible. That is not a requirement, correct?

Attorney Latham – It is being proposed by Mr. Wheeler. It is not written into the bylaw as its drafted.

Mrs. Gonzalez - Asked what is the capability of the septic system and how much capability will it have.

Mr. Ogren – State requirements will allow it to be 50 feet from wetland edge and 100 feet from the river's edge. This will be 300 feet from the river's edge and 100 feet from the wetland edge, which are in excess of the state sanitary code requirement.

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Mrs. Gonzalez - Asked what the capability of the septic system is.

Mr. Ogren – Designed to treat 7500 gallons a day which is the expected peak flow from this facility.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Asked if it could handle more than that if necessary

Mr. Ogren – The sanitary code requires certain standards; 150 gallons per unit for a two bedroom unit is considered to be peak flow for elder housing. It wouldn't fail if there was a little extra flow in it from slug flow. You would not be allowed design wise to have any more units flow into it and you couldn't increase the number of units.

Mr. Wallner – Mentioned the Historical Commission has been working very well with this project they have made some great changes to the outer look of the project to make it look more compatible with our downtown site.

He is concerned with local preference housing, and goes on to say it is correct that is what we want to happen is North Reading residents have the first option to be able to get into these units. He asked for specifics on how that will be implemented and how that will be enacted so that the North Reading residents will have first options to be able to get into these units either at the onset or as they turn over.

Attorney Latham – Yes there is a preference for a North Reading resident as listed in the by-law. The by-law has been drafted and it's in the definitions under State and Federal law in the Commonwealth Smart Growth. Also, we used many of the state's models for inclusionary housing. There will be a lottery for the Affordable Units, in the lottery process one of the preferences will be one of the elements. Part of the lottery process for the affordable housing unit will be a preference for North Reading residents.

Mr. Wallner – Asked about the other 35 units.

Attorney Latham – We are open to suggestions. The objective is to have it be primarily North Reading residence, but it will be market dictated.

Mr. Wallner – Suggested to allow reasonable time for first applicants to be North Reading residents. Give a 60 day window for North Reading residents to get in before it gets advertised. He would like to see that built into the rules or by-laws.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked about the proposed site conditions, concerning the proximity to the Ipswich River. She asked if the proposed site will be built on the riverfront or within 10% of the river front.

Mr. Ogren confirmed it was not on the riverfront. He also mentioned they have an opportunity to resort to a significant portion to the buffer zone to the wetland by revegetating working with

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the CPC for additional input.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked whether that would be true for the proposed underground parking, as well.

Mr. Ogren- Yes, there can't be any discharge from the underground parking, it will run into a tank and be pumped away.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked if underground parking will be within the proposed footprint of the proposed building.

Mr. Ogren – That's correct.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked about the style of the 50 units - Condominiums or Apartments?

Mr. Ogren – Condominium Units

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked if they would all be for sale

Attorney Latham – Yes

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked regarding an overlay district, you can use the zoning that's permitted through the overlay or you can use the existing zoning. Can you use a combination of both of those? They're very similar.

Attorney Latham - On this property the person would have to choose whether they want to go under the existing bylaw or whether they want to go for an overlay. They can't mix and match the underlying bylaw with the overlay.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked about the intent of keeping the business use available. Would there be stores for this or anything like that proposed for the residence? She also asked if there would be amenities like that that might be built on to this or be part of this.

Attorney Latham – The proposal is for mixed use, potentially having mixed use. The applicant put in mixed use because of his own office which is located in the Historic McClain House. That is something that is potentially allowable in the overlay district that would have to be approved by the CPC to be something compatible with the Senior Housing project.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked if this is something that they may want to fit in later. It would still have to go back and be reviewed.

Attorney Latham - Yes

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked what is going to happen to the current business that are located on the

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property.

Attorney Latham – Steel Fabrication and Automotive Repair are not compatible with the proposed condition.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked if they have to leave

Mr. Wheeler – Stated Mr. Cronin is planning on retiring and has given notice that he plans on ending his lease. Lou's Automotive will make plans to relocate.

Mr. Hall – stated the Historical District Commission supports the project. They have met with the developer several times and worked out changes that the developer has agreed to. They voted on it verbally, the vote was unanimous in support on the project.

Mr. O'Leary – Asked if there would be a filtration system for the roof runoff or will the runoff run into the natural vegetation.

Mr. Ogren – Stated the roof runoff would go through treatment, just settling in the tank and have a trap for contamination i.e. leaves and sticks, but then it would infiltrate into the ground. The DEP wants us to infiltrate roof run off into the ground, as long as it is not a metal roof.

Mrs. Manupelli - Thanked everyone for their time.

REVIEW UPDATED FY 2022 REVENUE/EXPENSE PLAN

Mr. Gilleberto – Stated they will provide updates to the Board regarding two components of the annual budget process. This is an update on the revenue and expense plan. Secondly, they will go over resulting recommendations to balance the fiscal year 2022 municipal operating budget. He turned the meeting over to Elizabeth Rourke, Finance Director.

Ms. Rourke – Presented the Fiscal Year 2022 Revenue Plan Update, which included Fiscal Year 2022 Budget update, Fiscal Year 2022 School and Municipal Budget update, Fiscal Year 2022 Municipal Revenue Plan update.

Mr. Gilleberto – Spoke about the shortfall, stating the school has identified areas for savings after meeting with the Financial Planning Team and attending a virtual meeting with representatives of the School Committee he believes there is an understanding that the budget can be reconciled. He doesn't believe there is a significant issue with the School Committee budget, but there is some work to be done to finalize.

Mr. O'Leary – Asked were there any accommodations for Department Head proposals and additional requests. If so, what were they and which ones were not accommodated.

Mr. Gilleberto – Informed Mr. O'Leary there are a few more slides to go through that will take

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us to the recommendations to balance the municipal operating budget.

Mr. O'Leary - Asked in relation to the trash fee and the Board's previous discussions there has been no adjustment in relation to the suggestion made by Mr. LoRe to cover some of the municipal costs in the tax rate as opposed to the user fees.

Mr. Gilleberto- Stated there wasn't a deviation for the previous custom of setting the rate to match the total solid waste expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. But he expects to look at it along with the Recycling Committee for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

Mr. O'Leary – Asked what has the Financial Planning Team done as far as forecasting Free Cash for the upcoming fiscal year in relation to the federal funds that are becoming available to the Town. I don't see the expenditures of funds from that source in this proposal. We are anticipating a substantial amount of money moving forward.

Mr. Gilleberto – We are well aware of the significant anticipated influx of funding from the Federal Government, estimated to be \$4.5 million available to the town for very specific purposes over a three to four year period. We got the first wave of guidance from the Treasury Department, but they only requested the Town's tax ID number. We are awaiting more guidance. The strategy applied to this budget is to recognize that the funding is there but to utilize funds that the Town has generated through conservative budgeting over the past two fiscal years.

Mr. Rourke – Stated the money from the federal government will be placed into grant funds and will need no appropriation

Mr. O'Leary – Asked can the grant funds can be utilized by the Department Heads through requests through the administration without appropriation from Town Meeting and what oversight will this board have or is there any oversight as far as monitoring the expenditure of those funds.

Mr. Gilleberto – The anticipation would be to continue working with the Financial Planning Team. It could be expanded to reviewing them with the Board.

Mr. O'Leary – I would like to see how it's working and how we anticipate it to work going forward.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Asked if the Finance Director could explain Free Cash.

Ms. Rourke – It's an unexpected fund balance, it is generated from excise revenues over the budgeted revenues and it is also generated from expenditure turn back i.e. spending less than what was budgeted.

Mrs. Hurlbut, Chair of the Finance Committee - Asked Ms. Rourke to address the importance of

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Free Cash.

Ms. Rourke – It can impact the bond rating.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked Ms. Rourke to explain how the Town and the School budgets for its expenditures and does the Select Board control specifically how the School Department appropriates the funds that are budgeted in the annual appropriation.

Ms. Rourke – Stated the municipal departments annually are tasked with submitting their budget request, they submit their budget request to the Finance office and the TA. We review the their request and the Department Heads present their Department Budget requests to the Select Board in a budget hearing in conjunction with the Finance Committee and those budgets are reviewed. The TA makes his recommended budget for the Municipal Departments and the Select Board and the Finance Committee make their recommendations for the departmental budgets, and those are submitted to Town Meeting. The School Department has a similar process, Department Division heads and Principals are tasked with coming up with budget requests, the request are submitted to the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations and then those are reviewed with the School Committee and they come up with a recommended budget together. On the municipal side, Select Board and Finance Committee can make recommendations however they don't have final say on the recommendation; each have separate processes.

Mrs. Manupelli – Stated in theory it's accurate, the power of the purse is not the Select Board exclusively, because the recommendations have to be approved at the Town Meeting. She said Ms. Rourke has done a beautiful slideshow that explains how they were able to shrink this gap with the school; this is not an overnight or snap decision it's the result of multiple rounds or reviews and multiple meetings and multiple individuals who are working on this, not just the Financial Planning Team, but the Finance Department, so we don't do things again on a whim we're doing things really conservatively and carefully. She said that the appreciation goes to Ms. Rourke for everything she did, as well as the Financial Planning team, Mr. Gilleberto as well as Mr. Connolly, the Superintendent the School Committee, Mr. Buckley and all of the people that are participating these difficult decisions, but that it's carried us through this time.

Mr. Gilleberto – Reviewed his recommendation of the Department Budgets. He stated we asked departments to scale back their requests when they submitted them back in November and December. Most of you saw through the joint budget hearings in the Finance Committee in February and March. There wasn't much to cut without having potential impacts and we had some long standing positions that we were holding vacant over the course of this current fiscal year that needed funding. Positions were recently added and then unable to fill and need to be funded. The town is behind in terms of the staffing associated with the budget. Fortunately, through the steps that we've identified, it will allow us to advance nearly all of the requests from the various operating departments. The Finance Director added a spreadsheet to the presentation. He then summarize the FY 2022 Municipal Budget update explaining positions that need to be restored and will be funded in the FY 2022 budget. First, a critical position in the

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Treasurer/Collectors office he said it is one of four positions that is actively involved in the taxing and collecting funds for the town. It is a critical resource and the staff has been taxed, particularly in recent months as activity has picked back up. The second position is the Grant Writing and Project Management position in the Administration office, which was funded for last fiscal year but then ultimately not filled and held vacant for the duration of last year, and the current fiscal year. Also a part-time Administrative position for the Veteran Services office and a request to add hours for the outreach worker in the Elder Affairs. There was also a request for additional staffing for the Youth Services Department and a request for an increase in the subsidy of the Parks and Recreation

Mrs. Gonzalez – Asked if everything on the spreadsheet was being funded.

Mrs. Manupelli – Asked if the spreadsheet could be emailed

Ms. Rourke – Answered yes

Mr. O’Leary – Commented it’s encouraging to see that we are able to restore and expand the level of services. Then asked what didn’t make it onto the list to be funded.

Mrs. Manupelli - Mr. O’Leary, the budgets were requested to be level funded to ensure that we could fund everything.

Mr. O’Leary – Commented it's been a good exercise annually for the last several years for the departments to evaluate the services that they provide and the costs associated with them and how they go about doing it. It allows us to adapt and be more efficient. In many instances, we've just been running short handed. It’s great to see that now we’re able to bolster the delivery of services that have been required and we have requested of us.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Stated she is thrilled and a lot of people will be happy to see the Veteran Services position and the Elder services hours extended.

Mr. O’Leary – Stated the Library has been requesting a position for a number of years and we haven't been able to accommodate it. He asked do we foresee this filled at some point, maybe throughout the upcoming fiscal year, or the reason why it wasn’t filled.

Mr. Gilleberto – Stated there are a handful of items that we're going to be looking at as we go forward with available Federal Funding. One thing that I mentioned is the funding of the part time Assistant Director for Youth Services again because of its part time nature is more affordable than other positions. But it may be eligible for federal funding, because of the potential link to the response to the pandemic. Similarly, Federal Funding may be available for the type of outreach that the library is looking to do with that position and the same for the Facilities position.

Mrs. Rourke – Reminded the Board that the Library did not submit the Programmer position as one of their Departmental Budget requests for the FY 22. It was discussed during their budget

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presentation, however, it was not submitted as request. Similar to the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Officer. Departments were very conservative in their request.

Mr. Gilleberto - Added one item that came up, which is the additional cost for the hybrid police cruisers. He believes the Finance Director is carrying that cost and the recommendation as well. He stated it was not in the original request, but it was a modification that was submitted after the fact.

Ms. Rourke – Stated the two Hybrid Police Cruisers are included in the Police Department Miscellaneous Capital request.

Mr. O'Leary – Stated he was under the assumption the positions presented by the Department Heads during the budget presentation were part of their Budget Request. He asked if the Department Heads were encouraged not to submit certain items as Budget request. Then stated when the final budget submissions were made to the Administration, he was unaware certain positions were not requested.

Ms. Rourke – Stated when the Departments submit their budgets to the Finance Department and the Town Administrator, the Library position was not requested it was mentioned in their presentation as a want.

Mr. Gilleberto – Stated the departments were asked to submit level services requests. Level services back to the day before the pandemic

Mr. O'Leary - He thought what was presented were their requests.

REVIEW DRAFT WARRANT – JUNE 2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Gilleberto – presented the update to the Board which included the removal of Article 16 – Home Rule Petition – Charter Change – Compensation for Elected Officials, as well as edits by the code book company to Articles 29 (Small Cell Wireless) and 30 (Senior Housing Overlay District). Article 27 was previously sponsored by the School but will now need to be sponsored by the Select Board and Article 15 was modified.

Mrs. Manupelli - Asked if the Warrant will be finalized and ready for the Board's signature at the next meeting.

Mr. Gilleberto – Answered yes

Mr. Wallner – Asked last year to expedite the meeting. We could put all the budgetary articles up front. Would the Cell Phone Revenue article, would that be a real quick or do you think it will be a discussion point.

Mr. Gilleberto – Answered stating the Town has been leasing the cell towers for 10 years, he is

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unsure how controversial it is. This is a housekeeping item and doesn't expect it to be controversial.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

See Attached. Topics discussed:

- The appointment of DPW Director, Joe Parisi
- Submission of letter to Metropolitan Area Planning Council in support of an application of the Town of Lynnfield for technical assistance evaluating the future use of land along the North Reading Lynnfield/Middleton/Peabody borders.
- Upcoming recycling events
- Water main replacement on North Street
- COVID-19 data weekly update
- Town Clerk's office is accepting application for early voting ballots

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. O'Leary – Discussed issue with the biomass plant in the Palmer Springfield area - he had to get a report from Reading Municipal Light Department showing how the contract was signed by Reading Municipal Light and the impact it was going to have, what due diligence was done and how transparent the action was taken. He asked if there has been any follow up. He would like to know what Reading Municipal Light is planning on doing to exit the deal and what are they planning on doing moving forward in relation to engaging in activities and contracts that would be more environmentally sensitive. He would like to have a public discussion with Reading Municipal Light to discuss the rationale for getting into the contract and what is their exit strategy.

Mr. Gilleberto – Stated he did not have the opportunity to reach out to Reading Municipal Light but would do so tomorrow.

Mr. O'Leary – Stated there is an election coming up and he is hoping for a large turnout, and asked the public to come out and vote.

Mr. Stuto – Stated more outreach will be given to the business owners on Winter Street and Main Street. There is a working group talking about the possible development on Carpenter Drive. The community abutter's were sent a letter that was sent out a few weeks ago. There is a meeting tomorrow for abutters where they can discuss concerns or ask questions. The Town is seeking feedback and it's important because it is a town owned piece of land, - the concerns and opinion will be taken seriously. He encourages everyone who has a positive or negative opinion to join the meeting. The Zoom meeting information, is posted on the CPC calendar and on the Town Website. The meeting starts at 7:00pm. The working group purposely wanted this meeting first and then it will be presented to the Select Board. Lastly he invited the Select Board to the Economic Development Committee event.

Mr. Wallner - Community noticed Carr's Hallmark shop is closing this Friday. The Taxation Aid Committee met today with the Food Pantry because they are the face for people who need help.

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The Taxation Aid Committee reaches out to people who are not in a good way and offers programs to help them get through tough times.

Phil Hertz is leading the bike trail initiative and is happy to hear the letter went out to MAPC stating North Reading wants to join with Lynnfield, Middleton and Peabody to help make the bike trail happen. The letter goes a long way to Mass DOT saying yes to this project.

Mrs. Gonzalez- Encourages everyone to go to Carr's before Friday. She discussed the Community Impact Team event Prescription Drug Take Back collected over 220 pounds of unused drugs on April 24.

Recycling - the Town is moving forward with discussing Pay-As-You-Throw, people don't realize that Pay-As-You-Throw is still an option to implement even though the Town signed a trash contract. For example, paying your regular trash fee and then anything extra a sticker could be placed on the item, it would be extra money coming in.

Mrs. Manupelli – Mentioned a letter from Mr. LoRe raising the issue of excess trash - it is not just the increase in the cost of the contract. To help the Board evaluate the Pay-As-You-Throw option, she asked if the committee could outline it, as well as the work the committee did to compare what we do to compared to other communities and the cost factor, or the cost differential, the cost savings between us and other communities.

Mrs. Gonzalez – Said the committee is discussing having a public meeting.

MADAM CHAIR, I MR. STUTO MOVE TO ADJOURN.

SECONDED: MR. O'LEARY

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

ADJOURN: 10:49