

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

Chairwoman Manupelli called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m. via in person and remote participation. Participating members were Mrs. Gonzalez, Mr. Wallner, Mr. Stuto, Mr. O'Leary, and Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION 2 - STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-UNION PERSONNEL OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, SUBSECTION 3 – STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (DPW-TEAMSTERS, LOCAL 25, NORTH READING LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION – MLSA, LOCAL 4928)), AS SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN OPEN SESSION WILL HAVE A DETRIMENTAL IMPACT ON THE NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE PUBLIC BODY.

AND TO ADMIT THE FOLLOWING:

FINANCE DIRECTOR- ELIZABETH ROURKE

MOTION BY:	MR. STUTO	
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)

Members recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

First order of business **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one in attendance or virtually wanted to speak in public comment.

Next order of business. **RECOGNIZE TOWN CLERK BARBARA STATS**

Chair Manupelli welcome Ms. Stats and her family to this special occasion. She added that they are sorry to see her go but happy for her and her family.

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Mr. Gilleberto said Barbara Stats has worked for North Reading for 40 years and as Town Clerk for 24 of those years. We have been blessed to have her serve. He wished her a long and happy, healthy retirement. She is well respected state wide and is also highly regarded professionally. She handles herself capably and under so much pressure with elections and daily operations. Since he began working not one single day in the last 8 years has he had to worry once about the Town Clerk's office. He also added that when it's his turn to retire if he has half the standing in community and professional recognition of Barbara's legacy he would be happy. They are trying to hire a new Clerk but Temporary Town Clerk Stephanie Connolly and Carol Ducrow are ready, willing and able. Barbara has also offered to help during the transition.

Mr. O'Leary apologized that for the past 40 years she has had to endure him and his delinquent finance reports. Since she took over the office has been run with grace and professionalism that has been unmatched. Diplomacy is her strong suit and it is not a 9-5 job but has been seamless due to Barbara. Congratulations and wished her good health.

Mr. Wallner chose to quote from the transcript article "during her time she has administrated hundreds of oaths of office and countless elections, town meetings with all their warrant articles, special elections, override votes, recounts and kept the voter rolls up to date. She has organized the town census, kept track of thousands of rabies certificates and overseeing all the towns vital statistics, births, marriages, and deaths. She also ensured that the State's Open Meeting Law is adhered to including the posting of every meeting agenda and all the Public Hearing Notices and that is just the tip of the iceberg " He said she is democracy and congratulations.

Mr. Stuto said he moved to North Reading in December 2017 and his first Town Meeting was in June 2018. Barbara Stats took him to the visitor section because he did not register in North Reading yet. She carefully went over everything and diffused the situation of having an issue at this first meeting and later he ran the Select Board. He appreciated all her help and thank her for help with the green book. Enjoy retirement.

Ms. Gonzalez said she was able to be at the retirement party and echoed all her colleagues' descriptions of Barbara for her professionalism wealth of knowledge, dignity and confidence. Congratulations.

Chair Manupelli said that Barbara is a legacy with 40 years of accomplishment. She is the most gracious person and a guardian of the right to vote. She has seen so many changes in the general public and through the pandemic. Her firsthand knowledge of Charter bylaws, elections and processes that are invaluable to the town for all of us. She has cultivated the friendliest staff. A framed gift was presented.

Ms. Barbara Stats thanked the Select Board. She said she is overwhelmed by all the kind words. She has always tried to do her job with compassion and tried to do it well. She thanked her family who are the most important part of her life for their support and understanding. She added the personal pride as a mom to serve alongside her son the Fire Chief. She thanked the many past and present TA's and Select Boards, finance committee's officer. She thanked her past and present staff as she is eternally grateful.

Recess for photos

**Next order of business. PUBLIC HEARING: PH WEALTH, INC. D/B/A CHINA CUISINE
TRANSFER OF COMMON VICTUALLER/ALL ALCOHOL LICENSE**

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Christopher E. Coleman, Esq. introduced himself and PH WEALTH, INC. Shanshan Ou (proposed Manager), Victor Hui (current owner) & De Sheng Zhu (new owner). He stated that not a lot will change just management. Most of all employees will remain, the hours as well. There will be no change to the layout. Shanshan has been working there since October 2021 and is TIPS certified. She will be there at least 40 hours a week.

Chair Manupelli asked if the menu will stay the same.

Attorney Coleman said yes and also added that Victor owns the building.

Mr. Gilleberto noted that there may be a zero missing on page 4. There is also a membership listed at 0% interest for the secretary.

Attorney Coleman said the 0% is correct.

Chair Manupelli asked what Ms. Ou experience is.

Ms. Ou said her parents owned a restaurant and she had been working there since 2010.

Mr. Hui said Ms. Ou parents sold their restaurant and will be working at China Cuisine as well.

Mr. O'Leary is happy for Victor and May are keeping ownership of the property as it's a fabulous business and have been a tremendous asset the community.

Mr. Wallner asked how long has Mr. Hui been in business in North Reading.

Mr. Hui said since 1996

Mr. Wallner said thank you for all the support in North Reading.

Mr. Stuto said his kids only eat Victor's food. There is always a consistency.

Ms. Gonzalez said she and her kids have been going for years and wished them all the best.

Chair Manupelli said she is sure they will do great and welcomed the new manager and is happy she has been learning under Victor. China Cuisine feels like family as they take the time to care about their customers. Good Luck.

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE A TRANSFER OF THE COMMON VICTUALLER/ALL ALCOHOL LICENSE FROM CHINA CUISINE, INC, TO PH WEALTH, INC. D/B/A CHINA CUISINE, 235 MAIN STREET, AND TO APPROVE SHANSHAN OU AS THE NEW MANAGER.

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

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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)

Next order of business Covid-19 Update

Mr. Gilleberto updated: The Town has been working to secure COVID-19 test kits and to provide COVID-19 testing in North Reading. COVID-19 testing is now being offered by appointment at North Reading Town Hall on Saturdays that began, Saturday, February 5th from 10:00 AM through 1:00 PM. To learn more about the clinics and to register for an appointment, please go to the town website. A limited supply of test kits has been received and has been distributed to vulnerable individuals identified through the Town's human services departments. Further distribution will occur as additional testing kits become available. The Health Department is also working with other local health departments to open a regional testing site nearby. More information on this site will be released once it is available.

Chair Manupelli asked if there could be an alert sent out about the free testing.

Mr. Gilleberto said the signup is not working just yet.

Mr. O'Leary added North Reading is experiencing a daily incidence rate of 93.9 cases per 100,000 residents over the previous 14 days, and a 14.98 percent positivity rate over the previous 14 days, compared to a daily incidence rate of 232.4 cases and a 22.17% positivity rate on January 13th.

Next order of business APPOINTMENTS:
LIBRARY TRUSTEES & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO PLACE IN NOMINATION THE FOLLOWING NAME FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2024. (1 OPENING)

REBECCA M. GRIFFIN

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

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

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO PLACE IN NOMINATION THE FOLLOWING NAMES FOR REAPPOINTMENT / APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE AS FOLLOWS: (3 OPENINGS)

DEBORAH ALDRICH (INCUMBENT) DECEMBER 31, 2024

HEATHER SIEVERS DECEMBER 31, 2024

MARGOT SCHOMP (ASSOCIATE) DECEMBER 31, 2023

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

VOTED BY:	MR. STUTO	ALDRICH, SIEVERS & SCHOMP
	MRS. GONZALEZ	ALDRICH, SIEVERS & SCHOMP
	MR. WALLNER	ALDRICH, SIEVERS & SCHOMP
	MR. O'LEARY	ALDRICH, SIEVERS & SCHOMP
	MRS. MANUPELLI	ALDRICH, SIEVERS & SCHOMP

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

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Next order of business. LEGAL BILLS

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO APPROVE LEGAL BILLS FOR DECEMBER, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,284.78 AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL	\$3,394.78
LABOR	\$4,407.50
20 ELM STREET	<u>\$7,482.50</u>
TOTAL	\$15,284.78

MOTION BY: MR. STUTO
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. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

No Report.

Next order of business. BOARD MEMEBER REPORTS

Mr. O'Leary reported on Wasterwater that is it busy and getting busier. They are working on betterments, agendas, outreach and survey started on Concord St. and Main St. moving forward quickly and aggressively. Hillview Commission has been negotiating with one entity to take over the entire facility. He will know more at their next meeting. He said congratulations the entire community for North Reading's highest count of voters for the NEMT school building vote. Congratulations to the Town and Ms. Dymont of all her hard work.

Mr. Wallner reported the Forrest committee hired a senior landscaper that had some great idea for the Swan Pond area to make it more accessible. He is happy about the good energy moving forward. He also said that Phil Hertz is leading the trails project and it includes the Willis Trail in Lynnfield. He said the feasibility study is fantastic and completed with about 8 options. North Reading Rec Trail looks possible in conjunctions with Willis woods and Lynnfield wants in now so it might happen. He hopes to have a

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design for June Town Meeting. He will be speaking at Aldersgate Sunday the 13th to share his senior talk. He also went last Saturday to see the Descendants and Ms. Manupelli's son was a star and it was a fantastic performance. He said you have to remind yourself that you are watching 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Congratulations to NRMS & Mrs. Lister. He did say they could use a new sound system.

Mr. Stuto had no report.

Ms. Gonzalez mentioned the "pay as you throw" program is getting wrapped up with Dan Greenberg and will be coming to the Select Board to present February 28th. CIT has reported fentanyl in the communities being put in fake pills and how dangerous it is. She also said that NARCAN is free to anyone.

Chair Manupelli said thank you to the DPW for getting the town through the rough storm and keeping the streets safe as it was a challenging storm. She then added that Mrs. Lister's plays are fantastic and get better each year. The arts programs is growing each year in band, chorus and drama. She thanked Mr. Tatro & Mrs. Kane as well. Chair Manupelli then asked if they could decide on a date for the next Strategic Planning Meeting and a discussion ensued. They decided on March 21, 2021@ 6:00 p.m. at the Police Station.

A discussion was had on the plan for the way the budget meetings will be presented as well.

Ms. Gonzalez welcome Maureen Dougherty back.

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

Last order of business. ADJOURN

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO ADJOURN.

MOTION BY: MR. STUTO

SECONDED BY: MR. O'LEARY

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

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MRS. MANUPELLI

AYE

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANIMOUS)

ADJOURN: 9:18 P.M.

DATE



VINCENZO STUTO, CLERK