

Readfield Select Board

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024 – Approved

Select Board Members Present: Kathryn Woodsum (Chair), Sean Keegan (Vice Chair), Carol Doorenbos, Dave Linton, Steve DeAngelis (excused late)

Excused Absent: Anjelica Pittman (Board Secretary),

Others Attending: Eric Dyer (Town Manager), Bill Starrett (Channel 7), Liz Glover (Channel 7), Jaaron Shaw, Joel Parker

Pledge of Allegiance (6:30)

Regular Meeting Items - 5 min.

- 24-092 - Minutes: Select Board meeting minutes of January 22, 2024 & January 31, 2024
 - **Motion** to approve the January 22 and January 31, 2024 minutes as amended made by Sean **seconded** by Dave **vote 5-0** in favor
- 24-093 - Warrants: #33-36
 - Please refer to Select Board Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2024 for Warrant #33-36 votes.

Communications - 35 min.

- Select Board Communications - Members of the Board may present general information- 5 min.
- Staff Communication - 15 min.
 - Town Manager's Report – Presented by Eric and attached to the agenda
 - Treasurer' Report - Presented by Eric and attached to the agenda
- Boards, Committees, Commissions & Departments - 5 min.
- Board and Committee Minutes (listed separately)
- Public Communication - Members of the public may address the Select Board - 10 min.
 - Joel Parker – Came to clear the air that he and his wife Virginia have not and do not have any lawsuits against the town of Readfield, Eric confirmed that to be true.

Appointments, Re-appointments, and Resignations - 5 min.

- 24-094 - Consider the appointment of Sonya Clark as Warden for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary.
 - **Motion** to approve the appointment of Sonya Clark as Warden for the March 5, 2025 Presidential Primary made by Dave, **seconded** by Sean, **vote 5-0** in favor.
- 24-095 - Consider the appointment of a slate of Ballot and Election Clerks for 2024.
 - **Motion** to approve the appointment of a slate of Ballot and Election Clerks for 2024 made by Sean, **seconded** by Carol, **vote 5-0** in favor.
-

Old Business - 40 min.

- 24-043 - Hear and consider an update on the Fairgrounds Project - 10 min.
 - Steve reported that the Fairgrounds Working Group met last week to discuss the Public Hearing; they also talked about fundraising plans, and got some information from Greg Leimbach to potentially get some help from the National Guard through their engineering battalion. They plan

Readfield Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024 – Approved

to meet in early March to look over the warrant article. Sean mentioned that he and Dave are working with Jansel Bottle Redemption in Winthrop to do a bottle fundraiser there.

- 24-044 - Hear and consider an update on the Church Rd. Sidewalk Project - 5 min.
 - Eric reported that the town has been working with engineers to get documentation submitted to ME DOT so they can review the draft proposal, it is about 50% done. Comments from DOT were for language changes as well as justification for why we thought the speed tables were necessary, some questions about on street parking, all answered by the engineer. The Public Hearing will be February 20, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Town Office and also available by Zoom. Eric sent out direct mailings to everyone in town last week with information about the Public Hearing. Information regarding the Church Road Sidewalk Project can also be found on the town website. Carol asked if there will be an email blast for this Public Hearing, Eric responded that there will be as we get closer. Carol also suggested adding it to the Fire Department sign if helpful.
 - Kathryn mentioned she received an email that on the same evening the Kennebec Valley Emergency Management Planner will be having a G402 class (which is the one Select Board members need to take) in Fayette at 7pm. Eric can schedule board members who are available to take the class. There is also another class on March 27, 2024 in Oakland.
- 24-047 - Select Board action item reporting - 5 min.
 - Steve – Kennebec Journal article on the Community Café, it is going great, John Perry, Dan Holman and Rick Sirois are helping that run smoothly. The students are very involved, presenting and hosting. Sometimes they have 20-25 people a week attending. The school has also been getting 7 or 8 people walking during the week; this program is also going really well.
 - Carol – Called several businesses, has not received many responses. She did find some closed businesses who requested to be taken down from the website. Carol also requested to have a lodging category added to the website business listing, it has now been added. Carol had also wanted to add a page for town businesses to the Readfield Messenger highlighting businesses in town monthly. There could be some implications to that however, so it will be added to the next meeting agenda to have the Town Clerk come in and discuss it in further detail.
- 24-084 - Consider Commercial Hauler Permits for the Readfield Transfer Station - 5 min.
 - **Motion** to approve the Commercial Hauler Permit for Jim Diamond made by Sean, **seconded** by Carol, **vote 5-0** in favor. The permit in the Agenda packet was for Jim Simmonds but the board approved the Jim Diamond application on good faith that Eric reviewed the permit and it was filled out properly and complete.
- 24-089 - Consider replacement of the F550 maintenance truck - 15 min
 - Matt Seems put together a new packet to assess the best vehicle to replace the F550. Matt was not in attendance so Eric presented for him. The price difference between the F350 and F550 was minimal. Kathryn read the conclusion from Matt's proposal. Carol asked if it will be a lease or paid in full transaction, Eric explained it would be a lease purchase with a 5 year term with low interest and at the end of the term, the town owns the vehicle. Looking to resell the old truck as a package with the existing sander and plow for \$50-55k. Sean would still like to check all the quotes again to see if there is anyone closer than Arundel Ford. Eric will also check to see if one of the quotes was with Bailey Brothers.
 - **Motion** made by Sean to approve the town manager to proceed with the lease purchase of the F550, **seconded** by Steve, **vote 5-0** in favor.
 - **Motion** made by Sean to approve the Town Manager to sell our current F550 Diesel, **seconded** by Steve, **vote 5-0** in favor.

Readfield Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024 – Approved

- **Motion** made by Carol to apply the sale of the existing truck to pay down the lease on the new F550, **seconded** by Dave, Eric will make sure there is not any early payment penalty, **vote 5-0** in favor.

New Business - 30 min.

- 24-096 - Consider a second draft of the municipal budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (FY25) - 20 min.
 - Kathryn mentioned the helpfulness of the revision history within the draft budget that shows changes during the budget process. Eric reviewed budget changes which are also located in the agenda packet. Overall, it looks like a 4% tax increase (just for Readfield, not county or RSU) for FY25. Next Budget Committee meeting Thursday February 15. The board also discussed the school budget, still awaiting an estimate from the RSU.
- 24-097 - Discuss a revised system for Beach and Transfer Station Stickers - 5 min.
 - The flyer was included in the agenda packet, and was also published in the messenger. Eric explained how the new combination beach and transfer station stickers will work and how they will add efficiency to the process. Nonresidents who do not pay taxes in Readfield will still be required to pay for a day pass. Proof of residency will be required for residents, such as a tax bill or a vehicle registration, etc.
- 24-098 - Consider pending real-estate foreclosures - 5 min.
 - Eric put the foreclosure list in each Select Board member's mailboxes, currently down to 8 residents who need to finish paying taxes from 2021. These property owners have been notified and Eric has contacted them as well. We will do everything we can to ensure no one is foreclosed.

Other Business, Upcoming Meetings, and Future Agenda Items - 5 min.

- In the packet is the Low Power FM Broadcast Station Construction Permit
- Nomination Papers will be available next Wednesday, there are two each Select Board and RSU School Board seats and 3 local school board seats available.
- The Church Road Sidewalk Project mailing was also included in the packet and Carol would like that to be posted on the Fire Department sign, she is happy to help do that.
- **Motion** to adjourn at 8:10pm made by Sean, **seconded** by Dave, **vote 5-0** in favor

Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Anjelica Pittman, Board Secretary