

Readfield Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes – March 27, 2023 – Approved

Select Board Members Present: Dennis Price (Chair), Kathryn Woodsum, Sean Keegan, Steve DeAngelis, Carol Doorenbos

Excused Absent:

Others Attending: Eric Dyer (Town Manager), Anjelica Pittman (Board Secretary), Margaret Livingston, Aaron Neily, Jaaron Shaw

Pledge of Allegiance

Regular Meeting Items – 5 min.

23-097 – Minutes: Select Board Meeting Minutes of March 13 & 22, 2023.

- **Motion** made by Kathryn to approve as amended today, **seconded** by Sean, **vote 5-0** in favor (March 13) and **vote 4-0** in favor (March 22).

23-098 – Warrants #37-38

- **Motion** made by Kathryn to approve, **seconded** by Sean, **vote 5-0** in favor

Communications – 20 min.

Select Board Communications – 10 min.

- Recognition of the contributions made by Will Harris to the Town of Readfield.
 - Kathryn expressed gratitude to Will for all he has done for the town over the years
 - Dennis agreed and added that his thoughts are with Bonnie and the family

Boards, Committees, Commissions, & Departments – 5 min.

- Thank you to Age Friendly and Budget Committee for submitting minutes

Public Communications – 5 min.

- Aaron Neily appeared to ask about parking changes in front of his shop, Moon Glow Cannabis, Eric and Dennis assured him that there are no changes planned for that area, and the changes are taking place only in front of the Post Office.

Appointments, Reappointments, and Resignations – 5 min.

23-099 – Consider the appointment of Margaret Livingston to the Age Friendly Committee

- Margaret has been visiting and vacationing in Readfield since she was 15 years old. In 2015 she and her husband moved here as permanent residents. Margaret is also a member and the secretary for the Readfield Blizzard Busters snowmobile club and is an avid volunteer for the Mt. Vernon Food Bank.
Motion made by Kathryn to approve Margaret’s appointment to the Age Friendly Committee beginning tonight through June 30, 2024, **seconded** by Steve, **vote 5-0** in favor.

23-100 – Consider the appointment of Jaaron Shaw to the Enterprise Committee

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- Jaaron is currently a member of the Conservation Commission. **Motion** made by Kathryn to approve Jaaron’s appointment to the Enterprise Committee beginning this evening through June 30, 2025, **seconded** by Steve, **vote 5-0** in favor.

Old Business – 10 min.

23-077 – Consider Capital Improvement Items Related to the Budget & Warrant – 5 min.

- Discussion of Fire Truck Bonding and Reserve Usage – Eric and the Board discussed using the Fire Department sprinkler system bond towards the new fire truck due to the difficulty in getting any interest in the RFP by contractors. The sprinkler system bond has lower interest rate than what is currently available and would reduce the amount needed to finance at a higher rate. If the sprinkler system funds are used for the firetruck, a future bond will be looked at in about 5 years, and will be added to the capital improvement plan.

At this point in the meeting, the agenda was suspended briefly so as to hear from Andy Walsh from the Conservation Commission. Andy attended to present an initiative to request pursuit of grant funding towards the control of invasive plants in the Town Forest. If approved, the grant would pay for up to half of the process, with David Asherman of Two Trees Forestry being the arborist to help create the plan, report and treatment. Funding beyond the grant would come from the Conservation Commissions budget.

- Kathryn **motioned** to have the Conservation Commission work with the Town Manager to create a plan with a match for grants coming from the Commission funds (invasive management funds) line. Sean **seconded, 4-1 vote** with Carol opposed.

23-077 – Consider Capital Improvement Items Related to the Budget Warrant – Continued

- Discussion of Capital Investment Warrant Articles – consideration to attach warrant articles to a specified amount, possibly a policy in the future or some kind of guiding document would be best discussed with the Budget Committee before July to prepare for the next FY.
 - Carol **motioned** to split out the following capital improvements: Giles Hall, Sidewalks, etc. into individual items. There was no **second**; motion did not pass.
 - Carol **motioned** to split out Open Space, there was no **second**; motion did not pass.
- Discussion of a joint Budget Committee and Select Board policy workshop –
 - Kathryn **motioned** to schedule a Budget Committee/Select Board workshop to discuss budget and warrant articles in July, possibly July 17th, Sean **seconded, 5-0 vote** in favor.
 - Kathryn **motioned** to repeal prior motion date with everything else remaining the same, amending the date to June 20, 2023, Sean **seconded, vote 5-0** in favor.

New Business – 25 min.

23-101 – Consider a contract for vegetation management on Church Road – 10 min.

- Has already been budgeted for, the letter itself just needs to be double spaced and dated before sending.
 - Kathryn **motioned** to approve Stevenson’s Solution estimate to be executed by the Town Manager and authorize Matt Seems to send out the letter as amended, Sean **seconded, 5-0 vote** in favor.

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- Kathryn **motioned** to suspend the purchasing policy that requires 3 proposals for this estimate of brush clearing under the Pike contract, Sean **seconded**, **5-0 vote** in favor.

23-102 – Consider the format and focus of the “Informational Mailer/Explanation Document” for the June 13, 2023 vote – 10 min.

- The board discussed how to effectively distribute warrant article information out to residents prior to the June Town Meeting. There is additional cardstock available already if needed as well as a \$1700 balance available in the publications line. The board and Eric discussed adding color and or different kinds of publications to make the information more readable as well as potentially adding QR codes to make finding items online easier.

23-103 – Consider a Liquor License for Lilac Catering/Anam Cara LLC – 5 min.

- Kathryn **motioned** to approve as presented and to waive a Public Hearing, **seconded** by Carol, **vote 5-0** in favor.

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

- Assessor’s Meeting April 10, 2023
- FYI Items – Kathryn discussed an article that was in the Kennebec papers about post pandemic school district budgets and their effect on town’s taxes all around the state and nation. Schools are no longer receiving the Federal Funding they had been, and will need to adjust accordingly.
- **Motion** made by Sean to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Kathryn, **vote 5-0** in favor.

Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Anjelica Pittman, Board Secretary