

Readfield Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2023 – Approved

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

Excused Absent:

Others Attending: Eric Dyer (Town Manager), Anjelica Pittman (Board Secretary), James Bourne, Grace Keene, Mike

Pledge of Allegiance

Sean took a moment to remember and support the victims of the mass shooting that occurred in Lewiston the week prior on behalf of the Select Board and the Town of Readfield. Our thoughts are with our neighbors.

Regular Meeting Items (6:30) - 5 min.

- 24-049 - Minutes: Select Board meeting minutes of October 16, 2023
 - **Motion** to accept the minutes as amended made by Dave **seconded** by Steve **vote 5-0** in favor
- 24-050 - Warrants: #19-20
 - **Motion** to approve warrants #19 & 20 in the amount of 70,669.01 made by Sean **seconded** by Carol **vote 5-0** in favor

Communications - 25 min.

- Select Board Communications - Members of the Board may present general information- 5 min.
 - Sean thanked and congratulated everyone involved (Library, Rec Board, Union Meeting House, REPA) in rallying together to get the postponed Halloween events back on the schedule and ready to go just in time and with a huge success rate.
 - Carol asked if the town can use the Fire Department message board for situations like the Halloween events the past weekend to get information out quickly for those who are not on social media to be informed. Eric responded yes.
 - Steve explained where to find the letters for the message board and how to use the board and Kathryn suggested the town purchase a new letter set.
 - Kathryn commented that UMH sent out a pamphlet for fundraising as they are very close to their goal of \$1.1 million (only \$125k away) and they also have a pledge system option for people to donate over the next two years.
 - Kathryn also mentioned the Readfield Historical Society is doing a 5 eras walking tour through town Saturday morning Dec 9th from 10-11am and another from 11-12pm, \$15 per person. Lunch at the Vestry is available afterwards.
- Staff Communication - 5 min.
 - Town Manager – Presented by Eric

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- Eric discussed the upcoming Veterans Day Celebration Saturday November 11. Beginning at the cemeteries at 10am for self-guided walks, with a ceremony at the Town Office beginning at 11am and a crockpot lunch provided upstairs in Giles Hall at 11:45am.
- Eric also discussed the Comprehensive Plan being approved by the State of Maine and in his November Messenger article he is making suggestions for what's next such as the formation of an implementation committee. He is hoping people will put in applications if they have interest and the Select Board will do quarterly reviews.
- Eric gave a quick update on the progress being made at the Library upstairs. Maintenance personnel have been moving things to prepare to paint as well as bringing in swatches to choose a paint color. Electrical work is scheduled for next week. Hopefully will see some volunteerism on Saturdays and Sundays to help with the renovation.
- 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.
 - None

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

- 24-051 - Consider the appointment of Pete Davis to the Trails Committee
 - **Motion** to appoint Pete to the Trails Committee beginning tonight until 06/30/2025 made by Steve **seconded** by Dave **vote 5-0** in favor

Old Business - 15 min.

- 24-043 - Hear and consider an update on the Fairgrounds Project - 5 min.
 - Visited three sites at the fairgrounds, two at the school, and one at the beach. Narrowed it down to one site at the middle school and one at the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds Working Group was hoping to be on the agenda for the School Board Meeting Wednesday but did not make it on the agenda. Will need to see if the school will work with them on the school site location. The Fairgrounds Working Group has another meeting this Thursday.
- 24-044 - Hear and consider an update on the Church Rd. Sidewalk Project - 5 min.
 - Some additional feedback from the public at the last meeting. Someone suggested rerouting the sidewalk to the back of the stone wall at the Fairgrounds property which would require permission from the abutting property owner to cross over the edge of their property. This would allow people to get into the Fairgrounds safer and without entering at the driveway. Continuing

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to keep up with the engineers. The town has received one payment from the State of Maine DOT for their 80% share. The board and Eric still need to plan a January or February formal Public Meeting, could possibly figure that out tomorrow during agenda setting meeting with Eric, Kathryn, and Sean.

- 24-047 - Select Board Retreat action-item reporting - 5 min.
 - Dave – Programming - Dave and Sean have a meeting scheduled next week to discuss.
 - Carol – Fire station and current businesses – reaching out to businesses to have them sign up to be on the town website. Also, Carol will be posting and advertising board and committee openings at the Post Office.
 - Kathryn – Ordinances – From 2011, 2008, 1999. Now that Kathryn has identified them, she will read over them and then find the proper contacts to see if the ordinances need to be updated. Will work on policies beginning in November/December.
 - Sean – Will begin discussion with Eric Dyer about the beach next month.
 - Steve – School collaboration has gone well so far, mainly focused on the Fairgrounds project currently. Eric also mentioned that Adult Ed at the school is offering free CDL courses and a town employee will also be taking a CDL class, likely due to the growing relationship between the town and school district.

New Business - 30 min.

- 24-052 - Consider a CMP pole permit application for Menatoma Camp Road - 5 min.
 - **Motion** to have the board approve and sign the CMP pole permit application made by Sean **seconded** by Carol **vote 5-0** in favor
- 24-053 - Consider a prior-year tax abatement for Map 109, Lot 003 & 004 - 5 min.
 - **Motion** to a prior year tax abatement for Map 109, Lot 003 & 004 made by Sean **seconded** by Steve **vote 5-0** in favor
- 24-054 - Consider potential impacts of the State minimum wage increase on municipal budgeting, and discuss wages generally - 10 min.
 - Eric explained that the town wages are in a good place due to increases in the last few years making the town more in line with and actually above CPI (Consumer Price Index) and State of Maine minimum wage. Currently keeping-pace with inflation. Minimum wage increase in January shouldn't really affect town staff.
- 24-055 - Consider possible ordinances / ordinance updates for the upcoming Town meeting and discuss scheduling - 10 min.
 - Eric included a list in the packet of ordinances that need some attention with hopes they will be reviewed and ready for Town Meeting in June 2024. Eric briefed the board on each of the

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ordinances that need review. Kathryn discussed who should review which ordinances and also suggested the administrative ordinance be done yearly. Kathryn also mentioned some of the ordinances to review simply need clarification. There is a potential for a January/February special on floor Town Meeting due to a couple of CID (commercial industrial district) rezoning applications coming in.

Other Business, Upcoming Meetings, and Future Agenda Items - 10 min.

- Kathryn read in the Central Maine newspaper regarding Winthrop dispatch; once they price out what they need they will discuss with other towns (Readfield included) how much that will cost. Eric did speak with Lee Mank about it and working with Winthrop and they agree that currently what Winthrop is doing makes sense. There will be an opportunity to sit down with Winthrop and discuss if it works for Readfield in the future.
- Kathryn also read in the paper there has been some progress with the Mooring issue in Winthrop. They received many responses to their survey. There was an overwhelming response of people who did not want to see mooring in front of private property. Many also thought that all 11 bodies of water should have the same mooring ordinance.
- Next Select Board meeting is November 13, 2023
- **Motion** to adjourn the meeting made by Sean at 7:51 PM, **seconded** by Steve, **vote 5-0** in favor.

Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Anjelica Pittman, Board Secretary