

Readfield Select Board

Regular Meeting Minutes – Monday, March 28, 2022 – *Approved*

Select Board Members Present: Carol Doorenbos, Ralph Eno, Sean Keegan, Dennis Price and Kathryn Woodsum

Others Attending: Eric Dyer (Town Manager), Anjelica Pittman (Board Secretary), Hannah Flannery (Recreation Board), Bob Bittar

Regular Meeting:

Dennis called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Communications (10 Mins)

- **Select Board Communications – 5 mins**
 - Kathryn conveyed an idea from Ben Rodriguez to the Board, for the Town of Readfield to participate as a location for Wreaths across America. There are 300+ Veteran Graves in Readfield; the Wreaths would be purchased by donation, at \$15 for one wreath or \$30 for 3 wreath donations. The sponsor group is nonprofit. Ralph added that the town could potentially fund any outstanding balance not covered by donations.
- **Public Communications - *Members of the public may address the Select Board on any topic – 5 mins***
 - Bob Bittar, who owns the Emporium, and hopes to open it this summer, stopped by to update the Board that he will be submitting a new application for the barn he owns on Millstream.

Old Business (30 mins)

- **22-062-Discuss the Fairgrounds Community Park and Conservation Project status and next steps (5 mins)**
 - Hannah attended to give updates on the Fairgrounds Project, she sent out notices to abutters of the property last week and a meeting for the abutters is being held March 31, 2022. The project is on track for approval of the final concept design and general public meeting.
- **22-110-Consider a draft Town Meeting Warrant (20 mins)**
 - Changes being made by Select Board and attorney, broadband preferred provider still in negotiations, still adjusting terms, if necessary, the town will pursue another vendor. The estimated contract is coming in around \$4.85 million range, under the proposed \$5 million.

New Business (15 mins)

- **22-111 – Consider a Bond Anticipation Note for the Community Broadband Project (5 mins)**
 - This note is a way to borrow funds (estimated at \$1 mil to \$1.5 mil by the builder) for the short term; with the knowledge that long term financing is on its way, this would prepare the Broadband Project if it receives final approval from voters in June. **Motion** made by Kathryn to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a Bond Anticipation Note for Town of Readfield up to \$2.5 million for tax exempt rate prior to April 1st 2022, with the understanding the expense is only to be made if the Broadband Article passes at town meeting. **Seconded** by Ralph, **Vote 5-0** in favor.

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- **22-112** – Consider marketing and design services for the Community Broadband Project (5 mins)
 - Kathryn spoke to Dani Campbell who can create a website at \$75/hr, 15 hours or less, site active (\$200 a year) and linked from the Towns current website and can also create promotional materials at the same rate. Eric mentioned there will be more expenses with educating the public, not only marketing but utilizing design services as well. He would like to request up to \$3000 for the remainder of the planning and design work from a broadband allocated account with a remaining \$4200. Eric would like a motion from the select board to expend up to \$3000 for outreach and education and marketing and design work. Kathryn **motioned** to approve, Sean **seconded**, **Vote 5-0** in favor.

- **22-113** – Consider an engineering proposal for the Nickerson Hill and P. Ridge Rd. Intersection (5 mins)
 - Eric is requesting a motion to enter into an agreement up to \$18,500 to improve the conditions at Nickerson Hill and P Ridge rd. There are some funds available to help; combined with the reserve may be enough to accomplish. The town has money for the design this year, the construction budget was \$20K, will not be enough because the survey that must be done is a 50% increase in cost, the survey must be done in this case, to correct right of way issue. Along with the reserve funds available, this could be accomplished this year. Kathryn made a **motion** to extend the meeting, **seconded** by Sean, **vote 5-0** in favor. Once the town completes the design work, if there is not enough funding to cover the entire project, money can be set aside to begin planning for the roadwork to be completed next year. Speeding was also brought up by Sean and he mentioned the use of Winthrop’s “Winthrop Plays Outside” initiative as a possible model to use for our own “Readfield Plays Outside” in order to help combat the speeding issue we are seeing throughout the entire town. **Motion** made by Kathryn to authorize Eric to enter into a contract with Mainland Development Consultants up to \$18,500 **seconded** by Sean, **5-0 Vote** in favor.

Other Business, Upcoming Meetings, Future Agenda Items (5 mins)

- Resolution created to solve the EMS shortage was read by Dennis, **motion** to accept the resolution made by Ralph and **seconded** by Kathryn, **5-0 vote** in favor. Dennis **motioned** to nominate Carol Doorenbos as Liaison to the Resolution, Kathryn **seconds**, **Vote 5-0** in favor.

Motion made by Sean to adjourn the meeting, **Seconded** by Kathryn, **Vote 5-0** in favor.
Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:06 pm; **Vote:** Unanimous

Minutes submitted by Anjelica Pittman, Board Secretary