

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN JOINT MEETING
WITH READING BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Reading Town Hall in the presence of members Chairman Mauceri, Mr. Prisco, Mrs. Manupelli, Mr. Yull, Mr. O'Leary, and Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto. Water Superintendent Mark Clark was also present. At 9:30 p.m., the Board joined the Reading Board of Selectmen. Present were Reading Board of Selectmen Chairman John Halsey, Kevin Sexton, Barry Berman, Daniel Ensminger and Town Manager Bob LeLacheur.

NORTH READING MWRA PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. LeLacheur noted that North Reading gets 60% of their water from Andover and 40% from the Ipswich River and this is not sufficient capacity. They are also in need of capital investments. On the other hand, Reading used to get 100% of its water from the Ipswich River and capital investments were needed for a new water treatment plant. Reading decided to go 100% with the MWRA and the water quality improved and the MWRA average rate increase was 8%.

Mr. LeLacheur noted that North Reading needs to join the MWRA and do a full buy-in. They believe that going through Reading is the best route and their permitting begins in 2016 and will be final in 2019. So what's in it for Reading: good neighbors: this will help the MWRA sell more water and that will lower the rates; the Town will receive a wheeling charge; we want part of the best deal that North Reading gets since we are still paying \$1.5 million in interest payments; we will regain redundancy through Andover.

Mr. LeLacheur noted that DPW staff has been talking for over one year and Reading's long term goal is to have a backup. What is not in it for us is no new debt and Reading is willing to discuss forming and managing a formal water district after the second phase of the IMA is in place. There will be two sets of meters. The MWRA will bill North Reading for what goes in and we will be billed the amount minus what North Reading gets.

Barry Berman asked if there will be any potential disruptions and Mr. LeLacheur noted it will be very minimal.

Mark Clark noted that North Reading has a cap on what they can draw from the Ipswich River and they have one well that is down so this provides a long range solution.

Daniel Ensminger noted that the MWRA said they could put the pipes underground at Mill Street and he would want that.

Barry Berman asked if this needs to go to Town Meeting and Mr. LeLacheur noted that if it was costing us money we would have to but it is not costing us anything. Daniel Ensminger noted that it would be prudent to give a report at the Subsequent Town Meeting.

Mr. Gilleberto noted this is going to Town Meeting for approval in June and he thanked everyone for their support.

Reading Historical Commission members Jonathan Barnes and Virginia Adams were present. Jonathan Barnes noted that there is one issue. The filing of the EIR with the State has started and there is one aspect is acknowledgement of historic places. The Mill Street Bridge and also the location of the Lobs Pound Mill and the old water pump dates back to 1640 – 1842 and have been designated by the State as

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an archaeological site. They are grateful the pump station is being moved to North Reading. The EIR is anticipated to be minimal so the roadway construction should have no effect. The Mill Street Bridge is an integral part of the archaeological site. The undergirding contains original stones of the Mill. If the water main gets moved under or over the bridge they consider that adverse action. The consultant said it is routine to tunnel under. They ask that they be sensitive to the site and preferably go underground.

Will Finch, member of the Ipswich River Watershed Association, noted that there could be bedrock under there so they should be prepared. Other dams were built on bedrock. In addition, any pipe exposed on the side of the bridge would take away from the historic nature of the bridge.

Virginia Adams asked if this meeting was advertised as a public hearing and John Halsey noted it was not because we are not voting on anything. He also made note at Town Meeting that we are in discussion with North Reading.

Daniel Ensminger noted that the Historical Commission wants to be notified. Jonathan Barnes noted that the characterization in the EIR is not accurate so the Town should be aware of that. Daniel Ensminger asked if the comment period is still open and Jonathan Barnes noted the Historical commission gave their comments.

Chairman Mauceri noted that they appreciate our concerns.

A North Reading representative noted that they are looking for an “Engineering solution” that is the best long term solution for them.

Mr. Yull noted that it is nice to work together in an amicable way.

Chairman Mauceri noted it has been a pleasure to work with Dan Ensminger and John Halsey.

The North Reading Board of Selectmen adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

ADJOURN: 10:15 p.m.

DATE

KATHRYN MANUPELLI, CLERK