

**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING  
NORTH READING BOARD OF SELECTMEN/ANDOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

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Chairman Prisco called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 14 at the Town Hall in the presence of members Mrs. Manupelli, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Mauceri, Mr. O'Leary, Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto and Water Superintendent Mark Clark. The Andover Board of Selectmen was also present.

**CALL TO ORDER OPEN SESSION**

Chairman Prisco called to order the open session at 7:30 p.m.

The Chairman States: "In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the Board states for the record that this meeting is being recorded by NORCAM and may be recorded by other local media."

The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Prisco made introductions and turned the meeting over to Andover Board of Selectmen Chairman Paul Salafia. Mr. Salafia introduced Andover Board of Selectmen who were present at the meeting; Alexander Vispoli, Laura Gregory, Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan and Deputy Town Manager John Mangiaratti.

Mr. Prisco stated for the audience and for the record the reason for the joint meeting is that North Reading BoS attended Andover's Special Town Meeting and there was a change in the warrant article requested by the voters that passed. He further stated the Board's biggest concern is the "opt out" language which has always been off the table during negotiations.

Chairman Salafia stated Andover BoS is looking for a path forward, and they want to be able to come to an agreement. Mr. Flanagan responded that he is inclined to request that the Andover Board of Selectmen reopen the Warrant on Monday and submit an article for consideration or reconsideration that will look like the original article for the Annual Town Meeting on April 30th. He further stated that Andover is unanimously open to permanency of the agreement. He would like to meet with North Reading BoS as soon as possible in a negotiating team fashion and look for the missing piece.

Mr. Prisco was looking for a proposal from Andover tonight. He clarified that North Reading is still looking for permanency and looking to keep the opt-out proposal on the table. Mr. Vispoli responded that to get change made they would have to go back to Town Meeting. He further stated that the Board could call a Special Town Meeting to make the change sooner. Chairman Salafia stated they need to agree on an out clause that would be agreeable to both parties. Mr. Flanagan stated that the language of the warrant article they propose at their town meeting would be the same as North Reading's article. Mr. Flanagan is requesting that the subcommittees can negotiate an opt-out or renewal clause in the agreement. Mr. Schultz asked Andover BoS to clarify "renegotiable" points. Ms. Gregory stated that the residents are anxious to get the agreement in place. Mr. Mauceri said it appeared the Andover voters did not understand the agreement. He asked what the risks are and how to deal with them.

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Mrs. Manupelli stated throwing it back into a subcommittee is not the best option. She wants to hear tonight what the creative options are that could address the Andover resident's issues. She further stated that the voters at the Special Town Meeting made it resoundingly clear that they do not want a long term agreement.

Mr. Prisco said the subcommittee was an epic failure; he wants it figured out tonight. Mr. Flanagan presented the following concepts which had not yet been discussed with Andover BoS:

- Opt out: more for Andover than North Reading
- After 25 years, having the ability to conclude.

Mr. Schultz is concerned about the possibility of opting out 25 years from now and the costs of connecting with the MWRA, and is looking for protections from Andover. Mr. Flanagan responded that they would pay North Reading two times the amount more than North Reading would pay Andover if North Reading were to opt-out.

Mr. O'Leary thanks Chairman Salafia and Ms. Gregory and all others involved for their efforts thus far. He gives a history of the water agreement discussions with Andover since 2013. He expresses his disappointment with the discord of the Andover BoS. He stated that Andover bears the responsibility for the costs that North Reading has incurred because of their decisions. He further stated that permanency is more important than money.

Mr. Mauceri stated that the original article takes care of 99 years, the amendment is the problem, take it out and convince the public to remove the amendment or create language to nullify it then negotiations can continue and we can deal with the issues.

Mr. Prisco stated that if either Town had to pay money if they opted out, it would require appropriation.

8:39 – Recess for Andover Board of Selectmen to confer.

8:56 – Reconvene in open session.

Ms. Gregory stated that Andover Board of Selectmen will call for a Special, single item Town Meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> or earlier at their Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> BoS meeting to consider the original article before the amendment. She further stated that it would give the Board time to educate and inform the voters before Special Town Meeting, something they did not do a good job at before.

Mr. O'Leary stated that based on North Reading's timeline, he would be willing to keep the discussions going forward. Mr. Mauceri suggested that the subcommittees continue talking based on the assumption that the opt-out clause is voted out at the Andover Town Meeting.

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Mrs. Manupelli confirmed with Andover BoS that they intend to tell townspeople they are rescinding the amended article.

Mr. Prisco asks for Andover to hold off considering calling a special Town meeting until 8:00 p.m. on March 5<sup>th</sup>. He expressed his concern about a change in the Andover Board of Selectmen at the Town election. Ms. Gregory offered to consider a Special Town Meeting date before the Town elections.

Mr. Schultz expressed his concern to Andover regarding negotiating with a Board that is dysfunctional.

Mrs. Manupelli thanks Ms. Gregory and Mr. Flanagan for speaking up at the Andover Town Meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I MR. SCHULTZ MOVE TO ADJOURN.

SECONDED:	MR. O'LEARY	
VOTED:	MR.O'LEARY	AYE
	MRS. MANUPELLI	AYE
	MR. SCHULTZ	AYE
	MR. MAUCERI	AYE
	MR. PRISCO	AYE

VOTE: 5-0 (UNANAMOUS)

ADJOURN: 9:15 p.m.

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DATE

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ANDREW SCHULTZ, CLERK