



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

RMLD Citizens Advisory Board

Date: 2018-11-14

Time: 6:30 PM

Building: Reading Municipal Light Building

Location: Winfred Spurr Audio Visual Room

Address: 230 Ash Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Final

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Mr. Dennis Kelley, Chair (Wilmington); Mr. Jason Small, Vice Chair (North Reading) Mr. Neil Cohen (Reading)

Members - Not Present:

Mr. Vivek Soni, Secretary (Lynnfield); Mr. George Hooper (Wilmington)

Others Present:

Mr. Phil Pacino, Board of Commissioners, and Ms. Vanessa Alvarado, Reading Select Board
Ms. Coleen O'Brien, Mr. Hamid Jaffari, Ms. Kathleen Rybak, Mr. Charles Underhill

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Mr. Dennis Kelley, Chair

Topics of Discussion:

1. Call Meeting to Order – D. Kelley, Chair
Chair Kelley called the meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Board to order at 6:30 PM and noted that the meeting was being audio recorded.
2. Approval of Minutes – D. Kelley, Chair
Materials: Draft Minutes from September 19, 2018, meetings.

Mr. Cohen made a motion that the Citizens' Advisory Board approve the Minutes of the September 19, 2018, meetings as written, seconded by Mr. Small. Hearing no further discussion, **motion carried 3:0:2** (3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent).

3. General Manager's Update – C. O'Brien, General Manager

- *Director of Integrated Resources*

Ms. O'Brien introduced Mr. Charles (Chuck) Underhill, the new Director of Integrated Resources. Mr. Underhill gave a brief overview of his experience and initial assessment in IRD. Ms. O'Brien noted that IRD will focus on strategic planning, key accounts, and areas for economic development. Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Underhill asked if there were any specific request that the CAB had for IRD. Chair Kelley asked that town-specific data be included when any cumulative data is being presented.

- *Town Meetings – Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates and Agendas*

Ms. O'Brien reported that she is presenting at Reading Town Meeting on November 15. The presentation slides (which include information that will be included in the RMLD Annual Report) were forwarded to the CAB along with the GM's letter, which is typically the first page in the RMLD Annual Report. The theme for this year's annual report is "electrification." The Town actuarial report, which confirms the OPEB and pension numbers for RMLD has not yet been completed, which is delaying the RMLD audit report and annual report. Ms. O'Brien reported that she does not anticipate any issues with the audit. However, loss of kilowatt hour sales will come in at about 1.5%. Once the audit report is completed the annual report will be finalized.

Select Board presentations are as follows: Wilmington on Monday, January 14; North Reading on Monday, January 28; Lynnfield on Monday, January 7. A Reading Select Board presentation will be scheduled after January. Ms. O'Brien noted that she meets with the individual Town Administrator/Manager prior to the Select Board meeting to review her presentation. If CAB members have specific items they would like her to discuss with the Town Administrator/Manager or Select Board they should let her know.

4. Review of Recent Weather/Outage Issues – H. Jaffari, Director of E & O
Materials: Recent Major Outage Events Due to Weather/Trees (handout)

Mr. Jaffari provided a review of recent outages occurring October through November 3. Mr. Jaffari noted that the recent above-average rainfall has had an impact on tree roots making them unstable. Ms. O'Brien noted that an increase in "strangle weeds" on trees is impacting the trees as well, which is a concern for the winter months. Mr. Jaffari reviewed the RMLD Reliability Indices (through September), which remain below national and regional averages. However, it is anticipated SAIFI will go above the regional average because of storms in this area.

5. Payment to the Town of Reading – C. O'Brien, General Manager
Materials: Historical documentation regarding the history of the Town Payment (handout)

Commissioner Pacino was present to give an update on the work of the Sub-Committee for the Payment to the Town of Reading. Mr. Pacino distributed and reviewed historical documentation regarding the Town payments dating back to 1949. In 1998 the present formula was set. At the last Sub-Committee meeting, the General Manager's study was presented. The bottom line of the study is that at some point decreased kilowatt sales are going to converge with what RMLD can afford in order to maintain the system and it will be a problem at that point. Mr. Pacino stated that he had proposed to the Sub-Committee that the payment be potentially frozen for the next two years, and then the annual payment would be determined by some sort of formula. Mr. Pacino noted that this was his opinion and not the opinion of the Commission. Mr. Pacino noted that there was not much discussion of that proposal by the Sub-Committee, and that there were no counter-proposals. Mr. Pacino reported that the Sub-Committee would like to determine whether a facilitator is necessary, and he was asked to discuss with the CAB the use of a facilitator. Mr. Pacino noted that should the CAB want to put a facilitator in place, the cost would be split equally between the Commission and the CAB budgets.

The group discussed the role a facilitator would play. Mr. Kelley noted that this issue is really about the Town of Reading's budget, not RMLD's, and did not see why the CAB would pay for a facilitator. Mr. Small noted that a facilitator will usually facilitate between two varying and conflicting viewpoints and maybe two conflicting proposals and bridge the gap to get to some sort of middle ground. There has been only one proposal and there's been no counter proposal from the Town. Chair Kelley thanked Mr. Pacino for the update noting that it sounds like we are in a holding pattern with not a lot of detail or movement.

6. Upcoming Meetings – D. Kelley, Chair

The group agreed to tentatively schedule a Board meeting for December 19th depending on the need to meet.

7. Adjournment – D. Kelley, Chair

Mr. Cohen made a motion to adjourn the Citizens' Advisory Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Small. **Motion carried 3:0:2** (3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent).

The CAB meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.

As approved December 19, 2018.