

Reading Public Schools  
Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the Finance Committee  
*Executive Session*

Date: March 20, 2013  
Place: Superintendent' Office

*Fincom Members Present*

David Greenfield  
Paula Perry  
Paul McNeice  
Mark Dockser  
Jeanne Borawski  
Hal Torman  
Jeffrey Perkins  
Karen Herrick

Arrived at 7:50 p.m.  
Arrived at 7:40 p.m.

*Staff Members Present*

Bob LeLacheur, Town Finance Director  
Peter Hechenbleikner, Town Manager

Visitors:

John Doherty, Superintendent  
Mary DeLai, Assistant Superintendent

James Bonazoli, BOS

Gary Brackett, Town Counsel

Karen Janowski, School Committee  
Hal Croft, School Committee  
Chuck Robinson, School Committee  
Chris Caruso, School Committee  
Rob Spadafora, School Committee

- I. Executive Session 7:33 p.m.  
A. Call to Order

Chairperson Greenfield called the Executive Session to order.

Litigation

Town Manager Hechenbleikner provided a brief overview of the status of the RMHS Building Project litigation.

Mr. Caruso left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

He indicated that the discussion this evening would be about the proposed settlement in the TLT v. Harleysville v. Reading case.

Mr. Caruso returned to the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Town Counsel Gary Brackett provided an overview of this case that has been pending since 2007. He shared that a jury trial in Supreme Court for the Main Case will begin in October.

The Harleysville and Main Case are two separate cases. The Harleysville case centers on claims related to HVAC work in excess of the scope of work. There are 26 items that make up this case.

Ms. Herrick arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Brackett reviewed the proposed settlement amount versus the cost of a trial. The recommendation is to resolve this case and focus on the Main Case.

Mr. Dockser asked if this settlement would have any impact on the Main Case. The answer was no, it would not have an impact.

Mr. Perkins arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Fincom members asked clarifying questions.

Mr. Dockser feels this is a fiscally responsible course of action.

**Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Ms. Borawski to approve the proposed settlement as written. The roll call vote was 7-0-1. Mr. Greenfield, Ms. Borawski, Mr. Dockser, Mr. McNeice, Ms. Herrick, Mrs. Perry and Mr. Torman. Mr. Perkins abstained.**

#### Real Estate

Mr. Greenfield recused himself from the meeting and left at 8:10 p.m.

Acting Chair Torman took over.

Mr. Hechenbleikner shared that there is a tentative agreement in place for the purchase of the Woburn Street property and Town Counsel is drafting a letter of intent.

Mr. Robinson stated that the School Committee would like to get a press release out once the agreement is approved in an effort to be transparent.

Mrs. Janowski said the purchase will provide a solution to our elementary space issues and the ability to offer free full day kindergarten for all in the future. The School Committee has been discussing the space issue since the fall.

Ms. DeLai shared that she had asked the OPM for the Woburn St. property to review the Locker report to determine how realistic it would be to expand any of our elementary schools. She went on to review that information.

Mr. Bonazoli asked what the status was of the Post Office sale. Mr. Hechenbleikner said the Post Office would be making a presentation to the Board of Selectmen in April.

Adjourn

**Mr. McNeice moved, seconded by Mr. Perkins, to return to open session. The roll call vote was 7-0. Ms. Borawski, Mr. Dockser, Mr. McNeice, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Herrick, Mrs. Perry and Mr. Torman.**

**Mr. Croft moved, seconded by Mr. Spadafora, to return to open session. The roll call vote was 5-0. Mr. Croft, Mr. Spadafora, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Caruso, and Mrs. Janowski.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Approved 4.8.13  
Released 4.3.17