

**Town of Reading Finance Committee
Mission Statement / Guiding Principles**

The Reading Finance Committee will use all available authority and resources to advise Town Meeting on fiscal matters in accordance with the Reading Home Rule Charter and applicable state statutes, recommending the most responsible allocation of funds to deliver the highest quality municipal services to the citizens of Reading.

This will be accomplished by:

- Establishing clear financial policies to provide guidance in the conduct of the fiscal affairs of the Town
- Recommending and adhering to fiscally sound management practices
- Working collaboratively with Town staff, boards and committees to ensure a financial planning process that is inclusive of all interests
- Monitoring budget developments and expenditures vigilantly
- Considering longer term fiscal impacts of recommendations on Town finances
- Factoring in community priorities and fiscal sustainability of services in recommending financial positions
- Upholding the Reading Home Rule Charter and By-Laws

The Finance Committee of the Town of Reading will be guided by the following values adopted by the Board of Selectmen:

Integrity and Transparency

- Reading municipal government and its employees and officials will be guided by the highest standards of ethics and integrity.
- Municipal business will be conducted in an open manner with opportunities for public discussion and input into decisions.
- The community will be kept informed with open communication.
- All official business will be conducted in a civil, professional, and mutually respectful manner.

Excellence

- Excellence will be the standard for all municipal services, with continuous review and evaluation of best practices, incorporating new methods and technologies, striving for efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Reading municipal government will make decisions based on careful planning consistent with town-wide goals.

Diversity

- Municipal government will encourage diversity and respect for differences in the conduct of its business and in recruiting and hiring personnel and in providing enrichment opportunities for the community.

Community

The following are values that the community holds in high regards:

- Social, Environmental, and Financial Sustainability
- Tolerance, Civility and Cultural Diversity
- Volunteerism and Civic Engagement
- Historic Preservation and Open Space
- Recreational, Cultural, and Educational Opportunities