



TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Select Board
Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

Chair:
Tiffanie Needham
Vice Chair:
Lori Childs

Members:
Michael P. O'Loughlin
Donna Shortall
John J. Ellard, Jr.

Telephone: 781-871-1874

Select Board Open Session Minutes of
January 7, 2025

Select Board Meeting
H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room
Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland

In attendance: Chair Tiffanie Needham, Vice Chair Lori Childs, Members Michael O'Loughlin, Donna Shortall, John Ellard, Assistant Town Administrator Courtney Bjorgaard, and Town Administrator Doug Lapp.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Community Announcements

- South Shore Regional Vocational Technical School (SSRVTS) Building Project (\$276 million total)-SSRVTS Regional Special Election Ballot Vote on 1/25/2025; Town of Rockland Debt Exclusion Ballot Vote on 1/25/2025 - Variable Cost Over time; Approx. \$35 million to Start.
- Rockland Fire Station Building Project (\$26 million)-Annual Town Election Debt Exclusion Ballot Vote on 4/12/2025-Annual Town Meeting Vote on 5/5/2025
- Recognition of Tilden's Florist for 96 Years of Serving the Community

3. Minutes-12/17/24

MOTION to approve the minutes of 12/17/24, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

4. New Business

-7:00pm Public Hearing: Transfer & Alteration of Premises for Beer & Wine License for Quick Stop Gas & Convenience, 246 East Water Street

MOTION to open Public Hearing, Roll Call Vote - Unanimous approval

Attorney John Moordian presented the application for Transfer & Alteration of Premises for Beer & Wine License for Quick Stop Gas & Convenience, 246 East Water Street. There were no public comments.

MOTION to close Public Hearing, Roll Call Vote - Unanimous approval

MOTION to approve Transfer & Alteration of Premises for Beer & Wine License for Quick Stop Gas & Convenience, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

-Police Department Promotions Ceremony-Sergeant Steven Somers promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Officer Keith Brodeur promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Chief Zeoli provided a narrative of both officers including their working history; family members pinned Lieutenant Steven Somers and Sergeant Keith Brodeur.

-Town Clerk Election Updates- Nomination Papers for April 2025 Annual Town Election Now Available, Vote by Mail & In-Person Early Voting for April 2025 Annual Town Election, and January 25, 2025, Special Election Logistics Update – Town Clerk Liza Landy said nomination papers for the 4/12 Town Elections are available with 17 open seats. She also stated she does not recommend Rockland opt-out of early voting and requests the Board approve in person early voting at Town Hall, Saturday 4/5 & Monday -Thursday 4/7-4/11. Ms. Landy stressed there will be no "vote by mail" postcards sent to residents.

MOTION to approve in person early voting as requested, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

Ms. Landy wanted to clarify at the Special Election on January 25, 2025, there will be one voter check in point and two ballots for each voter; both ballots will be put into the tabulator at the same time. Also, she said absentee ballots are available now.

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
JAN 22 '25 PM 1:26

-Other New Business Not Reasonably Anticipated – none

5. Old Business –

--Charter Review Committee Reappointments: Rich Penney (from Charter Maintenance), Pat Foley (from Charter Maintenance), Judy Hartigan (from Charter Maintenance), Robyn Day, Karen Ripley, Maureen Shorrock

MOTION to approve Charter Review Committee reappointments as listed, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

Mr. Lapp said he will speak with Charter Chair Rich Penney regarding the Town Moderator's concern with the minimum quorum for Town Meetings and recommend the committee discuss making a change.

-FY26 Budget- Mr. Lapp gave a brief update of the FY26 draft budget in the early stages. He is in the process of meeting with department heads and the Finance Committee will begin to meet with departments this week. Mr. Lapp provided the list of capital requests received and said budget discussions will continue to be on future SB agendas.

-Other Old Business Not Reasonably Anticipated – none

6. Select Board Liaison Update(s)- Ms. Childs expressed her frustrations with the Board of Health recent meetings.

7. Town Administrators Report & Correspondence

-Met with Unions and set ground rules for negotiations, which will start soon.

-Postcards have been mailed to all registered voters regarding SSRVTS Regional Special Election Ballot Vote and Rockland Debt Exclusion Ballot Vote on 1/25/2025; looking forward to any feedback

-Town Hall will be closed Thursday 1/9, 2:00 – 4:30, for Active Shooter Training for Town Hall staff

8. Select Board Comments

Mr. O'Loughlin-no comments

Mr. Ellard-encouraged residents to run for Boards & Committees; reach out to him for information & guidance

Ms. Shortall-sends respect to late former President Jimmy Carter who had set a high standard as a humanitarian
-encourages residents to be part of the solution and attend Town meetings

Ms. Childs- Welcome back to Doug

-Congratulations on the retirement of Tilden's and the Arena family– will be missed

-Recognized a friend, Diane Lassonde, who lost her battle with cancer - R.I.P.

Ms. Needham-reinforced the importance of going out to vote at the 1/25/25 special election

MOTION to adjourn, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval.

Minutes by Susan Ide, Executive Assistant

Open Session Minutes approved by the BOS on 1/21/25