



## TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Select Board  
Town Hall  
242 Union Street  
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

Chair:  
Tiffany 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  
February 4, 2025

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

In attendance: Chair Tiffany Needham, Vice Chair Lori Childs, Members Michael O'Loughlin, John Ellard, Assistant Town Administrator Courtney Bjorgaard, and Town Administrator Doug Lapp. Not in attendance: Member Donna Shortall

### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

### 2. Community Announcements

- 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
- Library ChargePoint EV Charging Station to be removed

### 3. Minutes-1/21/25

MOTION to approve the minutes of 1/21/25, by Mr. Ellard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

### 4. New Business

- Vote Specific Dates for In-Person Early Voting, April 2025 Annual Town Election – Town Clerk Liza Landy said the Board previously voted on In-Person Early Voting and proposes the Board vote the hours to be Wednesday 4/2/25 to Wednesday 4/9/25 8:30-4 and Saturday 4/5/25, 9-3 (no hours Sunday).

MOTION to approve early voting hours as proposed, by Ms. Landy, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

- Building Department Recommended Fee Increase – Building Commissioner Tom Ruble said Rockland has not increased permit fees since 2013 and provided the Board an analysis of surrounding Towns fees with his recommendations. The Board approved the increase in new construction fees and will consider the residential fees at a future meeting.

MOTION to approve the increase of new construction fees as recommended, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ellard. Unanimous approval

- Other New Business Not Reasonably Anticipated -Mr. Lapp received an email from Abington BOS Chairman Kevin Donovan who gave notice Abington will be "Perambulating the Bounds" which locates the proper markers of the Town boundaries. He welcomes the Rockland Board to join them on 4/5/25. Mr. Lapp recommends the Board delegate the work and appoint Zoning Enforcement Officer Tom Ruble and Zoning Board Chairman Rob Rosa as representatives.

MOTION to appoint Mr. Ruble and Mr. Rosa to represent Rockland in the task as presented, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

- Snow & Ice Stipend – Highway Superintendent Dave Taylor requested the Board consider a Snow & Ice stipend as done in previous years. Mr. Ellard said he would prefer the stipend show as a line item on the May Town Warrant and Mr. Lapp said the stipend is included in the Snow & Ice line item. The Board briefly discussed.

MOTION to approve Snow & Ice Stipend for Mr. Taylor with the same terms & conditions as previous years, with a cap of \$10,000 (\$50 an hour), by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Childs. 3-1(Ellard)

Mr. Taylor provided an update on the Highway Department and Sewer Department.

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND  
MAR 10 '25 PM 3:06

-Managed New Growth Discussion – Select Board Vice Chair Lori Childs, Ms. Bjorgaard, and Town Planner Allyson Quinn described what new growth is and why it plays a critical role in the financial well-being of Rockland. The Board commented and thanked Ms. Bjorgaard and Ms. Quinn.

-Report Potential Commercial Development at Southfield formerly the South Weymouth NAS – Mr. Lapp briefly summarized and said he wanted the public to know Rockland is completely engaged along with Abington. Southfield Redevelopment Reps Tom Henderson & Kelli O'Brien-MacKinnon commented.

-Recommended Uses of Town Opioid Settlement Funds – Ms. Bjorgaard provided the background and an overview of the draft proposal for the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund – Rockland previously set up a Special Purpose Stabilization Fund. Mr. Lapp said the end result of appropriation of funds is the Board's decision whether to go forward with an article for the Town Warrant. The Board commented and thanked Ms. Bjorgaard.

#### 5. Old Business –

-South Shore Regional Vocational Technical School Building Project – Election Update- Mr. Lapp said the SSRVT Building Project passed at the regional election and the debt exclusion also passed in Rockland.

-FY26 Budget – Mr. Lapp gave a PowerPoint presentation of the draft FY26 Budget including FY26 Budget Objectives, Financial Dashboard, Revenues/State Assessment, Revenue Sharing with School Department, Budget Highlights and FY26 Capital Article Requests. He will have a final draft for the Select Board 3/4/25 meeting for approval to go before the Finance Committee.

-Emergency Shelter Update- Ms. Bjorgaard said last week we received notice from the Executive Office of Housing of the Wednesday 4/30/25 closure of the Rockland Comfort Inn as an Emergency Assistance family site. She will update the Board as more information becomes available.

-Other Old Business Not Reasonably Anticipated – none

#### 6. Select Board Liaison Update(s)-

-Mr. O'Loughlin has been working with the Open Space Committee and will report back in a couple of weeks

#### 7. Town Administrators Report & Correspondence

-Park's Commissioners appointed Justin Bodio as the new Parks Superintendent – great addition

-Town Collector Judy Hartigan resigned from the Charter Maintenance & Charter Review Committee. Thank you to Judy.

-Issued the RFQ for Sewer OPM due 2/12/25 – on the Town website

-Participated in a Zoom meeting recently with the EPA, Town Counsel & Interim Sewer Superintendent; he sincerely stressed to the EPA how the Town is moving forward to solutions

#### 8. Select Board Comments

Mr. O'Loughlin-Last week an overnight investigation by Warner Paranormal was done at the GAR Hall – fascinating

Mr. Ellard- Election nominations papers are available; Out of 17 open positions, 16 people have pulled papers for office

Ms. Childs-Exciting there are four people running for Select Board

-Rockland Day is June 14

-Please be mindful when you are approaching the crosswalks.

Ms. Needham- Chocolate Auction at the Channing Unitarian Church - Sunday 2/9

MOTION to adjourn to Executive Session,

- Per M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(7) – Review & Approval of Executive Session Minutes: 1-16-2024 & 9-3-2024
- Per M.G.L. c.30A, §21 (a)(3) – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining: all bargaining units, Clerical, Highway/Park/Tree, Police Officers, Police Superior Officers, Firefighters.

not to reconvene, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval.



Minutes by Susan Ide, Executive Assistant

Open Session Minutes approved by the BOS on 3/4/25