



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
March 18, 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

-Early Voting Dates: 4/2/25 – 4/9/25; Dog Licensing Deadline: 3/31/25; Special Town Meeting Warrant is Open; Rockland Fire Station Building Project (\$26.1 million) & Ladder Truck (\$2 million); Annual Town Election Debt Exclusion Ballot Vote on 4/12/2025, Annual Town Meeting Vote on 5/5/2025; Fire Department Currently Accepting Applications

3. Minutes-3/4/25

MOTION to approve the minutes of 3/4/25, by Ms. Childs, 2nd by Mr. O'Loughlin. Shortall abstained

4. New Business

-7:00pm Public Hearing – National Grid New Pole Installation at the Intersection of Summit Street and Myrtle Street

MOTION to open Public Hearing by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs, Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval

National Grid representative requested new pole installation at the intersection of Summit Street and Myrtle Street.

MOTION to close Public Hearing by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs, Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval

MOTION to approve new pole installation at the intersection of Summit Street and Myrtle Street, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

-One Day Liquor License – Trinity Episcopal Church – 3/30/25, 2:00pm – 5:00pm -Karen Bonn

MOTION to approve One Day Liquor License – Trinity Episcopal Church, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

-Recreation Committee Appointment – Molly Growth-Ong

MOTION to approve the appointment of Molly Growth-Ong to the Recreation Committee, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

-Vote to Designate the Recreation Committee Members as Special Municipal Employees

MOTION to designate members of the Recreation Committee as Special Municipal Employees, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

-Request for Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Subcommittee – Town Planner Allyson Quinn gave a brief update on the OSRP plan. She requests keeping the makeup of the current OSRP and having each Board/Committee provide her with recommended applicants. The Select Board will appoint the individual members.

MOTION for the OSRP Subcommittee Plan to follow as stated, with individual applicants to go before the Select Board for approval, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

-FY26 Capital Plan – Capital Planning Committee Chair Rich Harris provided an update and the FY26 capital plan department project requests

MOTION to approve FY26 Capital Plan as presented, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

-Overview of Veterans Related Town Meeting Warrant Articles & Approval of Addition of Checkoff Box to Excise Tax Bills for Veterans Donations – Veterans Agent Tim White gave a summary of the Veteran Articles on the Annual Warrant. Mr. White, working with Assessor Meg Peterson & Town Collector Judy Hartigan, and is requesting the Select Boards approval to add a box on the excise bills to allow residents to donate to veterans.

MOTION to approve the addition of a checkoff box to the excise tax bills for Veterans donations, by Ms. Childs, 2nd by Mr. O'Loughlin. Unanimous approval

5. Old Business –taken out of order

-7:30pm-Continuation of Public Hearing Pursuant to Gen. L c.138 sec.64 on potential modification, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of Innholder's License to sell alcoholic beverages, to wit: 167 Union Street, LLC d/b/a The Banner, William T. Barry, Manager.

MOTION to open the Continuation of Public Hearing Pursuant to Gen. L c.138 sec.64 on potential modification, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of Innholder's License to sell alcoholic beverages, to wit: 167 Union Street, LLC d/b/a The Banner, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Roll Call Vote Unanimous approval

Mr. Lapp gave an overview of the previous Select Board disciplinary hearing and Town Land Counsel Bob Galvin provided the Board with the status of the previously given order. Attorney Galvin would support the Board's decision to extend the suspension for a couple more weeks to allow the requirements to be resolved but he said there will be bigger issues if the timeline is not met. Mr. Walter Sullivan, attorney for owner William Barry, stated the matter of the LLC ownership and insurance is in the process of being fixed and will be in place once all Town licenses/permits are complete. He gave a status report on the work Mr. Barry has in process and his assurance of the completion. The Board commented on the numerous compliance issues. Building Inspector Tom Ruble, Electrical Inspector John Kemmett, Deputy Fire Chief Tom Heaney, & Health Agent Delshaune Flipp reported on the prior day's inspections and voiced their concerns on the hazardous outstanding conditions. The Board discussed and made it clear they want to see some serious progress at the 4/1 meeting. Without proof of timely improvements, the Board will consider revoking the Innholder's License to sell alcoholic beverages.

MOTION to close Public Hearing, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval

MOTION to extend the suspension deadline to four weeks, with a mandatory review on 4/1/25 and compliance completion on 4/15/25, of the Innholder's Alcohol License held by 167 Union Street, LLC d/b/a The Banner, William T. Barry, Manager, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

4. cont'd New Business –taken out of order

-Special/Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Mr. Lapp provided a draft of the FY26 Warrant and read the list of Articles.

-Other New Business Not Reasonably Anticipated - none

5. Old Business –

-FY26 Budget –Mr. Lapp presented the draft of the FY 26 Budget. School Superintendent Dr. Alan Cron & Asst. Superintendent Jane Hackett requested additional funds of \$300,000 and provided a PowerPoint presentation with an explanation for the request. The Board commented understanding the request but stressed the financial strain of the budget. Mr. Lapp, working with Highway Superintendent Taylor, presented an option to fund the School's request by cutting funding from three Highway articles (\$250,000) and eliminating one School article (\$50,000). Mr. O'Loughlin said he would be amendable with the solution and thanked Mr. Taylor; he said the Town & School work well together. The Board had a consensus to support Mr. Lapp's recommendation. Dr. Cron and Ms. Hackett thanked the Board and Mr. Lapp.

-Town Administrator Performance Evaluation prepared by Town Counsel John Clifford – Ms. Needham gave an overview of the TA performance evaluation and provided the ratings & a sample of comments for each category. The Board expressed opinions on the evaluation report and thanked Attorney Clifford.

MOTION to adopt the Town Administrator Performance Evaluation score as presented, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Mr. Ellard. 4-1 (Childs)

Mr. Lapp provided his goals & objectives, which the Board will review and discuss at a future meeting.

-Other Old Business Not Reasonably Anticipated –none

6. Select Board Liaison Update(s)- Ms. Childs gave an update on the Board of Health

7. Town Administrators Report & Correspondence

-The House passed a bill that would extend remote/hybrid meetings; the Senate is expected to take up this week; thank you to Senator Keenan's office

-Sewer OPM RFQ responses received – review is underway

-Continuing to hold Fire Station Building Community Outreach programs

-Continuing negotiations with all 5 Unions – making progress

-Hartsuff Park trailer demolition update- received final green light from the courts - demo will begin soon

8. Select Board Comments

Mr. O'Loughlin-no comments

Mr. Ellard-High School Drama Club musical this week "Sponge Bob the Musical"- always a great job

Ms. Shortall- no comments

Ms. Childs-Remind people to watch speed limits, especially around the crosswalks

-Horrible pedestrian vs train accident in Abington – be careful

Ms. Needham- no comments

MOTION to adjourn into Executive Session - Per M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation: Robert B. Our, Inc v. Brait Builders Corp. v. Town of Rockland, Plymouth Superior Court, C.A. No.2383CV00533 and c.30A, §21(a)(7) to act in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Law (review privileged written legal advice from Special Counsel)

not to reconvene, Roll call vote. Unanimous approval.



Minutes by Susan Ide, Executive Assistant

Open Session Minutes approved by the BOS on 4/1/25