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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
April 1, 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-Winter Parking Ban lifted as of 4/1/25; Annual Election Ballot & Early Voting Dates: 4/2/25 – 4/9/25 at Town Hall; Due to a misprint omission of name on ballot, James Wells is running for Planning Board; Town Planner Community Information Sessions re: Zoning Bylaw Amendments at Town Meeting – 4/1, 4/3 & 4/4; 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; Community Cleanup Day 4/26/25

3. Minutes-3/18/25

MOTION to approve the minutes of 3/18/25, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval.

4. New Business

-Appointment to Cultural Council – Roksana Cappiella

MOTION to approve the appointment of Roksana Cappiella to the Cultural Council, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval.

-One Day Liquor License – Players Sports Bar & Grille, Veterans Memorial Stadium, 4/26/2025, 6:30pm – 9:30pm, Recreation Department Adult Easter Egg Hunt Program

MOTION to approve One Day Liquor License – Players Sports Bar & Grille, Adult Easter Egg Hunt, Veterans Memorial Stadium by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval.

-Recreation Department Update – Recreation Director Jeanne Blaney and Event Planner Olivia McCormack updated the Board on the Rec Department's upcoming programs, and they talked about events for "May Mental Health Awareness Month" working in coordination with the Council on Aging, Memorial Library, Rockland Public Schools, and WRPS. The Board thanked the Rec. Department for their continuous hard work.

-Other New Business Not Reasonably Anticipated –none

5. Old Business –

Taken out of order

-Annual & Special Town Meeting Warrant – Mr. Lapp gave a brief update on the draft Warrant currently being reviewed by Town Counsel.

-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

Town Counsel John Clifford provided summaries from meetings with the relevant departments on 3/31/25, along with follow up emails regarding the status since the last hearing on 3/18/25 and a summary of information by Attorney Walter Sullivan, counsel for the Banner. As of now, there has been little or no substantive progress toward bringing the building into compliance with the applicable safety & building codes. Atty. Sullivan proposed his client voluntarily agree to a ninety(90) day suspension of the liquor license to get the necessary permits and have the corrective work done. In the interest of maintaining the commercial viability of the property, Mr. Clifford recommends the Board consider accepting the voluntary 90-day suspension, making it clear the suspension would not toll and/or inhibit any other ongoing enforcement issues and/or fines. Deputy Fire Chief Heaney reported as of today there is still no fire alarm system plan in place and Mr. O'Loughlin said this should be the priority. The Board commented, stating their concerns with the Banner's ability to meet deadlines, and requested progress reports during the 90 day period. Mr. O'Loughlin would prefer Mr. Barry not be the onsite general contractor doing the work himself, rather he obtains a separate general contractor. The Board agreed with Mr. Clifford's recommendation of a 90 day suspension with 30 day updates.

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

MOTION to approve, as recommended by Town Counsel, the suspension of the Innholders Alcohol License held by 167 Union Street, LLC d/b/a The Banner, William T. Barry, Manager, for 90 days, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.

-FY26 Budget –Mr. Lapp provided a brief presentation on “Existing & Proposed Net Debt Service: Tax-Supported Exempt Only (outside Prop. 2 ½); Town Debt & Capital Exclusions & Town's Share of SS VoTech”

-Other Old Business Not Reasonably Anticipated –none

6. Select Board Liaison Update(s)-

-Ms. Childs provided an update on the Board of Health.

7. Town Administrators Report & Correspondence

-Next Community Newsletter going out 4/2/25 – focusing specifically on Town Elections

-The Governor signed an extension bill for two years allowing public bodies to hold remote meetings

Ms. Needham and the Board commemorated Member Shortall on her last meeting as a Select Board member and expressed their sincere gratitude for her many years of service in the Town of Rockland.

8. Select Board Comments

Mr. O'Loughlin- Thank you Donna for many years together-valuable over his time-always a good person.

Mr. Ellard-Congratulations to the High School Drama Club on “Sponge Bob the Musical” - a great show.

-Encourages residents to get out and vote – early voting all week and Election Day, Saturday April 12

-Thank you, Donna, for our many years together – proud to call you my friend

Ms. Childs-Wednesday, 4/2 Sarcastic Swine hosting a free Veterans breakfast at the Abington American Legion

-Wish all the best & good health to Donna

Ms. Needham-Very grateful & has learned a lot from Donna – best of luck

Ms. Shortall-Thank you to everyone who invested in the Town; thank you for trusting & supporting me

MOTION to adjourn into Executive Session - to discuss strategy with respect to:

-Per M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(7) – Review & Approval of Executive Session Minutes: 3/18/2025

-Per M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(3) – National Opioid Litigation

not to reconvene, by Mr. O'Loughlin, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.

Minutes by Susan Ide, Executive Assistant

Open Session Minutes approved by the BOS on 4/15/25