



TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Select Board
Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

Chair:
Michael P. O'Loughlin
Vice Chair:
Lori Childs

Members:
Tiffanie Needham
John J. Ellard, Jr.
Steven G. O'Donnell, Jr.

Telephone: 781-871-1874

Select Board Open Session Minutes of
August 12, 2025

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

In attendance: Chair Michael O'Loughlin, Vice Chair Lori Childs, Members John Ellard, Steven O'Donnell, Asst. Town Administrator Courtney Bjorgaard, and Town Administrator Doug Lapp. Not in attendance: Member Tiffanie Needham

1. Community Announcements -Special Election: Saturday 9/13/25 re: Fire Dept. Ladder Truck & Fire Station. Go to: <https://www.rockland-ma.gov/594/Fire-Station-Building-Project---NEW-Apri> for more info; Absentee voting available since 8/4/25. Mail in voting also available; Early voting will start on Wednesday, 9/3/25; Police Appreciation Day Saturday, 9/13/25; Red (Fire)/Blue (Police) Whiffleball Tournament – Friday 8/22; Plymouth County Commissioners – Presentation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Check.

2. Minutes-7/8/2025

MOTION to approve the minutes of 7/8/2025, by Mr. Ellard, 2nd by Mr. O'Donnell. Unanimous approval

3. New Business

-Entertainment License – Space Bistro, 323 Union Street

MOTION to approve the Entertainment License for Space Bistro, by Ms. Childs, 2nd by Mr. Ellard. Unanimous approval

-Zoning Board of Appeals Reappointment –Rob Rosa resigned from the ZBA and submitted his resignation letter to Clerk's office on 7/1/25. Mr. Rosa said he acted in haste and is asking the Select Board to reinstate his membership. Ms. Childs and Mr. O'Donnell commented in support of the reappointment. Mr. Ellard said he was flip flopping and thought the tone of Mr. Rosa's resignation letter was jolting. He hopes Mr. Rosa can resolve his issues but will support the reappointment. Mr. O'Loughlin said Mr. Rosa will have some resolutions to make with the ZBA members and Town departments.

MOTION to approve the ZBA reappointment of Rob Rosa for the completion of the term ending 5/31/26, by Mr. O'Donnell, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

Mr. Ellard said the ZBA currently has three alternate positions open and encourages residents to get involved.

-Update & Re-Vote Board Signature Authority Designation for Expenditures –

Mr. Lapp recommended the Board designate the positions of Chair and Vice Chair as the authorized signatories, replacing the past practice of authorizing individual names. Mr. Ellard made a request that if a member chooses not to sign the weekly warrant, it will not be released until further Board review. Mr. O'Loughlin agreed to make the commitment if a member has a question or concern, a discussion will be held before the release of the warrant.

MOTION to designate the Select Board Chair as primary authorized signature and the Select Board Vice Chair secondary authorized signature, Mr. O'Donnell, 2nd by Mr. Ellard. Unanimous approval.

-Other New Business Not Reasonably Anticipated - none

4. Old Business-

-Collective Bargaining Agreements – Public Announcement: AFSCME Council 93 – Clerical. Mr. Lapp announced an agreement has been reached with the AFSCME Council 93 – Clerical Union, consistent with other approved contracts.

-Pleasant Street Landfill RFP – Update- Mr. Lapp provided an update on the 279 Pleasant Street Landfill and said the Request for Proposal (RFP) is posted for the “Permitting, Design and Construction of the Landfill Cap & Post-Closure Use Project. The Board briefly commented.

-Select Board Liaison Appointments- Mr. O’Loughlin reached out separately to the members and a decision was made to eliminate the position of liaison. Two exceptions: Mr. Ellard will continue as the rep on the Plymouth County Advisory Board & Mr. O’Donnell will continue with the Open Space & Recreation Committee and the Open Space Committee. Mr. O’Loughlin said he hopes this will open the line of communication for SB members and other Town Boards & Committees.

-Other Old Business Not Reasonably Anticipated – none

5. Select Board Liaison Update - Mr. O’Donnell said the OSRC & MAPC Housing had a kick-off meeting on Monday. He said it was a great discussion and thanked the committee members.

6. Town Administrators Report & Correspondence

-Ms. Needham sends her regrets on not attending tonight

-Lincoln School HazMat Demo update: will be done in two steps: Step 1- removal & disposal of the HazMat; the IFB is on the Town’s website; working with local environmental engineering company, Green Environmental, and Step 2- after work is complete, IFB for the building demo

-Questions have been received regarding the authority of the Police Chief vs. the Select Board. Rockland has a “strong” Police Chief, per the Charter – “the chief of police shall have full authority to appoint, demote, suspend and terminate all the police officers and command officers of the police department”.

-Union Point authority & developers update - tentatively to attend the 9/16 Board meeting

-Rockland Board of Water Commissioners has one vacancy to fill the position until the next election

7. Select Board Comments

Mr. Ellard-Zoning Board of Appeals has 3 alternate positions open - Need people to step up for all Boards & Committees

Ms. Childs-Wishes all that students have a smooth transaction in the coming year

-Water PFS on schedule; information on the website

-Encourages residents to educate themselves on the pluses & minuses on building a new fire station going into the September election

Mr. O’Loughlin- no comments

Mr. O’Donnell-Sunday August 31st is International Overdose Awareness Day. Mr. O’Donnell shared a personal story of the loss of his brother Tim who succumbed to opioid addiction. He acknowledged the work that Rockland Cares does for the community and invites everyone to attend the 2025 Annual Overdose Vigil by Candlelight at Massasoit College on 8/26.

MOTION to enter into Executive Session the following - Per MGL c.30A s.21(a)(6): To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body: parcel ID 78-9-0; Per MGL c.30A s.21(a)(3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining: AFSCME Council 93 – Highway; and IAFF Local 1602 – Fire; Per M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(3) – National Opioid Litigation M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(7) for the review and approval of Executive Session minutes: 9/5/2023, 10/17/2023, 2/6/24, 5/7/2024, 6/18/2024, 6/28/2024, 2/4/2025, 6/17/2025, 7/8/2025, 3/18/25, 5/20/25

not to reconvene by Mr. Ellard, 2nd by Mr. O’Donnell. Roll Call Vote.

Minutes by Susan Ide, Executive Assistant

Open Session Minutes approved by the BOS on 9/2/25