

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
7:00 P.M.
ROCKPORT OPERA HOUSE**

Present: Chair, William Chapman, Vice-Chair Kenneth McKinley, Tracy Lee Murphy, Geoffrey Parker and Owen Casas. Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager, Department Heads: Mike Young, Public Works Director, Abbie Leonard, Harbormaster, James Francomano, Director of Planning & Community Development and Ben Blackmon, Library Director, several members the Library Committee, the press and members of the public

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – William Chapman, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

a. Approval of the minutes of the:

- Monday, August 10, 2015, meeting of the Select Board

Geoff – need to change on page 3 half way down the page delete the sentence “felt that they are making a rushed ill informed decision” and the next sentence is what Geoff said and not Bill. Page 12 first paragraph change the word “touched” to “reached.”

Tracy Murphy moved to accept the minutes of August 10th with the changes made. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED – 1 ABSTAINED (KEN ABSENT)

- Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Executive Session of the Select Board

Kenneth McKinley moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2015 Executive Session. Tracy Murphy seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- b. Next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
- c. Announcements – see agenda
- d. Upcoming Workshop – see agenda
- e. Committee Openings – see agenda
- f. Agenda Changes –

Kenneth McKinley moved to hear items a-f of New Business prior to Unfinished Business. Tracy Murphy seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- g. Public Comment –

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Iris Eichenlaub– School Library Tech. At the library we promote democracy to all. On behalf of the community youth, when people say that students are not using the library, that is not true at all. Since school has opened we have had 900 visits to the library and 297 books have been circulated. The students do care about the library. The school does have space limitations for book space. Come November our budget will be used up to buy new books. We have been partnering with the Rockport Public Library. The youth of this community are our future. It is very important to keep them educated.

Helen Shaw – regarding Harbor Park there are several apple trees. We need to hire someone to care for the trees in turn for the apples. They are great for cider or apple pies.

Ray Lewis – American Legion. He is District #6 County Commander and is concerned about the possibility of the movement of the monument in Glen Cove. Brad Gregory has offered to have the monument and flag moved to his property. It is presently half on his property and would only need to be moved a few feet to the right. He is willing to sign an easement. The Glen Cove Park is closed for six months of the year. I recommend that this monument stay on Route 1 where there is more visibility. I am speaking for the veterans.

Ken – We need to codify if he is willing to approve the move.

Tracy – we should talk about this at our next meeting. We have been given new information this evening. We should put off our decision until October and invite the land owner to that meeting.

Rick – we was already to have the rededication for Veterans’ Day. We may not be able to do that now. The move of a few feet would be much easier.

Bill – I will put it on the agenda for October

II. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – see attached

Rick – the bids for work at the Opera House came in much lower than expected. There was no damage to the soffits and not many boards in the roof needed to be replaced. The asphalt shingles and membrane were done today. There are a few minor touchups left to be done. We could make the entrance way look nicer by changing the lighting and putting up a new sign.

- N.B.
- a. Acknowledgment of Gifts to the Town – None this month
 - b. Committee Resignation(s) – None this month
 - c. Committee Application(s)

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Several – 125th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee

Tracy – Stacey is not a resident of Rockport.

Bill – however, she is a town employee and was on Bruce’s Retirement Planning Committee.

Ken – I don’t have any problem with Stacey being on the committee.

Owen – I asked Mr. Hunter to come to the meeting to express his interest in joining the committee.

Vernon Hunter – I have lived in Rockport since 1930. My ancestors date back to the 1700’s. I have seen a lot in my years – one room school house, post office and fire department in Rockville. I am limited to the time I can donate to the committee, but am very much interested in being a part of the planning of the Rockport 125th.

Geoffrey Parker moved to approve the appointment all five people (Lynda Clancy, Stacey Parra, Linda Greenlaw, Vernon Hunter and Allyson Poutasse) to the 125th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee. Tracy Murphy seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Geoff - we had four strong candidates. We will need to have a chair as the gatekeeper.

Owen – you ladies are awesome!

d. Presentation by MSAD-28/5 Town CSD Superintendent Maria Libby and Assistant Superintendent Gary Gonyer

Maria Libby – She became superintendent in July, is a Camden resident and has been in the school system for eighteen years.

Gary Gonyer – is the assistant superintendent. He formally was a resident of Orono and taught math in Bangor.

Maria – the reason for the upcoming Special School Election is because we received \$59,000+ in extra subsidy from the state after the budget was approved. We also received extra funding for special students and we are moving \$70,000 from last year’s budget, so we need to go to the voters for their approval to spend the monies. The article does not require any new taxes to be raised from the voters. The extra money that we have received cannot be used unless it is approved by the voters.

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We presently have 15 students from St. George at the high school and we receive tuition from them.

The School Board's target is November 2017 to go back to the voters with a new plan for the middle school project. Hopefully, a Select Board member will be interested in being on our building committee.

e. Harbor Committee presentation

Sam Temple, Vice Chair of the Harbor Committee – He has been on the committee for three years. The infrastructure is ongoing (new docks, etc.). They now have a new permit for commercial operator. The inner mooring space issues is pretty calm. We lost the Timberwind and will have to sunset use on that space. We need to think about what we want to do. We have been talking about out of the water storage. The five person committee is working well.

Bill – any new issues at the harbor?

Sam – the present policy does not match the use. For example the lobstermen are using space meant for recreation use. Inner harbor space is crowded.

Ken – we may need to revisit the fee schedule for residents versus non-residents. I think about being fairer to those paying a lot of real estate taxes.

Rick – we budgeted for the fishermen's' area. We need to remove the asphalt and to pour cement in the spring. The challenge for every harbor is to keep it active. We have fourteen fishermen. As always we have a need for more dinghy space.

Sam – sometimes it is difficult to get a quorum of the committee to attend a meeting.

There was discussion regarding having alternates.

f. Receive and vote to place the petition of the Friends of Rockport on the next town meeting warrant

Bill – the petition was presented to Linda last week. We need to decide when to place it on the ballot. The signatures have been verified and there are a sufficient number of registered voters who signed it. Our next printed ballot will not be until June 2016. We could call a special town meeting even though we do not have to.

Ann Filley – personally I believe that in regard to the petition, a delay is warranted as we are presently in the process of temporarily moving the library and we should create a task force. A vote on this will limit growth and an opportunity that we have in Rockport. I feel that it is short sighted.

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Ken – I agree that we should not rush into this and I believe that June would be a better time. We will have a clearer picture to what is needed for the library.

Owen – I don't like holding off the vote. I wonder why you held onto the petition when most of the signatures were done in March and we are just receiving it.

Connie Gibbons - we held back to see how the direction was going regarding the library discussions.

Rick – I checked with Town Counsel and was informed that the signatures are good for one year.

Geoff – this will give us the ability to take a breath and let it play out.

Bill – we will hold the petition and place it on the warrant in June.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Temporary relocation of the Rockport Public Library: discussion of the findings of the town manager regarding temporary space

Rick – handed out a spreadsheet showing a snapshot in time for a four year period showing the cost to relocate the library temporarily or to remain in the present site. The best option is option number three? We would move immediately. The difference to the staff and patrons is significant to their health and safety.

Ken – it appears that the utility cost are more than double to what we are currently paying.

Rick – the space is double what we now have and it is more open. There isn't any air-conditioning. There is no easy way to look at this.

Geoff – explained the options to the audience.

Mike – the proposed site is the most reasonable and we are fortunate to have found this building.

Ken – we need to move forward. The air quality at the present site is not good for our staff and our patrons. We have this building available at a reasonable cost. It allows us to move forward on demolition of the building.

David Barry – Church Street, I am curious why we have not seen this analysis. What role will this have on the taxpayers?

Richard Anderson – 14 Limerock Street. What happens if a new library is not approved? What happens to your cost projections with the new school coming up again in 2017? Is the present building really that bad? How confident are you in

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the cost estimates? What happens if you find that this building is not as bad as you thought it was?

Bill – knowing Ginny and her work, I am confident that the numbers are correct.

Rick – we do have a report that there is mold in that building.

Richard – what if all of this planning goes beyond 2018?

Rick – you are right, we are doing the best that we can with what we know. I am not the expert regarding the mold and air quality. I am not happy with where we are going.

Ken – we had a company who did the report.

Richard – what happens if you don't get a new library?

Ken - I am more optimistic that we will get something done.

Owen – this situation is different than if it was our home, it is a public building. We have town employees, volunteers and the public that are in and out of the library eight hours per day breathing that air.

Geoff – we are putting a gun to our heads if we go ahead with this plan. We should have a really good vote in June of 2016. Are we going to vote on this in June of 2016? I want as much information as possible available to the public. What if we knock down that building?

Rick – we would not do that until we have a bond and a vote that the residents pass to build a new library. The challenge is that it is not suitable to run a library out of the present site. We need to move, but we do not know what will happen in the future. I don't like pushing the voters into a no choice decision.

Geoff – why can't we have something on the ballot in June of 2016?

Bill – June of 2016 is only eight months away and this means that we need to have all of the necessary information in April. We need to get an RFP, etc. I believe that is would be agreeable to have the vote in November of 2016, the presidential election.

Tracy - the choice is do we spend \$203,000, which moves us nowhere (nothing ahead) in the first year. It is a lot of money to make the present site livable and we get nothing back. Option #3 gets the employees out of the building and gets the books out. We can move into that building for \$85,900 and it is a safe place. It seems ridiculous to throw money into that building (library). I understand the

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issues. We have taken care of the sewer and the Opera House. What prevents us for making this decision?

Tracy Murphy moved to instruct the Town Manager to negotiate a lease arrangement for the property on 485 Commercial Street in Rockport, as the site of a temporary library location, and to bring the terms of that lease back to the Board for discussion in executive session at a special meeting to be held on Monday, September 21st immediately following the Cemetery Workshop which is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion.

Bill – if we put that money into the present site then we bring a vote to the townspeople, it will be voted down.

Rick – if we move the library from there the property reverts back to the heirs. We would need to do the research for all of the heirs.

Geoff – if we could tell the future I would agree with you.

Tracy – someday, before I die, this town will have a new library to meet our needs.

Ken – I would like to refocus on the motion. There are a lot of moving parts to this issue.

Bill – called for the vote.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Bill – we will meet on Monday the 21st to discuss this issue.

Ken - proposed a ten minute break at 9:05 p.m.

9:15 back in session

- b. Continuing discussion regarding a possible NEA Grant for the benefit of Bay Chamber and Rockport Opera House

Jamie – I have not supplied you with a letter of support. The update is not all good. Pardon me for not getting a letter prepared. The feedback that I have received is that since the renovations were made before the request we are not eligible for matching funds. I will be meeting with Monica on Wednesday. This has been a hard year for Bay Chamber. I don't want to stop short, but the funding will be less than anticipated. The next award will be in August of 2016 and we would have to come up with a match after that. Staff time and Opera House rentals would count as a match.

Bill – what about the heating system this year?

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Rick – yes, it is in the budget.

Jamie – I don't have a formal letter, but I am hell bent on getting this done. The deadline is October 8th. We would hire a house manager with a new job description.

Ken – this was funded two years ago, but we never did hire anyone. We need to budget it to make this a match.

Jamie – I was hoping that this project would have counted.

Geoff – Rick is the person who hires staff. We had three qualified applicants apply for the position. She needs to be contacted.

Rick – she never got back to us. I guess that I was supposed to contact her.

Jamie – if everything doesn't add to what Monica is capable of it won't work. We need a dollar amount to work with.

Ken – so you are looking for the Board to make a motion of support?

Jamie – non-cash items such as staff time count as a match.

Kenneth McKinley moved to support the NEA Grant for the benefit of Bay Chamber and the Rockport Opera House if we choose to pursue the grant and authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support for inclusion in the grant package. Tracy Murphy seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

c. Approval of the Capital Improvement Policy

Kenneth McKinley moved to approve the Capital Improvement Policy. Tracy Murphy seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – None this month

V. NEW BUSINESS

See above for items a - f

g. Discuss and make Select Board recommendation regarding the petition. The recommendation to appear on the warrant

This item was tabled.

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- h. Set the date to hold a follow-up workshop to fine-tune the Town-Owned Credit Card Policy

Tracy Murphy moved to set the date of Wednesday, October 16, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. to hold a follow-up workshop to fine-tune the Town-Owned Credit Card Policy. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- i. Set a date for a special Select Board meeting to discuss Fiber Optic rollout strategies

Owen and Geoffrey will both be out of town on October 5th. They need a copy of the report to review.

Rick – the document is 78 pages.

The Board will look into what date they all can meet.

- j. Confirm date for the Ordinance Review Committee kick-off meeting as Thursday, October 1, 5:30 p.m., Rockport Town Office Richardson Room

Kenneth McKinley moved to confirm the date for the Ordinance Review Committee kick-off meeting as Thursday, October 1, at 5:30 p.m., Rockport Town Office Richardson Room. Tracy Murphy seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- k. Approval of the Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of General Obligations Bonds as voted in November 2014 Referendum

Tracy Murphy moved that the resolution entitled “Resolution to Authorize Issuance of General Bonds in Principal Amount of \$1,397,750 for Facility and Right-of-Way Infrastructure Projects” be adopted in form presented to this meeting and that an attested copy of said Resolution be filed with the minutes of this meeting. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- l. Set the polling hours for the November Special Town Meeting as Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Rockport Town Office Richardson Room

Since there will not be a Special Town Meeting in November, this item was struck.

- m. Vote to sign Special Budget Validation Referendum – Five Town CSD Warrant and Notice of Election Tuesday, November 3, 2015

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Tracy Murphy moved to sign the Special Budget Validation Referendum – Five Town CSD Warrant and Notice of Election Tuesday November 3, 2015. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- n. Elect a representative to the Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting

Tracy Murphy moved to elect Select Board Chair William Chapman to represent Rockport at the Maine Municipal Association Business Meeting and to elect Richard Bates, Town Manager as the alternate. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

VI. WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS

Tracy Murphy moved to close as Select Board and reopen as Wastewater Commissioner. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- a. Commitment of Sewer User Rates for the period of July 2015

Tracy Murphy moved to commit the July 2015 Wastewater User/Debt Fees totaling \$29,507.80 to the Treasurer for collection. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- b. Approval of up to \$40,000 to accomplish the survey of the remaining section of Commercial Street

Tracy Murphy moved to approve an amount of up to \$40,000 to accomplish the survey of the remaining section of Commercial Street with money coming from the current sewer project. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

The Board discussed a vote that was taken last month and needed to be changed.

Tracy Murphy moved the following: “To reduce the buy in fee by 50%, making it \$500, subject to the same date restriction put on last month’s motion for anyone who had already been paying debt service. Geoffrey Parker second the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Tracy Murphy moved to close as Wastewater Commissioners and go back into session as the Select Board. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 – OPPOSED

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

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Bill – We should create a committee for the possibility of the West Rockport Fire Station

expanding. It should consist of Jason, Chief, three of his firefighters and 2 of our Select Board members that we would want to appoint.

I have given each of you a copy of the Select Board schedule for September – December 2015.

We have been working on how we should proceed with the library. The Library is in the process of their annual Sea Faring Series.

The Investment Committee will be meeting next Monday. The Directors of Mid-Coast Solid Waste will be meeting on the 23rd.

Tracy – The Planning Board meet and discussed the dissolving of the Brewster Point Subdivision. The decision was put together in one month. The new owner moved here, saw the property, and loved it. He does not plan on subdividing the property. Tomorrow the Planning Board will be holding a workshop.

Geoff – the Opera House Committee did not have a quorum last month. The Harbor Committee met and talked about a ramp for the Glovers’ dock. Scott determined that it does not need the approval of the Harbor Committee. There has been discussions regarding the inner harbor among the fisherman and several other people. The bait buying has been underplayed and we see that there will be significant changes to figure out the space.

Ken – the Cemetery Committee held their Cleaning and Leaning Workshop at Glen Cove Cemetery. The Conservation Commission has elected Ted as chair and he has agreed to make some changes. There is a lot of frustration about the Goodie Beach situation. Jamie will be doing some surveys on the flows.

Owen – the Recreation Committee has nothing to report yet. Pathways met and I was not able to attend the meeting. The Parks Committee met on the 8th and approved their bylaws and now they need to get them approved by the Board.

“Pop the Cork” tent was at the harbor for too long of a time. Regarding the “Canopy Program”, where should the trees go? Jamie is working on the grant for this year.

There will be a working party at Goodridge Park on October the 13th at 3:30 to clean it up.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. None this evening

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IX ADJOURNMENT

Tracy Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY