

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

**GEOFFREY C. PARKER COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, ROCKPORT  
OPERA HOUSE**

Streamed at <http://livestream.com/Rockportmaine>

Present: Chair, Kenneth McKinley, Vice Chair Owen Casas., Douglas Cole and Mark G. Kelley.  
Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager; Diane Hamilton, General Assistance  
Administrator; Linda M. Greenlaw, Assistant GA Administrator; Megan Brackett, Finance  
Director and members of the public

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Kenneth McKinley, Chair called the meeting to order at  
7:01 P.M.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session to consider a poverty abatement pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841  
(2) (E)

**At 7:03 p.m., Owen Casas moved to enter into Executive Session to consider a poverty  
abatement pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Section 841 (2) (E). Mark Kelley seconded the motion.  
VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

**At 7:30 p.m., Owen Casas moved to exit the Executive Session. Mark Kelley seconded the  
motion. VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

**Kenneth McKinley moved to grant a poverty abatement (Map 9 Lot 37) in the amount of  
\$1,058, as presented this evening. This is for the 2016 (first half payment) tax year. Owen  
Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

The Board took a short break (7:30 – 7:35 p.m.)

III. RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

- a. Discuss Recommendations from the Budget Committee for changes to the Select  
Board Proposed Budget for FYE June 30, 2019

Jan Rosenbaum, Chair of the Budget Committee – I sent a copy of the Budget Committee’s  
summary of proposed changes of the budget by email to the Select Board.

Our recommendations (and votes) were:

1. Administration. Select Board stipends, Line 2105, add \$5,500 (vote 6:1:1)
2. Public Works, Road Construction, Line 7605, add \$20,306 (5:3:0)
3. Parks, Land Improvement, Line 7116, subtract \$2,500

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4. Recreation, (RES) Ball field Backstop, Line 7372, add \$4,000
5. Provider Agencies
  1. Line 3950, Broadreach Family & Community, add \$1,000, (5:3:0)
  2. Line 3955, New Hope for Women, add \$500 (5:3:0)
  3. Line 3956, Penquis C.A.P., add \$1,000, (5:3:0)
  4. Line 3958, Knox County Homeless Coalition, add \$1,000 (5:3:0)

There was some discussion on why the Committee voted 6 for, 1 opposed and 1 abstained. The rationale was that you can reduce a budget line but you cannot increase it.

Item 1

Ken – talked about the stipends and the providers agencies. His thought was that we should put the item on the warrant and let the townspeople decide what to do.

Mark – I am open to the budget changes.

Ken – rather than not go to the Budget Committee again, we should place it on the warrant.

Rick – the budget will have to meet again anyway.

Jan – the Select Board has the last official word.

Doug – I have no problem in making some tweaks to the budget.

Mark – discussed paving versus sidewalk maintenance.

Ken – technically if that is what you are suggesting there is no problem.

Doug – at least it sends a message.

Mark – I am concerned about Stevie’s concern on the Town Office sidewalk.

Ken – how does the Board feel about the stipend? I don’t want to go through the whole warrant again.

Owen – there are only seven members listed as being present at the meeting, but eight members voted. Someone is missing.

Linda – Peter Johnson.

Owen – okay the stipend is fine, put it in the budget, but we are not deserving of it.

Item 2

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Ken – the Budget Committee wants to increase #7605 to \$285,000? The Select Board agreed to \$264,000.

Owen – do you want to see both go up, roads and sidewalks?

Mark – no. My original intent is to put another \$50,000 in for sidewalk repairs. We would take it from line 7605 and put it into line 7615.

Ken – suggested putting \$40,000 in sidewalks and leaving paving at \$264,000.

Doug – that is too much money in the budget. Line 7605 = \$214,696 and line 7615 to \$70,000.

Megan –that puts you back to \$12,000 over LD1.

The Board had a discussion over roads versus sidewalks and the importance of both.

Doug – the sidewalks are horrible.

Mark – we never spend time and money on sidewalks.

Rick – Rockville, Warrenton, Limerock and Main Street to the bridge need to be done.

Doug – I disagree. We should wait on Limerock Street until we decide what we are going to do there.

Owen – we haven't been able to decide whether to do this or that. I am curious and trying to figure it out what we want to happen. It is the infrastructure of the Town.

Doug – we should call it “The Year of the Sidewalks.”

Mark – once they are done, they will be okay for several years.

Item 3

Ken – you want to reduce 7516 to \$2,500, leave Cramer Park as it is because it is a safety issue. We should delete work at Mary Lea Park.

Rick – we could have some of the work done by volunteers and have some money in the budget for materials.

Doug - Mike agreed that this money could be taken out of the budget and never missed.

The Board discussed putting in some money to help with the erosion issue. They agreed to leave the budget line at \$10,000.

Item 4

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Owen – I would fully support your suggestion, but we don't have a good plan. We have set aside \$3,750 for a backstop and thought that there was a match donation in the works.

Rick – Barrett came up with a plan to have some guys get the field ready as a practice field. Maybe we should just remove the monies from the budget.

Doug – I heard you say that it would not take a lot of work to accomplish and that you would have Public Works do the work in about a day.

The Board discussed the backstop.

Rick – it is more important to put the money in the field according to Barrett. We are looking into hiring a fully funded groundskeeper, etc.

Ken – we could try to get private money donated to pay for it.

The Board talked about encumbrances. We will look at them in the fall.

Megan – the money should be spent during the year approved. The reserves need a plan and a time frame on when to spend the funds.

The Board decided to eliminate this request.

Rick – Mike has responded and said that the sidewalk will cost \$8-\$10,000.

Jan - asked the Town Manager to encourage the donor to donate the funds for the backstop. Rick will make an effort. Rick is worried about the money we already have saved towards the backstop. We need to go after grants with more gusto.

Ken – back to Public Works

Rick – at the Town Office we need a step by the code office and we need a new ramp for voting days.

Ken – does that alter anyone's thinking on paving and sidewalks?

Doug – it does not alter mine.

Mark – agreed.

Rick – another place that needs work on is the sidewalk on West Street from Pascal to the old RES site. He and Mike have discussed this.

Mark – I feel that it would be better to repair the Main Street sidewalk rather than the Pascal Street one as I would think that it is used by more people.

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Ken – I am worried about the road construction line. Is it enough money? If Mike was here I would ask him.

Doug –what would he say? “I’ll do what I can with whatever you give me.”

Owen – wants to take money from the UFB.

Ken – I don’t want to lose anymore roads. Where are we with monies?

Megan – we are now \$15,000 under LD1.

Item 5

Ken – would you like to go with the Budget Committee’s recommendation?

Owen – I would be fine with the \$3,500 or the \$11,800. We should leave it in and let the community decide what they want to give to the provider agencies.

Doug – I would trade the stipends.

Ken – I would like to have the community decide as both the Budget Committee and the Providers worked hard on this item. “It is the right thing to do.”

Mark – I would go along with Doug. \$250.00 for each member and \$500 to the chair for a total of \$1,500.

The Board discussed this some more.

Ken and Owen want to leave the stipends at \$5,500 and Doug and Mark want it at \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Ken – is the Board willing to take more money from the UFB?

Owen – the Select Board is a very noble job and if you take away the stipend you will just have old retired people on the Board.

More discussion on the money and time that the Board puts into the job.

Owen – I am voting on giving the citizens the options to say what they want the stipends to be.

Owen –in the Public works budget item 2110, I wonder about the difference of the department head’s recommendation versus the manager’s.

Jan – it is not entered by the department head.

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Ken – I would rather not open up a can of worms. There was a method to pool \$10,000. I don't want to mess with it.

Owen – those are hard decision lines and he talked about a 3% raise.

Doug and Ken are not comfortable monkeying around with it.

Owen – it would free up some money, but we need three members to agree.

More discussion about how much to put into sidewalks and how much money into road construction. Regarding sidewalks, it cost \$3,000 per 100 feet for asphalt. It would be double that for granite and concrete.

Ken – proposed putting \$10,000 in the public works budget making it \$55,000 for sidewalks.

Ken – now to stipends and providers agencies. We should put in in and let it go to town meeting. It is the right thing to do.

Mark – I want to stay with LD1 and don't want to go over just because it is handy.

There was discussion on having the LD1 question before the financial items instead of at the end after they have already been voted on.

The Board agreed 4 to 0 to put forth the \$3,500 for provider agencies. Ken and Doug promised that they would not take their stipend if they are approved by the voters.

Owen – some things are customary and not necessarily about you or me. It is also for others that may run in the future.

Ken – we are not trying to close other people out from running for Select Board.

Jan – made a comment on law. It is customary in politics where they cannot vote to raise their own salary. I wonder if we set it at \$0 are we setting it there forever.

Mark – take out the \$5,000 from sidewalks and put it back into the stipends and let's keep to LD1.

Doug – agreed and said he knows that if Mike needs the funds, he will find it.

The Board agreed to \$5,500 for the stipends and \$50,000 for sidewalks.

- b. Consensus vote on any changes to the Select Board Proposed Budget for FYE June 30, 2019

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**Kenneth McKinley moved that the Select Board propose a budget totaling \$6,009,414 with revenues totaling \$2,072,248 and for a net budget of \$3,937,166. Owen Casas seconded the motion.**

Megan – based on the net and not the expenses, LD1 will have to cut more next year.

Owen – I appreciate having the budget below the LD1. We need to build a budget on the needs of the Town.

**VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

IV. ADJOURNMENT

**The Board moved and seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW  
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY