

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017
7:00 P.M.
ROCKPORT OPERA HOUSE MEETING ROOM**

Present: Chair William (Bill) Chapman, Geoffrey Parker and Owen Casas. Kenneth McKinley, Vice-chair was absent. Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager; Michael Young, Public Works Director and Randy Gagne, Chief of Police, Lynda Clancy, the press and members of the public

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Bill Chapman, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

a. None this meeting

III. MINUTES, MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings:

- Monday, November 9, 2015, meeting of the Select Board
- Monday, March 13, 2017, meeting of the Select Board

These minutes were tabled until Ken is present at the meeting.

- Monday, March 27, 2017, meeting of the Select Board

Geoffrey Parker moved to approve the minutes of the Monday, March 27, 2017 meeting of the Select Board. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED.

- Monday, April 3, 2017, special meeting of the Select Board
- Monday, April 10, 2017, meeting of the Select Board
- Tuesday, April 11, 2017, special meeting of the Select Board
- Thursday, April 13, 2017, special meeting of the Select Board
- Tuesday, April 18, 2017, public hearing and final budget votes of the Select Board
- Monday, April 24, 2017, special meeting of the Select Board

b. Announcements of upcoming regular Select Board meeting(s): - See Agenda

c. Town Meeting: – See Agenda

d. Announcements of upcoming non-budget Select Board workshop(s); - See Agenda

e. Announcements - See Agenda

f. Committee Openings: - See Agenda

g. Agenda Changes – None

h. Public Comment – None

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

IV. TOWN MANAGER REPORT – See Attached

Rick – recognized Craig Cooley for his 20 years of service to the Town of Rockport and to the police department.

We want to thank Travis for his time as the sergeant.

He also reported that Jimmy Moore has been chosen as the new sergeant.

Randy - Jim was the only candidate for the position of sergeant and was number one all the way. We will have Camden's Sergeants Dan Brown and John Tooley to help him transition to his new role. Our goal is to send him to two FBI leadership training sessions this year. He will be able to assist us in Camden as our Sergeants will assist in Rockport when necessary. The goal is to have the officers in both towns trained the same.

He then had Sergeant Moore and his wife Lisa step forward. He presented Jim his sergeant's badge and had Lisa pin him with it as is traditional.

Travis is on his way back from the jail, so I will see if we can stall for a few minutes.

When I became interim police chief for Rockport, Travis was ready to step down from his role as sergeant. He agreed to give me six months of his time while we transitioned into an interlocal police agreement. "He was the glue that kept everything together in the transition. Travis is one of the finest officers that I have worked with." He decided to step down and give up his supervisory role to be a patrolman.

Rick – presented Travis with a plaque of appreciation for recognition of his loyal and dedicated performance as a patrol officer. The plaque was adorned with Travis' sergeant badge, the metal worn by the years of service.

Bill – thanked Travis and then thanked the two officers from Camden for agreeing to assist Sergeant Moore in his new role.

Rick – I am pleased that we have a new sergeant. The cooperation between the two towns has been exemplary.

Rick – read his report.

Mike – the sewer on Summer Street has been viewed by a camera today and found to be clean and running fine. There are no issues there. There is a problem with a sink hole and watering bubbling up. We need to figure out where it is coming from.

Bill – regarding the footbridge on the commercial side, the handrail has been clipped. There are two stainless steel screws there and if someone runs their hand across them they will get injured. It is an accident waiting to happen.

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Mike – I will take care of it tomorrow.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None this meeting

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Bill – according to the Charter, we have to have a majority vote, which equals three members or the vote will be considered to have failed.

- a. Acknowledgement of Gifts to the Town:

- Johanson Boatworks - \$1,000 donation to the Harbor

Owen Casa moved to approve the donation from Johanson Boatworks in the amount of \$1,000 to the Harbor and to send them a letter of thanks. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- Maine Media College - \$5,600 for payment in lieu of taxes

Geoffrey Parker moved to accept payment of \$5,600 In lieu of taxes from Maine Media College and to send them a letter of gratitude. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- b. Committee Resignation(s)

- Linda Posson – Parks Committee

Owen Casas moved to approve the resignation of Linda Posson from the Parks Committee and to send her a letter of thanks for her service. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- William Lane – Capital Improvement Committee
- William Gartley – Capital Improvement Committee

Geoffrey Parker moved to approve the resignation of William Lane and William Gartley from the Capital Improvement Committee and to send them a letter with extreme gratitude for their service. Owen Casas seconded the motion. Vote: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- c. Committee Application(s)

Bill – Kate will be here but she will be late.

- Kate McClellan – Planning Board (Alternate)
- Ames Curtis – Parks Committee (Alternate to Regular)

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Bill – we don't have a letter from David Jackson with his support.

Geoff – remember David came to us and wanted to enlarge that committee.

Bill – for some reason he feels that it would be easier to meet a quorum of four instead of three.

Owen – I would like to see something from Ames that she wants to go full time and step up to become a regular member.

It was decided to hold off on this one until next month.

d. MSAD #28 and CSD budget presentation – See attached

Maria Libby – our annual budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the high school. The CSD budget meeting will be at 7:00 p.m.

The current increase to the expense budget is up 1.89%. The increase to the taxpayers will be 1.77%. Our enrollment is at 725 students and next year it is expected to be at 740. We have been stable in enrollment for the last few years. MSAD # 28 owns the buses and charges the CSD (Five Town) to use the buses. Other instruction has an increase of \$10,000 to be used for summer school. We will target the kindergarten students with a four week program to boost their readiness to start school in the fall.

We are a minimum receiver by the state and receive little money from them. We do have a healthy fund balance in the MSAD #28 budget. We have \$1.4 million that we can use for the new construction.

The auditors have looked for us and have approved that we have enough to pay the teachers through the summer if school closes down (ceases to exist). This is part of their contract.

The CSD's increase to the expense budget will be 2.63% and an increase of 3.70% to the taxpayers. The enrollment for the next two years will be 720 students. It will then drop down to 680-690 students.

Bill – do you still have tuition students from St. George?

Maria – we have twenty-five St. George students.

Owen – I see where the school administration is up the most.

Maria – the assistant principal salary was charged to the councilor's office as he did the scheduling for that office. His full salary is now in the administration line.

There was a question on how the breakdown for each district was made.

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Cathy Murphy, Business Manager – for Camden and Rockport it is based on the number of students and the valuation. We use last year's valuation and it is averaged over three years.

Maria – next we will see an increase in the Vo-tech (Region 8) school of \$580,000 to \$600,000. 50% is a big impact on our budget. We are now looking at what the impact will be on our taxpayers with a new middle school. Our state and federal funding is down by \$180,000 for Title I (4 staff members) and \$60,000 for Title II (professional development).

We are in great shape as we are in a highly desirable area and many parents want their children to go to school here. There are a lot of moving targets such as charter schools and vouchers. The population is declining in the state, but we feel that we can maintain where we are. Jefferson, Northport and St. George do not have a high school so they have a choice where they can go. Our per pupil cost is \$17,700. The state average that is set by the state is \$10,870. That fee is what Jefferson and Northport students pay to attend our school. We have a contract with St. George so they pay more because of an agreement they have with us.

e. Camden- Rockport Middle School new school presentation

Maria showed a rendering of what the new middle school will look. It will have 85,000 square feet. A new school is the most prudent approach. The present building would require a lot of renovations. The biggest reason we learned that the vote failed last time was because of a matter of communications. We moved the vote from November to June so that we could get started on the project earlier. It is unlikely that we will ever get any funding from the state. It was suggested that we have a vote in March or April, but we wanted to be ahead of the curve. We did not want to go to a different date like last time as we received a lot of criticism for it. The current school is in really bad shape. The interest rate is cheaper than it will be in the future as it is expected to be going up. Timing is the most fiscally smart thing to do. It is the best use of the taxpayers' money.

We need to have increased safety as the current traffic situation is horrendous. It is an accident waiting to happen. There are long hallways that are unsupervised making it difficult to control bullying. We will have \$1.1 million dollars left from the budget to use towards a new school. The air quality is an issue as well. In February in one wing it is so hot that the windows were open and in another wing it is so cold the students had to have on their coats and mittens.

The tax impact for a new school will be \$99.36 per \$100,000 value on a home. The impact for renovations will be \$60.75 per \$100,000 value on a home. If we go with renovations, we will still have safety issues and long corridors and in 20 years it will cost a lot more when we will need to build a new school.

There will be three floors. There will be a large turnaround for the buses and a safe place where students can be dropped off and picked up. The administration offices will be at the front of the building when you enter it. The academic rooms will be on the back side of the building. The building will be more efficient and safer.

Owen – what do we get from it in regard to educational performance?

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Maria – we are doing really well. We are the fifth best in the state. Our staff is well educated and highly motivated. We are doing exceptionally well except for some bullying that is going on.

Owen – I am going on my soap box. We pay 2/3 of our tax dollars to the schools. It is difficult to get the bits and pieces that make it up. Today, you had an emergency meeting to approve a new principal with very little notice. You need to livestream your meetings.

Maria – we are working on that with one of your Select Board members.

Owen – you need to give ample time for notification of meetings.

Maria – today was an exception. We will be starting our budget meetings in February. We are transparent and anyone can attend the meetings. It is a rare thing that happened today. I feel that that we are incredibly transparent.

The Board thanked Maria and Cathy for the presentations.

Planning Board Applicant from above:

Bill – I see that Kate is here, so we will hear from her now.

Kate – I am a long time resident. I grew up in Rockport. I did live in Camden for eight years, but am back in Rockport. I believe that planning is the heart of ensuring the vitality of a town. I would like to see Rockport become a place that attracts young people and families with children through the promotion of small businesses.

Owen – would you like to go a full pledge member if it becomes available?

Kate – yes, as long as I am informed first. I am excited to be living back in this area.

Geoffrey Parker moved to approve the appointment of Kate McClellan as an alternate to the Planning Board with a term expiration of June 30, 2018. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- f. Consideration of a request by Manager Bobby Morgan of Flatbread Company, d/b/a American Flatbread Rockport LLC, to expand their liquor license to include serving alcohol in their fenced in patio area at 399 Commercial Street

Bill – the fencing will be facing towards Route 1?

Bobby – yes it will be. We would like to start as soon as possible.

Owen - I have zero problem with the request. It is been nice to drive by and see children out there playing on the lawn. What about the fire pit so close to the house?

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Bobby – Allen, the owner, has not given full approval yet. This expansion outside will help our business.

The Board wanted to make sure that someone would monitor the use of alcohol and that it be properly fenced in.

Owen Casas moved to approve the proposed changes as presented by Bobby Morgan of Flatbread Pizza, d/b/a American Flatbread LLC, and that a letter be sent to the Liquor Commission that his request be approved. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- g. Approval of the Tuesday, June 13, 2017 and Wednesday, June 14, 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Owen Casas moved to approve the Tuesday, June 13, 2017 and Wednesday, June 14, 2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- h. Approval of the Town Manager attending MTCMA (Sunday River, August 9-11) and ICMA (San Antonio, Texas, October 22-25)

Owen Casas moved to approve the Town Manager's attendance of the Annual MTCMA Conference at Sunday River from August 9-11 and the ICMA Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas from October 22-25. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

VII. WASTERWATER COMMISSIONERS

Geoffrey Parker moved to leave as Select Board and go into session as Wastewater Commissioners. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- a. Consider a request for a privately initiated sewer extension on Spear Street

Bill Lane – Douglas O'Dell is under contract to sell his property and has a failing septic system. The sewer line will need to go 295' up Spear Street by a gravity line. The van der Kieft's live next door and would like to have 2 stubs in front of their property. We would construct the line as shallow as possible. This would need to be coordinated with Mike, Rick and Woodard & Curran. There is a lot of ledge there.

Geoffrey – will they have to pay a debt service?

Bill L. – yes, according to your ordinance.

Rick – that is correct if the line goes in front of the property.

Mike – this sewer will be built to town specifications and paid for by someone else.

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Owen – do we have any liability?

Mike – only to see that an easement is agreed on.

Owen Casas moved to approve the requested sewer extension of 4 Spear Street as presented by William Lane of Gartley and Dorsky. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED.

Geoffrey Parker moved to exit as Wastewater Commissioners and to go back into session as the Select Board. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

The Board each gave their report of what has happened with their assigned committees.

Bill – Parks Committee will meet on Wednesday. They will be looking at Mary Lea Park, Goodridge Park and Memorial Park. The Library Committee met on April 24th and had a very productive meeting. They have set up a PayPal account so people can donate to the library building fund. The Library received a \$2,500 grant for a virtual reality program. They have \$943,000 in their investment account. There was a discussion if any of the money should be used for the betterment of the library. Some of the endowments are for specific things such as books. The account consists of ten to twelve separate accounts. A question is what is the role of the Library Committee? Why do they have a lack of involvement with the process of a new library? The Investment Committee will meet on July 20th.

Owen – MCSWC – the sitting chair Tom Ford was at the last meeting and has since passed. This is so sad. The responses from the survey are being compiled into a report. We need to digest the knowledge we get from them. We also talked about financials. The Town of Hope does not want to be a team player and wants to hold on to their money that we all will be getting back. It seems to be more of a power play for them to get an equal weight on the board. The chair was very professional, but they want to put their money into a closure fund and invest it to get more interest. As a result we will have to go through a ridiculous procedure to get their share of the cost for work when it's done. I was not able to attend the Recreation or Pathways Committee Meetings.

Bill – the Pathways Committee focus was centered on the Route 1 north project.

Geoff – I have volunteered to take over the Harbor Committee and they will be meeting this Thursday. The Opera House met and had a very productive meeting. They gave an update on the air conditioner system. They discussed fixing various parts of the system instead of the whole unit. There was some talk about installing bathrooms on the first floor. Another question is how do we store the genie lift given to us by the school.

Owen – the legion hall has a new roof and is happy to rent out the space. Every other Monday they will hold coffee with the veterans. I had a conversation with Megan and was blown away

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

by what she does. I am not saying that other department heads are not good. “Linda, you are amazing as well.”

Bill – don’t forget the Memorial parade. If you march in it you can get a free barbeque lunch at the Masonic Hall.

Owen – we will have two experts for a presentation on the new marijuana law. I am trying to get one Democrat and one Republican.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. None this meeting

X ADJOURNMENT

Owen Casas moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 3 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY