

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY JUNE 26, 2017  
7:00 P.M.  
ROCKPORT OPERA HOUSE**

Present: Chair Kenneth McKinley, Vice-Chair Owen Casas, Douglas Cole, Thomas Gray and Mark Kelley. Also present: Town Manager Richard C. Bates and members of the public

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Kenneth McKinley, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

a. None this meeting

III. MINUTES, MEETINGS and ANOUNCEMENTS

a. Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings:

- Thursday, June 1, 2017, special meeting and Executive Session of the Select Board

**Owen Casas moved to approve as written the minutes of the Thursday, June 1, 2017 special meeting and Executive Session of the Select Board. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 FOR – 0 OPPOSED – 3 ABSTAINED (Kelley, Gray, and Cole not present at meeting)**

- Monday, June 12, 2017, meeting of the Select Board

**Owen Casas moved to approve the minutes, as written, of the Monday, June 12, 2017 meeting of the Select Board. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 FOR – 0 OPPOSED – 3 ABSTAINED (Kelley, Gray, and Cole not present at meeting)**

Owen – this meeting was not livestreamed, so these minutes are the only record of the meeting.

- Wednesday, June 14, 2017, organizational meeting of the Select Board

**Owen Casas moved to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, June 14, 2017, organizational meeting of the Select Board with a correction on page 2. It should be “Ken – I believe that serving two terms is enough.” Mark Kelley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED – 0 ABSTAINED**

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- b. Announcements of upcoming regular Select Board meeting(s): - See agenda
- c. Announcements of upcoming tentative dates for non-budget Select Board workshop(s): - See agenda
- d. Announcement:

**Note: all meetings and workshops of the Select Board and Town Committee can be found on the Town website: [www.town.rockport.me.us](http://www.town.rockport.me.us)**

- e. Committee Openings:

Applications for Committee Service can be found at the Town Office and on the Town website: [www.town.rockport.me.us](http://www.town.rockport.me.us)

- f. Agenda Changes – None this meeting

- g. Public Comment:

Ann Filley - I just want to remind everyone that the Friends of the Rockport Library's Annual Book Sale will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>. Last year they raised \$16,000 to donate to the library, \$8,000 of it went towards the new library building fund. The sale is held at the Midcoast Recreation Center. They have over 30,000 items for sale. We can always use volunteers. You can sign up at the library.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – See attached

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None this meeting

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Acknowledgment of Gifts to the Town:

- None this meeting

- b. Committee Resignation(s)

- None this meeting

- c. Committee Application(s):

- Clark Doran – Planning Board

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Ken – the application is nicely done, but Clark is not here this evening. We need to have the applicant present to be able to ask any questions we may have of them.

**Mark Kelley moved to table this item. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

Ken – we will contact Mr. Doran and have him attend the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- d. Approval of the Town of Rockport and City of Rockland Police Mutual Assistance Agreement.

**Owen Casas moved to approve the Town of Rockport & City of Rockland Mutual Assistance Agreement for three years, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. Mark Kelley seconded the motion.**

Ken – are there any changes to the agreement?

Owen – it seems pretty boiler plate.

Mark – it does single out Pen Bay Medical Center. I would like to think that we would help anyone. Otherwise I am good with it.

Ken – I think that it is because we are there so much.

Owen – we have a fairly robust number of mutual aid agreements.

Rick – the Fire Department is a big user of Mutual Aid. We cross swear in the police officers of Camden and Rockport and this gives them added protection of being an officer in our town.

Ken – Camden and Rockport work more closely together because of our current agreement, compared it to suspenders and a belt.

**VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

- e. Confirm committee liaison assignments

Ken – at our workshop last week, we gave it our first shot. When I looked at the list Doug has five committees and Tom has three. We may want to change the Capital Improvement Plan Committee and have two people listed as you both expressed interest. I am open for any comments.

Doug – I would like to be excused from the Opera House Committee.

Tom – maybe I could have this one if it does not meet in the a.m.

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Ken – they meet at 8:00 on a Friday morning.

Tom - I am willing to serve on this committee if they change the time.

Terri – maybe we can change to another day than Friday.

Ken – I am letting go of the Ambulance Review Committee and taking up the ZBA.

Tom – looking at the list, it looks like a fair representation.

Ken – I will have Stacey reach out to the chairs and let them know.

Mark – Ken, you will do the calendars for us?

Ken – as soon as I figure out how to accomplish it. We don't need a motion, we just need to agree to the list.

- f. Reappoint committee members who have terms expiring June 30, 2017, who have agreed to serve another 3-year term (expiring June 30, 2020)

**Mark Kelley moved to approve the committee appointments as presented in our packet for a term of three years, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. Owen Casas seconded the motion.**

Geoff Parker, past liaison to the board – discussed the negative comments from some members of the Planning Board. He talked about the benefit of having a Board for the ZBA and Planning Board of five regular members and two alternates versus having a seven-member board. This Board may want to put off making a decision and see if the Town would be better off with a five-member board as it lends to a better board. It is easier to get a quorum that way. They have had a problem with getting a quorum of the members to attend the meetings.

Ken – you recommend shrinking the board back to five members?

Doug – do we have any background on this discussion? I have no idea what this is about.

The Board - discussed this issue.

Ted Skowronski – first I want to congratulate the new members of the Board. I have a strong feeling that it should stay at seven members. It is very important to the Town. Finally, we have an alternate. It is sometimes difficult to have a quorum to attend the meetings. Geoff is wrong and it should stay at seven members.

Tom – so Ted would like it to stay at a seven-member board and Geoff's personal observation is that it should be five members with two alternates.

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Geoff – I feel that seven members plus two alternates is an unreal number for a board.

Doug – what about the chair? How does that person feel about the number of members?

Geoff – he wants seven.

Owen – as the numbers go up, so does the number increase to get a quorum. You have to weigh the benefits.

Geoff – maybe you should put off the decision and have the liaison talk to the chair.

Ken – an application to the Planning Board can span several meetings. It is important to have all of the members there to hear what is being proposed.

Ted – The Planning Board has different responsibilities than other committees.

Ken – is there anything on their agenda before July 10<sup>th</sup>?

Tom – I have concerns about reappointing these members as Geoff has valid concerns.

Owen – the terms don't expire until June 30<sup>th</sup>. So, if we don't handicap the board we should wait until our next meeting to make a decision on this one.

Geoff – there is a meeting this Wednesday and we don't have any emergencies. They will be having a site walk on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Rick – there is nothing critical for the members that will cripple the board if you wait. I just spoke with Jamie and there are no quorum problems at this time.

Mark – I am okay to approve this as presented.

Tom – we should hold at status quo.

Ken – then the motion is to keep Ted as an alternate. I would support the motion.

Owen – we need to bump that board up to November to come before us to give us an annual update on the board.

Tom – could we ask for information from the chair on whether or not they are having difficulty getting a quorum?

**VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

- g. Reappoint a committee member who has a term expiring on June 30, 2017, who has agreed to serve a 1-year term – Alex Armentrout (expiring June 30, 2018) to the Ordinance Review Committee

**Owen Casas moved to appoint Alex Armentrout to the Ordinance Review Committee for a term of one year, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Mark Kelley seconded the motion.**

Mark - why is his term for only one year?

Ken – he is a very valuable member of that committee. The issue is because they meet in the winter and he usually goes away, but he knows that he will be here this winter, so will be available to serve on the committee.

**VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

h. Reappoint Town Officers effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

**Owen Casas moved to appoint the Town Officers effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Mark Kelley seconded the motion.**

Owen – why is the auditor position vacant?

Ken – the auditor is vacant because we are in the process of going out to bid to see what else is available out there.

Mark – are they leaving us or are we leaving them?

Ken – this is just an opportunity to see what else is available and they may very well reapply.

The Board discussed the new attorney and their three-year contract.

The Police Department has hired a new officer and he is already trained and ready to go.

Doug – I would like to move to the vote.

**VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

i. Approval of the Order of Municipal Officers regarding payment of outstanding or delinquent property taxes

**Owen Casas moved to approve the Order of Municipal Officers regarding payment of outstanding and delinquent taxes. Thomas Gray seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED.**

j. Discussion of a possible joint meeting or workshop with the Library Committee

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Ken – this item doesn't necessarily require any action. It is a path forward towards the library plans. The first survey will be held in July.

Rick – only one company responded to us. It is the Portland Research Group.

Mark – do we have a time frame for people to look at?

Ken – yes, they have a time frame of eight weeks. The Select Board and the Library Committee will look at the finished survey. We should meet with the Library Committee for about an hour and then meet with the Research Group to discuss their findings.

Owen – I agree with the plan. We need to keep forward the momentum, but not too fast. We need a clear picture.

Ken – we should have a proposal to put before the voters in June of 2018.

Mark – that is what I am looking for in a time frame.

Ann – we would be very pleased with that plan.

Doug – I am a big fan of data and research. There are three factions- the third one doesn't care one way or the other what happens, another one is against any plan and the other one is for something specific.

Ken – we are looking for a high response rate.

Rick – we are trying to get the ones in the middle excited about the library. How do we do that?

Doug – quite a few people have told me that we don't need a library at all. Be careful what you wish for.

Tom – it has been prolonged far too long. It is healthy for us to get the information.

Doug – we have had four years of doing this – we had a survey by Emily Lusher and have had several votes taken.

Rick – we are sending the survey by “direct mailing” to our residents.

Ken – you will be impressed with their RFP response. We will have Stacey give you a copy of it.

Mark – when will the meeting date be?

Ken – how about Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, the night of our regular Select Board meeting? The Select Board and Library Committee should meet before that meeting.

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Rick – if you do that I am afraid that you will get too far ahead of the researcher.

Owen – I am very impressed by them. They covered the town history and it is obvious that they did their homework.

It was agreed to meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July.

VII. WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS

**Owen Casas moved to leave as Select Board and to enter as Wastewater Commissioners. Mark Kelley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

- a. June commitment of Sewer User/Debt Fees for the period of April 2017

**Owen Casas moved to commit the June Commitment of the Sewer User/Debt Fees for the period of April 2017 totaling \$25,668.73 to the Treasurer for collection. Thomas Gray seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

- b. Approval of the Order of Wastewater Commissioners regarding payment of outstanding or delinquent wastewater charges

**Owen Casas moved to approve the Order of Wastewater Commissioners regarding the payment of outstanding or delinquent wastewater payments. Thomas Gray seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

**Owen Casas moved to exit as Wastewater Commissioners and to enter back as the Select Board. Mark Kelley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

VIII: LIAISON REPORTS

Owen – The Maritime Farms project is progressing nicely. MDOT worked in several of our suggestions. The ribbon cutting for the high sidewalk will be soon. We will let MDOT know. Jamie told us that there are two options for the RBT grant. One is the parking lot down here behind the block with the Brook Street, which connects to Mechanic Street. Because of the amount of money required, we have ruled it out. There will be a small connector from Maine Media through Country Way which makes more sense. We may need more work on the grant. At our next meeting, we will be talking about the Middle School site Riverwalk. MCSW will meet this Wednesday. We have new board members. I don't have much to report on the committee. The Recreation Committee is trying to get on the same page. Suzanne and Mike will be meeting to establish some solid lines of communications.

Ken – the ORC has nothing planned for a summer session. The Ambulance Review, we will most likely see some changes as the call volume is down. They make their money on transfer instead of on transportation to the hospital. We will be looking at lower

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coverage on the weekend than in the past. They have an issue with staffing. It is difficult to attract them. The Cemetery Committee needs to meet soon.

Doug – asked about the RFP survey. Rick sent him a copy. It says all of the right things. I believe that the survey will rip off the scabs and bring us some woe.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None this meeting

X ADJOURNMENT

**Owen Casas moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Thomas Gray seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW  
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY