

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016
9:00 A.M.
ROCKPORT OPERA HOUSE MEETING ROOM**

Present: Chair, William Chapman, Vice-Chair Kenneth McKinley, Owen Casas, Geoffrey Parker and Brendan Riordan. Also present: James Guerra, MCSWC Director, David Kinney, Lincolnville Town Administrator and Leonard Lookner, Camden Select Board and a member of the public

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – William Chapman, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

- II. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Vote to set the date for a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. and to hold a public hearing on Monday, August 22, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., both at the Rockport Opera House Meeting Room on a proposed warrant article: To discuss and vote on a proposed contract to deliver the Town's Municipal Solid Waste to the Municipal Review Committee Waste Facility to be built in Hampden, Maine, beginning in April 1, 2018.

Bill – there is a suggested motion if you want to use it.

Owen made the motion and then after some discussion retracted the motion.

Geoff – is this what we want? This Board is here to discuss what Rockport wants. Does it make sense to have a motion that may fail? We think that our Board is friendlier and clear headed.

Brendan – disagreed.

Geoff – the question is how do you do the best thing that will bring positive energy to this discussion. I am interested in doing what is best for Rockport.

Ken – the desire is to have all four towns have a clear idea what to do. By having Rockport have a vote, I don't know what we will accomplish. We want to have all of the towns have an option decided by that date.

Bill – the MCSW Board is effectively dissolved. The members of two towns don't listen to their citizens.

Owen – last night's meeting was very interesting. The conversations after the meeting to limit their own citizens is very alarming.

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

Geoff – if we are the only ones that do this, does this look like we are escalating bad behavior?

Owen – “I have spent hours and hours of my life with a carrot in front of my face.” Again the conversation afterwards were extremely alarming.

Brendan – Can you describe the specific course of events that happens if we put this to the Rockport voters in a positive way? I believe the citizens understand what they are doing. I cannot see a constructive path.

Ken – things are not good. How will it help to have a vote now?

Geoff – we got outvoted at three meetings. I don’t see where anything has changed. No one is listening anymore. This is not good for our relationship with our neighbors. “We lose this one. This is stupid.” I think that unless we could have two other towns go to vote by the end of August, this will not be a positive move.

Bill – Camden made it clear last night that they don’t trust their citizens.

Brendan – there are times when in the process, the representatives of the towns are doing the responsible thing by making a decision to not have the citizens vote. We have to be able to disagree. Owen, you said that it is important to keep this board together.

Owen – are we going to accept public comments?

Bill – no! I guess that if the Board agrees that we should, then we should give the public ten minutes each to speak.

Lookner – we talked about keeping everyone together. If you have a vote, you will be different from the rest of the MCSW Board.

Owen – not for us, we could make more money with Fiberight.

Lookner – I am bothered by this process. I gave it some serious thought. You can get more people that are motivated to speak at an open town meeting. I feel that it should be a closed vote (ballot) in November when more people will be voting. We have until 2018 to make a decision.

Geoff – you understand what will happen if we do not vote by August 30th. We will not get the rebates that are being offered by Fiberight and we will not get the lower tipping rate if we don’t join by that deadline. He explained by using a comparison of an orphanage and the number of kids in it. If we go with

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

Ecomaine for five years, the same rate will not be offered to us by Fiberight if we wait.

Lookner – discussed the tonnage plant that Fiberight is planning to build. If that is the case I would go to PERC.

Jim – all of this still needs to be worked out. PERC will be closed in 5-10 years. The deal will be different down the road. The pricing and rebates will not be the same.

Alison – we need to keep MCSW together. The value in Rockport going ahead with a vote is not a threat. It may give us a possible in with MRC to getting rebates back, to have the penalties waived versus a 2.25 % increased tipping fee and no access to rebates. There is a shred of hope that in November not only will the vote be for ecomaine, but also Fiberight and PERC. I would like to go on record that we are happy with going with Fiberight (MRC) and think that Rockport should go ahead with the vote.

Ken – asked Jim to comment on her statement.

Jim – the goal is to have a contract signed. It would be a show of faith. I don't know how it will bear on the Board.

Bill – the MRC Board was upset on how they were treated. They were very touchy.

Ken – the reason to vote is if it makes a positive statement.

Alison – twenty-three more towns have voted on it.

Ken – the question in November will have multiple choices and that is not a good thing. The deal that was on the table is no longer there after last night.

Brendan – we cannot control others.

Owen – I feel that there is space to discuss it.

Brendan – there is no motion on the table.

Ken – we are in the dark about the conversation last night that Owen heard.

Brendan – is there a reason to share those conversations? Will it do any good?

Owen – the exclusive end results is getting what you want and that the citizens are not smart. There was democracy when it suited them.

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

Geoff – we have been outmaneuvered. I don't feel that we should hear those comments.

Owen – I want to be a team player. The MCSW Board is filled with individuals that are not team players. They are not interested on the towns' votes in June. Artificially avoiding their voice is wrong. I believe in democracy.

Brendan – if we don't vote we will be fiscally irresponsible.

Owen – if our citizens are not informed, it is our job to inform them.

Bill – there will be a public hearing and if at that time we want we could decide not to have a vote.

Ken – if we remove MRC, we are going outside MRC.

Geoff – we are not doing what Camden has done. It is a division. At Rockport's Special Town Meeting on August 2nd, eighty-four people showed up to vote for a school board director.

Owen – our citizens spoke very clearly in June and I want to bring the choice to them to make.

Ken – what do we do if they vote for (Fiberight)? We are going against MCSW. I am on board with having a vote after last night's meeting, but am not totally comfortable with Fiberight.

Bill – if there are two questions on the November ballot, one town may vote one way and the others another.

Geoff – “the good guys lost this round.”

Bill – my observation is if we do this, it will fail and I can see three members who will vote against it.

Geoff – I don't think that a motion will be a positive vote.

Ken – if passing a motion is a positive, I will reconsider my vote.

Geoff – what is best for the four communities?

Bill Chapman moved to place the following warrant article on a public hearing notice with said public hearing to be held on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and to set the date for a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., both at the Rockport Opera House: Shall the Town enter into an agreement for handling the disposition of Municipal Solid Waste by delivering said MSW to the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) Waste Facility in Hampden, Maine,

ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

commencing on April 1, 2018. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 2 FOR (CHAPMAN & CASAS) – 3 OPPOSED (MCKINLEY, PARKER AND RIORDAN).

Bill – motion fails.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Owen Casas moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 4 FOR – 1 OPPOSED (CASAS)

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY