

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

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

Please note: Due to pandemic, the Select Board has been authorized by the state to meet remotely. At this meeting, the Board used a videoconference format. Public comments or questions were received by the Town Manager at wpost@rockportmaine.gov or through the livestream of the meeting (if any).

Board members present remotely: Chair Debra Hall, Vice-Chair Denise Munger, Delores M. Hannan, Jeffrey Hamilton, and Mark Kelley. Also present remotely: Town Manager William Post, Code Enforcement Officer Scott Bickford, Town Clerk Linda Greenlaw, attorney Paul Gibbons, and members of the public all via Zoom or livestream.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

II. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT/UPDATE – see attached

In addition to the written report, the Town Manager reported verbally on some other topics.

He commented that excise tax collections are significantly higher than the previous year and the Town should have no issue in reaching its budgetary estimate and exceeding it.

Town Manager Post reported that the library project is working on a punch list on the interior. There have been some changes to the landscaping on the stream side of the building that includes eliminating a retaining wall and adding two rows of boulders to create a tiered effect.

Board Member Kelley asked if the Town is still within the budget for the soft costs and if the Library Foundation’s commitments were being fulfilled. Vice-Chair Munger reported that some of the pledges will not be received until 2021 and 2022. The Foundation has received an offer to match \$25,000 of new donations to complete the purchase of the remaining furniture and fixtures that are needed. The Manager replied that there has been little spent from the soft costs part of the budget and that the bridge loan will be enough to cover any delayed collections by the Foundation.

Town Manager Post reported that the 24-year-old security and fire alarm system at the Town Office has been updated with a new security system, fire alarm, carbon monoxide detectors and smoke/heat detectors.

III. PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None this evening

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA – None this meeting

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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- a. Meeting Minute(s):
- September 28, 2020

Vice-Chair Munger moved to approve the meeting minutes, as presented, of the September 28, 2020 Select Board Meeting. Board Member Kelley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Act on Committee Application(s):**
- Nancy Albertson – Opera House Committee

Chair Hall asked Nancy Albertson if she would like to say a few words on why she was interested in being on the Opera House Committee.

Nancy Albertson thanked the Select Board for inviting her to the meeting. She stated that she has lived in Rockport for twenty-five years. She worked at the Camden Opera House for twelve years as the event manager which involved handling the promotion of shows, selling tickets and other duties. She would like to assist in promoting the vibrancy of the Opera House.

Board Member Hamilton moved that the Board appoint Nancy Albertson to the Opera House Committee as a regular member with a term ending June 30, 2023. Board Member Kelley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- Robert Kollmar – Capital Improvement Committee Alternate

Chair Hall asked Bob Kollmar to say a few words on why he wants to be on the Capital Improvement Committee.

Robert Kollmar stated that he is new to Rockport and has been in town one and a half years. He stated that he has forty-four years' experience with civil engineering and has been assisting Legacy Rockport with the restoration of the Vulcan Locomotive.

Board Member Kelley moved that the Board appoint Robert Kollmar to the Capital Improvement Committee as an alternate member with a term ending June 30, 2023. Board Member Hannan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- b. **Act on Consent Agreement by and between the Town of Rockport and Rockport Granite**

Chair Hall welcomed Paul Gibbons, the attorney for Rockport Granite, and the two owners of Rockport Granite and Code Enforcement Officer Scott Bickford.

The Manager stated that Code Officer Bickford issued a letter of violation to Rockport Granite in July after complaints. Since that time, he has been working with the owners and their attorney on

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a consent agreement that will correct the violations and keep the issue from the court system. The agreement also requires a fine of \$1,000 be paid by Rockport Granite.

Paul Gibbons stated that he appreciated the Code Officer's efforts to make the agreement work.

CEO Bickford stated that all parties agreed to the consent agreement. He was very happy with the outcome.

Board Member Kelley moved that the Board approve the Consent Agreement with Rockport Granite as presented. Vice-Chair Munger seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR - 0 OPPOSED

c. Act on Epidemic/Pandemic Policy

Town Manager Post explained the policy puts into writing what the Town has been working through the last six months. The Safety Committee has been through several edits of the policy and has recommended it as presented.

Board Member Hannan asked if masks are required in Stage 1. Town Manager Post stated that masks were not required previously, but masks are now mandated by the Governor in all public places. Any orders from the state or federal government will be followed.

Chair Hall stated that on page 5 the draft addresses what happens if a Department Head is ill, but there is no course of action described if the Town Manager gets the virus. Board Member Hamilton stated that there is a reference in the Town Charter regarding when and if the Town Manager becomes ill. Chair Hall stated that process should be mentioned in the policy.

Board Member Hamilton stated that with respect to the stages of government shutdown, page 8, if the Governor or the CDC makes a recommendation to close, we should follow that recommendation. The process should be stated with a higher level of certainty in the policy. The way it is written now makes it sound optional. The Manager suggested some language changes.

Chair Hall stated that on page 4, Key Municipal Operations, should be formatted and word smithed better.

Vice Chair Munger moved that the Board approve the Town of Rockport Epidemic/Pandemic Policy as amended. Board Member Hamilton seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

VII. WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS

Board Member Kelley moved that the Board exit as Select Board and enter as Wastewater Commissioners. Board Member Hamilton seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

a. Discuss Take-aways from Wastewater Workshop

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Chair Hall noted that there had been discussion at the presentation about the cost of the Town having their own Wastewater Plant. She asked Vice Chair Munger to kick off that discussion.

Vice-Chair Munger stated that she understood the discussion to mean that the Town pays Woodard and Curran for operating the current system and the cost would be the same if the Town has wastewater plants instead of sending wastewater to Camden and Rockland.

Board Member Hamilton responded that he did not understand it that way. He stated that the Town would have to have twenty-four-hour coverage and would need to hire six to eight people if the Town had its own plants.

The Board noted generally that this will be clarified in the study to be acted upon by the Board.

b. Act on Wastewater Treatment Plant Study

Town Manager Post stated that the study would review the current wastewater contracts with Camden and Rockland and identify areas that the Town should not be paying for in each of those contracts so that a lower rate could be negotiated, hopefully. The study would also identify possible locations and types of treatment plants and the costs associated with construction as well as operations. The study will cost \$10,000 and will be completed in two months. The fee can be paid from the current Wastewater Budget.

Board Member Hamilton stated that he thinks the costs associated with a treatment plant will be extremely high.

Board Member Kelley moved that the Wastewater Commissioners approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Study with a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Board Member Hannan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Board Member Hamilton moved that the Wastewater Commissioners exit and return as the Select Board. Board Member Kelley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

VIII. SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Vice-Chair Munger stated that last Tuesday night the ZBA met for four and a half hours on the hotel appeal. They postponed the deliberations until next month. Legacy Rockport met and reported that according to the survey on the lime kilns by Gartley and Dorskey, the kilns have not moved. Geoff Parker is finishing up a video that was originally intended to be shown at the bicentennial supper in March. Legacy Rockport would like to have a small group showing in the Opera House made up primarily of the video participants, around 20 people, targeting Legacy Rockport's next meeting on December 14th. Town Manager Post indicated he would work with Legacy Rockport as to how this could be done safely in the Opera House due to COVID restrictions. Chair Hall asked if there are options to make this video more widely available. Town Manager Post will work on that.

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Board Member Kelley stated that the Parks and Beautification Committee met and discussed the landscaping at Memorial Park, the triangle on Route 1 by the old Hoboken Gardens and a possible pathway at Aldermere Farms. Two more memorial benches will need to be ordered.

The Conservation Commission will meet at 5:15 p.m. on the 9th of December via zoom. The Parks Committee will meet on the 9th at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Board Member Hannan stated that the Planning Board heard a request for a new structure at the high school. The West Rockport Fire Station Building Committee met to review the revised drawings, and these will be presented at the December 14th Select Board Meeting.

Chair Hall stated that MCSWC Board has not met. The facility manager is working on a policy outlining the possibility of two shifts if needed due to COVID. It is not necessary yet, but they want to be prepared just in case. If this occurs, they will temporarily cease recycling with the exception of cardboard when the two shifts are implemented.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Munger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Board Member Hamilton seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

The Select Board wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY