

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

A meeting of the Rockport Board of Selectmen was held at 6:45pm on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in Conference Room A in Town Hall with five selectpersons, the Town Administrator and the Asst. Town Administrator.

6:45 Meeting Called to Order

Executive Session – MGL Ch. 30A §21(a) – Approval of Minutes: Executive Session – Legal Review: Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a) to approve Executive Session minutes and to reconvene in Open Session, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Roll Call Vote, Chairperson Battistelli – aye, Selectperson Lucas – aye, Selectperson Murphy – aye, Selectperson Wilkinson – aye, all in favor, Sheedy not present yet.

Motion to enter Executive Session
Motion Approved

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2016: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of January 12, 2016, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 4-0. Selectperson Wilkinson abstained.

Approval of 1/12/16 Minutes
Motion Approved

Selectmen & Town Administrator Updates and Liaison Reports: procurement of fire engine #3, it was approved last year, old one will be sold.

Selectmen & Town Administrator Updates

Public Comment Period: T. Arsenian, 95 Granite St., spoke about the change of the Pigeon Cove polling station. He said the elderly can't get far; we'll need to consider those that are not able-bodied. Tomorrow night Harbor Advisory Committee, Granite Pier Extension, he said he would like the Board of Selectmen to request a report.

Public Comment Period

S. Jacques, 93 Granite Street, said one item that was discussed while he was on the Board of Selectmen was committees. He said the roles of the committees are not up to date. Liaison assignments were going to be reviewed and changed as necessary. He asked the board to please be sure to bring each committee's charter up to date. He questioned why there are not citizens on the Traffic Committee, he said maybe we don't need this committee – is it Parking and Safety or Traffic and Parking. Maybe that function could be consolidated into some other functions; that would free up the Town Administrator and the Chief of Police.

7:25 Action List

Action List:

- Add agenda item: Selectperson Sheedy moved that we add the designation of revised election polling locations to tonight's agenda, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 5-0.
- Appointment of Jim Ugone to the Historic District/Historical Commissions: Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Jim Ugone as a member of the Historic District/Historical Commissions for a one and one half

Add Agenda Item
Motion Approved

Appointment to Historic District/Historical Commissions
Motion Approved

Action List:
Continued

year term to expire on June 30, 2017, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 4-0. Chairperson Battistelli abstained from the vote.

Acceptance of
Historical
Commission
Resignation
Motion Approved

- Acceptance of Historical Commission Resignation: Selectperson Wilkinson moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation of Stephen DeMarco from the Historical Commission effective January 31, 2016, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0. Selectperson Wilkinson said he was on the commission for 12 years; she said the Commission does a lot of work with no administrative help.

Hiring Approval for
Full Time Police
Officer
Motion Approved

- Hiring Approval for Full Time Police Officer: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the hiring of a Full Time Police Officer to fill a vacancy, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0. The Asst. Town Administrator said there are minimum staffing levels and this brings the count to 17 officers. The Chief of Police said we are still below the minimum number of officers; he said this position is already budgeted. Selectperson Murphy said this is about public safety; we should not short change the force.

Hiring Approval for
three (3) Permanent
Intermittent Police
Officers
Motion Approved

- Hiring Approval for Three (3) Permanent Intermittent Police Officers: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the hiring of three (3) Permanent Intermittent Police Officers, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 5-0. The Asst. Town Administrator said there is a civil service formula; this would bring the force to that capacity. The Chief of Police said there are three retirements over the next year, so this will start the process for recruiting to replace the individuals retiring.

Enactment of Public
Employee
Committee Process
Motion Approved

- Enactment of Public Employee Committee Process: Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen implement the Public Employee Committee (PEC) process under the authority of MGL CH. 32B, Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 5-0. The Asst. Town Administrator said this is a revision of the law the Board adopted. He said we are moving forward to make changes to that process. He said we served notice to the unions and insurance advisory committee, this is a rigid timeline.

Entertainment
License for Heath's
Tea Room
Motion Approved

- Entertainment License for Heath's Tea Room: Selectperson Wilkinson moved that the Board of Selectmen sign an Entertainment License for Heath's Tea Room, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Bryant Property
Conservation
Commission
Restriction

- Bryant Property Conservation Restriction: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the Conservation Restriction from Paul D. Bryant to the Essex County Greenbelt Association, Inc. for the preservation of 23.5 acres off of Lanes Farm Way and being in the public interest pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 184, Section 32; Selectperson Wilkinson seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Chris Lapoint, from Essex County Greenbelt, presented the proposal. He said they've been working with Mr. Bryant for over one year; seeking permanent conservation restrictions that will allow agricultural activities and water quality protection. The property is adjacent to conservation land and the schools. Funding is the Greenbelt and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; they received 50% of the purchase price from the state. He said under the state process we are here to seek endorsement of the conservation restriction. The land will be managed for agricultural purposes, farmed/grazed, it remains on the tax rolls and

stays in the ownership of Mr. Bryant. It will no longer be available for residential development. This will remain privately owned; the funds are used to purchase the restriction not the land.

Action List
Continued

Frederick Tarr, 156 Main Street, said it is very good of Mr. Bryant to preserve this land. S. Jacques questioned the public access, pedestrians on the way and inquired what would happen if the lease isn't renewed. Mr. Bryant said the plan is to renew the lease.

- 59 High Street Property Surplus Declaration: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen declare 59 High Street (Map 18, Lot 26) as surplus property, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 4-0. Selectperson Lucas abstained as she is a neighbor to the property. The Asst. Town Administrator said an RFP will be generated, it will be advertised according to 30B regulations, there will be an opportunity for a site visit, it will be awarded to the town; then the sale process will begin. He said anyone interested in the property should contact Town Hall; there are currently approximately 50 interested individuals, it will go in the Gloucester Times, on the bulletin board, etc. It will be a sealed bid process.
- Tax Possessed Items Surplus Declaration: Selectperson Wilkinson moved that the Board of Selectmen declare the tax possessed items as surplus property, Selectmen Murphy seconded, Vote: 4-0. Selectperson Lucas abstained.
- Operating & Capital Budgets Approval: Discussions on the FY '17 budget ensued. Youth Center Operations, leave the same, Planning Board \$27,000, Community Development \$52,000, Parking Meter Sergeant stipend \$8,922, \$1,783 animal inspector, animal control, leave the same, shellfish warden stipend leave the same, Harbor Maintenance (expense lines) leave in and ask for more detail, Schools: increase was \$252,000 approx. Community House stipend maintain the same, send it to the Personnel Board for review, P/T DPW Clerk, \$13,700 eliminate seasonal position, snow, salt, sanding \$15,000, salt \$45,000, Board of Health stipends remain the same, Council on Aging salary, clerk leave at last year's rate, library back to original level funding, maintenance at 15,709. The vote was postponed until Friday, 1/29/16.
- Final FY17 Budget Message and Finance Plan: The vote was postponed until Friday, 1/29/16.
- Revised election polling locations: Selectperson Murphy moved to designate the Rockport Community House on Broadway as the polling location for Precincts one and three, seconded by Selectperson Wilkinson, Vote: 5-0.

59 High Street
Property Surplus
Declaration
Motion Approved

Tax Possessed
Items Surplus
Declaration
Motion Approved

Operating &
Capital Budgets
Approval
Postponed
No Vote taken.

Final FY '17
Budget Message
Postponed, No
vote taken

Revised election
Polling Locations
Motion Approved

The Town Administrator said there has been an interest in combining polling locations #1 and #3. She said we needed to find a location between the School and the Pigeon Cove Circle. Pat Brown, Town Clerk, said in Pigeon Cove funds are limited this year so the pipes will be shut off and they can't heat the building. The High School is Precinct #3, children were walking while voters were entering the site; keep St. Mary's as it is for now. We need to send cards to the voters for both precincts. Selectperson Murphy would like to see elections moved permanently from the schools.

8:10 Selectmen Briefing

Selectmen
Briefing

Community
Development –
Green Community
Status

- Community Development Green Community Status: The Town Administrator said Community Development includes the energy efforts for a Green Community. The Green Community Task Force members are Bruce Reed, David Perry, Jim Waddell, Tom Mikus, Ed Hand, Jr., Maureen Aylward, and J. D. Herlihy. There are five criteria that the town needs to achieve: Zoning: streamline the permitting process, reduce energy consumption by 20%, purchase energy efficient vehicles, reduce life-cycle energy costs for new construction. Transfer station may be location for solar panels, put them on the banking; it takes one acre of land for the solar panels. Rockport would benefit because communities that attain status receive \$145,000 for energy projects; \$125,977 is the average amount that other North Shore Green communities have received in competitive grants. If we attain our 20% we will be saving our \$400,000 annually, which is \$2,000,000 over 5 years.

B. Reed said we will provide education and have public forums before town meeting.

T. Arsenian said he has misgivings about the stretch code, though he is in favor of Green Communities.

10:30: Selectperson Murphy moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectperson Sheedy,
Vote: 5-0.

Warrant Signed:

Warrant signed for the Fiscal Year 2015 Payroll and Expenses for the week of January 28, 2016 in the amounts of \$117,358.21 and \$1,073,889.53 respectively.

Items Signed:

Paul Bryant, Conservation Restriction, Essex County Greenbelt, Lane's Farm Way
Lodging House License, Beach Knoll Inn, LLC
Entertainment License, Heath's Tea Room
Lodging House License, Rocky Shores Inn