

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, March 24, 2015

A meeting of the Rockport Board of Selectmen was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 in Conference Room A in Town Hall; five selectpersons were present as well as the Town Administrator and the Asst. Town Administrator.

6:40 Meeting Called to Order

Executive Session to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Non-Union Personnel: Executive Session – Strategy: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, §21(a) for Exception #2 to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Roll Call Vote: Selectperson Battistelli – aye, Selectperson Lucas – aye, Selectperson Murphy – aye, Selectperson Sheedy – aye, Chairperson Wilkinson – aye, all in favor.

Executive Session, Strategy with respect to non-Union Personnel. Motion Approved.

Chairperson Wilkinson: “We are entering executive session because, by not doing so, it would be detrimental to the Town’s bargaining position.”

7:30 Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Rockport Troop 20 Eagle Scout: Tim Chambers, Eagle Scout, was present as well as Scout Master Ben Favalaro. Tim said he has been scouting for 11 to 12 years. His project was verifying the tombstones at the cemetery near Front Beach. He created a list and found tombstones that weren’t on the map and some other inaccuracies. He said he loves history and that area of town. He is currently a junior in high school, and is investigating joining the National Guard. Chairperson Wilkinson read the letter of acknowledgement.

Rockport Troop 20 Eagle Scout
Tim Chambers

Approval of Minutes of March 3 and March 10, 2015:

Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of March 3, 2015, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 5-0.

Approval of 3/3/15 Meeting
Motion Approved

Selectperson Battistelli moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of March 10, 2015, seconded by Selectperson Sheedy, Vote: 5-0.

Approval of 3/10/15 Meeting
Motion Approved

Selectmen Updates and Liaison Reports:

- Selectperson Lucas said she was asked by Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante to attend the State House Hearing on the Mass. Film Credit on 3/31/15; she plans to attend and said a North Shore contingent will be attending.
- Selectperson Battistelli provided an update on the Tool Company. She said the applicant filed in land court on the water rights issue using the 1800 statute, this is being address by the Attorney General’s office; the applicant is appealing the DEP denial to the court; that is being handled by DEP’s counsel. Selectperson Battistelli said we are asking Kopelman and Paige to keep in touch with the AG and the DEP’s counsel so we can be informed. In May there will be testimony by the applicant to the state, and an adjudicatory hearing will be in mid-September.
- Selectperson Battistelli said she participated in Meals on Wheels recently, they visited approximately 20 homes.

Selectmen Updates and Liaison Reports

Public Comment
Period

Public Comment Period: T. Arsenian, 95 Granite St., said he thought there were no motions or action taken on Discussion Items on the meeting agenda. He said he attended some Finance Committee meetings, and spoke about the \$50,000 for the Economic Development Committee, where ultimately \$25,000 was approved. He wanted to ask the Moderator if more funds can be approved on Town Meeting floor than are published in the booklet. The Town Administrator said the booklets haven't been printed yet. He said he disagrees with the Mass. Film Credit; this is a private enterprise at taxpayer expense.

Town
Administrator's
Report

Town Administrator's Report:

- There is an Emergency Planning Committee Meeting on 5/20/15 at The Cruiseport in Gloucester. The focus is on evacuation and overnight sheltering of senior citizens.
- The schedule of April Board of Selectmen meetings has been changed to 4/14 and 4/28 to accommodate school vacation week.
- The phone cut over that was discussed at the last meeting didn't happen on the 19th as originally planned, Comcast and Verizon need a 12 day notice.
- The Council on Aging is requesting additional space in the Community Building on a regularly scheduled basis; Chairperson Wilkinson said she plans to meet with the Community House Manager on this.
- Request for Evan's field; date conflict; the Rockport Navy Committee and the Rockport Reunion are scheduled on the same day. This needs to be resolved; Selectperson Murphy said there are other fields that can be used for the Navy Committee kickball game.
- The regional Veteran's District between Manchester, Gloucester and Rockport is getting closer; the Asst. Town Administrator said Essex is part of another district.

7:50 Action List

Action List:

Appointment of Melissa Tingley to the Finance Committee: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Melissa Tingley as a member of the Finance Committee to fill an unexpired 3-year term ending on May 1, 2017, Selectperson Battistelli seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Appointment of
Melissa Tingley to
Finance Committee
Motion Approved

Appointment of Ian Crown to the Finance Committee: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Ian Crown as a member of the Finance Committee to fill an unexpired 3-year term ending on May 1, 2017, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Appointment of Ian
Crown to Finance
Committee
Motion Approved

Nomination of Animal Inspector: Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen nominate Elaine Somers as Rockport Inspector of Animals pursuant to MGL Chapter 129, Sections 15 and 16, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Nomination of
Animal Inspector
Motion Approved

Acceptance of Lura Hall Phillips Trust Gift: Selectperson Battistelli moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the Trust Gift of \$19,606.01 from the Lura Hall Phillips Trust for the sole use of Millbrook Meadow-related purposes as listed on the March 11,

Acceptance of Lura
Hall Phillips Trust
Gift
Motion Approved

2015 letter to the Board of Selectmen from Gunilla Caulfield, Trustee, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.
Gunilla Caulfield, Trustee of the Trust, was present; this is the final gift from the trust.

Permission to Use T-Wharf on Motif #1 Day: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the use of a portion of T-Wharf for the start and finish of Motif #1 Day 5k Road Race on 5/16/15, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Permission to use
T-Wharf on Motif
#1 Day
Motion Approved

Seasonal Alcohol License Renewals: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign Seasonal Liquor License application renewals for Blue Lobster Grille, Fish Shack Restaurant, Ellen's Coffee Shop, Inc., Brackett's Oceanview Restaurant, Inc., and My Place By the Sea, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Season Alcohol
License Renewals
Motion Approved

State Film Tax Credit Support Letter: Selectperson Battistelli moved that the Board of Selectmen send a letter of support for the Massachusetts Film Tax Credit to the Speaker of the House, Mr. Robert DeLeo; Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.
Selectperson Lucas said this is a \$600M industry in Mass. and creates many jobs. She said we will lose what we have built over the last ten years. This is far reaching and it's been working so well. She said some people think this puts money in the pockets of the rich in Hollywood; she disagrees with that.

State Film Tax
Credit Support
Letter
Motion Approved

Updated Designer Selection Procedures: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the draft Updated Designer Selection Procedures, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 5-0.
This pertains to building projects, Chapter 7; the town needs to bring selection procedures up to code and general laws. This has been recommended by Town Counsel.

Updated Designer
Selection
Procedures
Motion Approved

Outdoor Display Permits: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen renew the Outdoor Display Permit for Tidal Edge Gallery, 3 School Street, Selectperson Battistelli seconded; Vote: 5-0.
Selectperson Battistelli said she would like the board to review the regulations around Outdoor Display permits at a subsequent meeting.

Outdoor Display
Permits
Motion Approved

8:15 Discussion Item

Special and Annual Town Meetings with the Moderator and the Finance Committee: Town Moderator, Robert Visnick was present. How to increase attendance at Town Meeting was discussed. The Moderator said Annual Town Meeting Articles B through E are related to grants. The Town Administrator asked a question relating to the Special Town Meeting Article G, due to the acceptance of an additional \$96,374 Chapter 90 funds, she said we just received notice of additional funds for snow storm assistance. She asked if the motion plus the additional \$28,000 can be included; the Town Moderator said yes. Articles R&S are easements, Articles T&U are accepting reports. The moderator said he would like more time to think about T. Arsenian's question asking if more funds be approved at town meeting than what was printed in the booklet.

Discussion Item:

Special and
Annual Town
Meetings with
Moderator and
Finance
Committee

DPW Commission members P. Sena, J. Gardner, and DPW Director Parisi are in attendance. Finance Committee members W. Hess, L. Wessel, J. Michaels, F. Hassler,

continued

and E. Dailey were present (new committee member Melissa Tingley is present but has not been sworn in yet).

W. Hess summarized the current status.

- \$25,000 is in the budget for the Economic Development Committee, discussion ensued on the requested \$50,000 and why only half is in the budget. Chairperson Wilkinson said this is a town department and suggested funding the full \$50,000 from free cash. W. Hess said there is concern that there won't be sufficient free cash to cover all that is needed. Selectperson said it is very difficult to see a return on investment because these are long term goals. She said in year #1 the funds were returned, in year #2 half of the funds were spent and this year they are ready to promote the development of Rockport and are requesting the full \$50,000. Chairperson Wilkinson said we have encouraged residents to participate on the Economic Development Committee and people will lose interest in this initiative. Selectperson Sheedy questioned the meals tax and asked if it isn't related to the Economic Development Committee. W. Hess said this is the first year that no stabilization fund is being funded. L. Razdan said they have to build relationships; they are promoting Rockport. She said they have a communications platform that works; this is a volunteer committee; they need to know they have support. The Moderator said the warrant article doesn't include this level of detail. In answer to T. Arsenian's question, he said he believes those amounts can be amended up or down.
- The additional accountant position was eliminated; \$8,100 is in the budget it will cover funding several months of the current contractor.
- The H/R department was initially eliminated completely, now \$55,000 was left in to reinstate the lower level H/R position,
- The new highway position in the DPW was eliminated (\$37,000 plus benefits),
- DPW has cuts of \$30,000, they consist of \$3.00 for gas and diesel and several senior employees retired and their replacements will be at lower cost,
- DPW seasonal help was level funded from last year, and level funded cemetery help from last year. DPW voted for increased parking and transfer station fees that increased revenue. Half of the cemetery help was reinstated,
- Single stream costs were absorbed by sticker fee increases,
- J. Gardner spoke about the DPW seasonal help and said this is an efficient way to get the work done; it's less expensive than full time help. He said the crew has been working incredibly hard, there is much clean-up and fixing to do due to the snow. P. Sena stated that overtime costs will be higher if we don't hire the additional highway person. This crew is desperate for some help. He said if the streets continue to look like they do currently we won't be attracting people to Rockport. P. Sena, said if we don't hire the new highway employee, overtime costs will be increased. Selectperson Lucas inquired if there is an analysis available on that. She said it would be good to see what overtime costs could be eliminated by hiring this additional position. J. Parisi said he would like an opportunity to make an analysis on this. The Town Administrator said Director Parisi has already provided her with some funds that could be moved. P. Sena said there is extra work that is requested by town committees that amounts to approximately two months of labor; it was about 50 projects (abandoned properties, etc.). Chairperson Wilkinson said the DPW is all over town assisting various groups. The Town Administrator said she supports the Board of Selectmen, the schools, the Finance Committee and administration getting together to look at the whole picture to see what is needed to function.

Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen support all articles on the STM, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 5-0.

Chairperson Wilkinson asked if board members could be prepared to speak on some of the articles at Town Meeting.

Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen support ATM articles 1-6 excluding Article 5, seconded by Selectperson Battistelli, Vote: 5-0.

Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen support ATM articles A through U excluding Q, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 5-0.

Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen support ATM Article Q, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 4-0, Selectperson Lucas abstained.

Other Business/Announcements: An Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Wednesday, 4/1/15.

9:00 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 March 26, 2015 in the amounts of \$106,007.01 and \$743,569.09 respectively.

Items Signed:

Eagle Scout Award Recipient
Letter to Robert DeLeo, Mass. Film Tax Credit
My Place by the Sea, Alcohol License
My Place by the Sea, Common Victualler's License
Blue Lobster Grille, LLC, Alcohol License
Blue Lobster, Common Victualler's License
The Fish Shack, Alcohol License
The Fish Shack, Common Victualler's License
Ellen's Coffee Shop, Alcohol License
Common Victualler's License
Brackett's Oceanview Restaurant, Alcohol License
Common Victualler's License
David Ford, Transient Vendor License
The Fish Shack, Entertainment License
Ray Moore Lobster Company, Common Victualler's License
The Captain's Lodge, Lodging House License
David Arsenault, Transient Vendor License
Rockin' Cupcakes, Common Victualler's License
Bearskin Neck Motor Lodge, Eric A. Leveille, Innholder's License