

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
Tuesday, August 19, 2014

A Board of Selectmen meeting was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 7pm in Conference Room A in Town Hall with four Selectpersons, the Town Administrator and the Asst. Town Administrator; Selectperson Lucas was not in attendance.

7:00 Meeting Called to Order

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes of August 5, 2014: Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of August 5, 2014, no vote – postpone until next meeting, insufficient number of voting members in attendance at 8/5/14 meeting.

Approval of 8/5/14 minutes, no vote taken

Approval of Minutes of August 12, 2014: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of August 12, 2014, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 3-0; Selectperson Battistelli abstained.

Approval of 8/12/14 Minutes, motion approved

Selectmen Updates and Liaison Reports: Selectperson Murphy said he missed the last meeting where it was decided to return the newly purchased parking meters from POM and put the prior meters back in service. He said he hopes that we will continue to pursue meters that can accept credit cards. The Town Administrator said the new POM meters haven't been removed and returned yet. He said the recent loss of Tina Ketchopulos was very sad.

Selectmen Updates and Liaison Reports

Public Comment Period: T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said he would like to speak when the Mass. Audubon lease and the warrant articles come up at end of the action list. He said the \$5,500 being requested for the Community Preservation Project for the Granite Pier extension study will gain nothing. The study will cost \$100,000 and will take one year; he said he is sure the town would not come up with the \$100,000 if needed.

Public Comment Period

Town Administrator's Report:

- M. Vieira said the Mass. In Motion grant was accepted by the DPH and is moving forward. He said previously only Gloucester was part of it, and now it's a regional approach so Rockport is working with Gloucester on this.
- There will be signage changes at the annex because it's confusing with the different signs over there. One sign on the front door will indicate the hours of operation, e-mail addresses, etc. He said parking adjustments are occurring at Town Hall; there has been insufficient parking for those people coming to town hall to conduct business.
- M. Vieira attended a training on the procurement system because it must all be on-line now. Tim Olson, from the DPW, is M. Vieira's backup on this system.
- Nick Barletta sent an e-mail requesting an update on the MBTA update meeting. Selectperson Battistelli and Chairperson Wilkinson attended the meeting; they will put some notes together.

Town Administrator's Report

7:15 Action List

State Primary  
Election Warrant  
Motion Approved

State Primary Election Warrant: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign a Warrant for the State Primary on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 4-0.

Appointment to  
Council on Aging  
Motion Approved

Appointment of Shirley Conway to the Council on Aging: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Shirley Conway as a member of the Council on Aging for a three year term to expire on June 30, 2017, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 4-0.

Resignation of  
Police Officer  
Griffin  
Motion Approved

Acceptance of Resignation of Police Officer Griffin: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation of Peter Griffin as a Rockport Police Officer effective immediately, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 4-0.

Resignation from  
Board of  
Registrars  
Motion Approved

Acceptance of Resignation of Barbara Paradis from the Board of Registrars: Selectperson Battistelli moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation of Barbara Paradis from the Board of Registrars effective immediately, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 4-0.

Permission for  
Street Performers  
to Play at Toad  
Hall Book Store  
and John Tarr  
Store on Fridays  
from 8/22  
through 10/31/14  
Motion Approved

Permission for Street Performers to Play at the Toad Hall Bookstore and the John Tarr Store for Special Merchant Events on Fridays from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Selectmen grant permission for all licensed Street Performers to play between the Toad Hall Bookstore and the John Tarr Store and also between Tuscan Design and the Galleria on Fridays from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on August 22, 2014 through October 31, 2014 with the exception of Harvest Fest Friday, October 18, 2014 unless authorized by the Rockport Festivals Committee, in accordance with the street performer policy, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 4-0. It was stated that there has been concern around noise. Chairperson Wilkinson said if any street performers don't follow the rules, the Board of Selectmen or the police should be contacted.

Street Performer  
License for  
Maurice Costa  
Motion Approved

Street Performer License for Maurice Costa: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve a Street Performer License for Maurice Costa for the 2014 summer Season; Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 4-0. Mr. Costa draws charcoal portraits; he said he sketches standing up. He said it takes approximately 13-14 minutes per sketch. Selectperson Sheedy moved to amend the street Performer license for the 2014 summer season to permit M. Costa to stand and work in front of the Kala Roopa Shop on Bearskin Neck, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 4-0.

Mass Audubon  
Lease for  
Straitsmouth  
Island  
Motion Approved

Mass Audubon Lease for Straitsmouth Island: Selectperson Battistelli moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the lease offered by the Mass Audubon Society for the Lightkeeper's House and Oil Storage Building on Straitsmouth Island and ask the Chairperson to sign said lease, seconded by Selectperson Sheedy, Vote: 4-0. T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said he previously asked if there would be additional costs to the town (liability insurance and upkeep costs), he inquired if there was any new information on this. Chairperson Wilkinson said no information had been obtained on this.

Board of  
Selectmen  
Positions on Fall  
Town Meeting  
Motion Approved

Board of Selectmen Positions on Fall Town Meeting: Selectperson Battistelli moved that the Board of Selectmen support Articles A, B, and C on the September 8, 2014 Fall Town Meeting Warrant, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 4-0, requesting the transfer of funds from existing accounts. Article A requires no motion because there are no bills. Article B is the transferring of funds between budget accounts, when there is excess in one account, and it is

needed in another line, there is no effect on the bottom line. Article C is requesting \$200,000 from the infiltration reserve account to the inflow and infiltration capital account to add new sewer hook-ups and expansions and to start lining the pipes, the next phase of the I&I.

Board of Selectmen Positions on Fall Town Meeting Articles: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen support Articles D, E, and F on the September 8, 2014 Fall Town Meeting Warrant which concern Community Preservation projects and funds, seconded by Selectperson Battistelli , Vote: 4-0. Article D is to hear the report where the CPC informs about their projects, Article E is three motions to transfer funds for FY '15 estimated revenues to three major reserve funds, Article F has ten motions detailing the projects: 1) school tennis courts \$33,394, 2) \$7,000 Old Garden Beach protective fencing, 3) \$115,000 Conservation Trust Fund, 4) \$75,000 Action, Inc. for mortgage assistance, 5) \$113,500 grant to the Rockport Baptist Church to repair the church bldg. (fire system/alarms), 6) \$220,000 grant to the Unitarian Universalist Church, 7) \$5,500 to the DPW for the feasibility study on ACOE, 8) \$20,000 Front Beach rehab and protection of the bluff overlooking ocean, 9) \$137,130 grant to Art Association for the preservation of historic buildings and handicap access including stairway, and 10) \$35,560 for the typical administrative costs for the Community Preservation Committee.

Board of  
Selectmen  
Positions on Fall  
Town Meeting  
Articles  
Motion  
Approved

Board of Selectmen Positions on Fall Town Meeting Articles: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen support Articles G, H, and I on the September 8, 2014 Fall Town Meeting Warrant which concerns increasing the Collector’s demand fees, establishing a revolving account for the Community House maintenance, and funding two fiscal years of Patrol Officers union cost items, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 4-0. Article G is for the collector to increase demand fees from \$5 to \$15, Article H is the revolving account for Community House to keep their fees to repair the building with a cap of \$7,500, Article I requires no motion because there is no agreement with the patrol officers.

Board of  
Selectmen  
Positions on Fall  
Town Meeting  
Articles  
Motion  
Approved

Board of Selectmen Positions on Fall Town Meeting Articles: Selectperson Battistelli moved that the Board of Selectmen support Articles J, K, and M on the September 8, 2014 Fall Town Meeting Warrant which concern granting two easements and hearing a report from the Selectmen, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: . Article J is for the 18 Pigeon Hill property, the garage is on town property (tax title property), first it needs to be transferred to Board of Selectmen then town meeting can grant an easement, Article K is the access and utility easement on the South End Water Tower for Leslie Whalen, Article M is the report for Town Meeting. Selectperson Battistelli moved to accept J on the September 8, 2014 Fall Town Meeting warrant which concerns an easement for the overhanging garage, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 3-0; Selectperson Sheedy abstained. Selectperson Battistelli moved to accept Articles K and M on the September 8, 2014 Fall Town Meeting warrant which concern granting an easement and hearing a report from the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectperson Murphy, Vote: 4-0.

Board of  
Selectmen  
Positions on Fall  
Town Meeting  
Articles Motion  
Approved

Board of Selectmen Positions on Fall Town Meeting Articles: Petition article in support of removing fluoride from the Rockport water supply, no vote taken.

7:25

Citizen Complaint

Basketball Hoop – moved to next Board of Selectmen meeting, neither party could attend tonight.

Citizen  
Complaint:  
Basketball Hoop  
Postponed

7:45 Selectmen Briefing  
Board of Health's Position on Fluoridation in Rockport Water Supply: Syd Wedmore and Russell Sandfield were representing the Board of Health. S. Wedmore said about three months ago a group came before the Board of Health requesting that fluoride no longer be added to the water supply. He said the group's position was that it's not legal, it's not effective, it's detrimental, and people don't have a choice. The Board of Health's position is that there is no compelling reason currently to recommend the supplemental fluoridation be discontinued. He said there are many points of view and assertions on this. S. Wedmore said he supports having a choice and has spoken to the DPW about this. S. Wedmore said at Town Meeting we will get a sense of the town, but it's not binding. The Town Administrator said if removing the fluoride passes at Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen can petition the legislature for a special act, once approved it would come back to a ballot vote. The town of Amesbury has removed fluoride from their drinking water.

T. Arsenian said it's not just the drinking water; individuals are exposed to it with showers, etc. He inquired if the town simply didn't approve the funds for the DPW to purchase the fluoride, would that resolve this. Chairperson Wilkinson said that isn't possible, since the town voted previously to include fluoride, the town must fund it.

J. Ring suggested reversing the situation, removing the fluoride from the drinking water and having fluoridated water available at the pump station.

8:10 Discussion Item  
Location Fees for Filming and Photo Shoots: This has been postponed to a subsequent meeting. There was some discussion about this tonight; it was clarified that it does not pertain to individual photographers, this is for magazines and commercial photo shoots.

Other Business/Announcements: Selectperson Murphy said Illumination Night was very nice.

8:35 Meeting Adjourns

Warrant signed:

Warrant signed for the Fiscal Year 2015 Payroll and Expenses for the week of 8/21/14 in the amounts of \$185,693.14 and \$151,834.07 respectively.

Items signed:

Warrant

Street Performer's License, Maurice Costa

Straitsmouth Island Building Lease

Warrant for State Primary