



TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

Chairman:
Michael P. O’Loughlin

Selectmen:
Tiffanie Needham
Donna Shortall
Lori Childs
John J. Ellard, Jr.

Telephone: 781-871-1874

BOS Open Session Minutes of
May 16, 2023

Board of Selectmen’s Meeting
H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room
Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland

In attendance: Chairman Michael O’Loughlin, Members Tiffanie Needham, Lori Childs, Donna Shortall, John Ellard, Town Administrator Doug Lapp, and Treasurer Allison Sullivan.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Community Announcements-Rockland Veterans Allied Council Memorial Day Observation May 29th - 11am
3. Minutes of 5/2/23

MOTION to approve Minutes of 5/2/23, by Ms. Needham, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval

4. New Business

- Change of Manager -99 Restaurant- 29 Accord Park Drive- Nathan Stentiford

MOTION to approve Change of Manager -99 Restaurant, by Ms. Needham, 2nd by Ms. Shortall. Unanimous approval.

- One Day Liquor License Request- 4th Floor Artist 83 E. Water Street-June 3- Jason Shaw

MOTION to approve One-Day Liquor Licenses for 4th Floor Artist, by Ms. Needham, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval.

-Annual Appointments – Ms. Needham read the re-appointments as listed. Mr. Ellard suggested the appointments of attorneys should be talked about individually. The Board had a discussion and Mr. Ellard asked to table the reappointments of Labor Counsel and Land Use Counsel until a future meeting. Mr. O’Loughlin requests Counsel attend the meeting and Mr. Lapp reminded the Board terms expire May 31, 2023.

MOTION to approve to continue the contracts of Labor Counsel & Land Use Counsel until the next BOS meeting, by Mr. Ellard, 2nd by Ms. Needham. Unanimous approval.

MOTION to approve Annual Reappointments, as listed, not including Labor Counsel & Land Use Counsel, by Ms. Needham, 2nd by Mr. Ellard. Unanimous approval.

-New Appointment – Cultural Council-Carolyn Housman

MOTION to approve Carolyn Housman to the Cultural Council, by Ms. Needham, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Unanimous approval.

- New Appointment – Town Tax Title Attorney – Coppola and Coppola, David Coppola Esq.

Mr. Lapp and Ms. Sullivan gave a brief overview of the decision to go forward with a new Tax Title Counsel for the Town.

Attorney Coppola provided a description of his firm’s experience and their qualifications working with municipalities. The Board asked several questions and Mr. Coppola gave detailed answers.

MOTION to approve Coppola and Coppola as Tax Title Counsel, by Ms. Childs, 2nd by Ms. Needham. 3-1 (Mr. Ellard) Ms. Shortall abstained.

-Board of Selectmen Liaison Discussion-Mr. O'Loughlin suggested bringing the BOS Liaisons back, as was done in previous years, and asked members to send him their preferences. A discussion to assign liaisons will be held at a later date.

-Other New Business Not Reasonably Anticipated – Article Fifteen requests a One Day Liquor License– Paranormal Event Fair, 406 VFW Drive, Sunday May 21, 10am – 4pm

MOTION to approve One Day License for Article Fifteen, by Ms. Childs, 2nd by Ms. Needham. Unanimous approval.

5. Old Business

-MBTA Letter of Support Discussion- Commuter Rail Safety Concerns-Mr. O'Loughlin expressed his concerns regarding the MBTA Commuter Rail in Abington and asked the Board to back a letter of support. Mr. Lapp said Asst. TA Constable is talking with Abington and will prepare a draft letter of support for the next meeting.

MOTION to review and approve MBTA letter of support, by Ms. Childs, 2nd by Ms. Needham. Unanimous approval.

-Other Old Business Not Reasonably Anticipated – none

6. Town Administrator's Report & Correspondence

-Thanked the Rockland Garden Club, a/k/a Rockland Gardeners, for the Town Hall planters' flowers – look nice

-Thank you to IT Director Geno Gingras who is attending a 10 week course "Cyber Security Training"

-With the passing of the Town Meeting Sewer Article, working with the Sewer Commissioners on the next steps

-While disappointed about the Fire Station Building Article, respects the voters' concerns on the costs

-Town Meeting follow up -A comment made by a resident alleging the mechanics garage that was included in the Fire Station plan would be utilized by employees for personal vehiclesthis comment is upsetting...strongly feels the comment was inappropriate and unfair towards our firefighters who are all honest employees who operate with complete integrity.

7. Selectmen's Comments

Ms. Ellard -Thank you to Attorney Laura Brown for over 20 years of service – worked closely with her while Treasurer

-Explaining his "no" vote – (1) the Collector was not included, and she should have been and (2) does not agree only one firm was interviewed - problem with the process.

Mr. Childs-A town mechanic would be a great savings for the Town

-Rail trail street crossings are dangerous with cars speeding/not stopping – need for safety

Ms. Shortall-Thank you to Laura Brown for 20 plus years

-Agrees the Town Treasurer should have an attorney she is comfortable working with

Ms. Needham-Agreed with Ms. Childs on the unnecessary speeding - alarming

Mr. O'Loughlin-no comments

MOTION to adjourn by Ms. Needham, 2nd by Ms. Childs. Roll Call Vote

Minutes by Susan Ide, Executive Assistant

Open Session Minutes approved by the BOS on 6/6/23.