



## TOWN OF ROCKLAND

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

*Chairman:*  
Michael P. O'Loughlin  
*Vice Chairman:*  
Larry J. Ryan

*Selectmen:*  
Michael P. Mullen, Jr.  
Rich Penney  
Kara L. Nyman

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BOS Open  
Session Minutes of  
March 16, 2020

H. BERNARD MONAHAN MEMORIAL ROOM  
TOWN HALL, 242 UNION STREET  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Present: Chairman Mike O'Loughlin, Members Mike Mullen and Kara Nyman, Town Administrator Douglas Lapp and Assistant TA Jennifer Constable.

Not in attendance: Vice Chairman Larry Ryan and Member Rich Penney

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. O'Loughlin announced this is an abbreviated Agenda due to the Coronavirus situation.

2. Community Announcements – Boy Scout award will be presented at a later date

3. Minutes - Open Session Minutes of March 3, 2020

MOTION to approve Open Session Minutes of March 3, 2020, by Ms. Nyman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mullen. Unanimous approval.

4. New Business – National Grid Project -will not be presented tonight.

Rockland Special Education Tollbooth – Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rain date May 16<sup>th</sup>

MOTION to approve Rockland Special Education Tollbooth - subject to change- by Mr. Mullen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Nyman. Unanimous approval.

Vote to Authorize Borrowing for School Construction Project -Treasurer John Ellard briefly reviewed the General obligation bond anticipation notes and the Municipal purpose loan.

MOTION to accept and approve the Bond as presented by Mr. Mullen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Nyman. Unanimous approval.

Town Meeting Warrant – Mr. Lapp thanked Town Accountant Elizabeth Zaleski and Assistant Town Accountant Sirena Amaral for the tremendous work they have done on the Warrant. He gave a brief review of the Warrant stating, dates may change due to the CORVID 19 pandemic. The complete Warrant has been forwarded to Town Counsel John Clifford for review and

includes recommendations and a balanced budget. Mr. Lapp recommends Highway Superintendent Taylor and Police Chief Llewellyn come before the Board to define the by-law changes on the Warrant.

Town Attorney John Clifford on phone – Mr. Clifford explained the Governor’s proposed legislation on changes with Town Budgets, Open Meeting Law, Town Election and Town Meeting.

Mr. Lapp provided a Coronavirus CORVID-19 update.

- As of today, Monday 3/16 no confirmed cases in the Town of Rockland
- President has declared a national emergency
- CDC has banned large events/gatherings of 25 people or more
- State level – non-emergency state employees not working, all school closed for 3 weeks, restaurants take-out only, open meeting law flexibility
- All Town of Rockland buildings closed to the public effective Monday March 16 at noon
- Some staff will be on site to provide limited core services
- Police & Fire protocol re: certain medical calls – EMS taking extra precautions, call your primary care doctor if you have been exposed, not 911
- Info on Town website – [www.rockland-ma.gov](http://www.rockland-ma.gov), Twitter - @RocklandTown and Facebook - Town of Rockland
- Reminder-those 60 & older, those with underlying health conditions and weakened immune systems are most at risk
- To prevent the spread of this disease – wash your hands frequently, use alcohol based gels, avoid touching your eyes/nose/mouth, avoid close contact with people who are sick, clean frequently touched areas, avoid sharing utensils/containers/personal items, cover your cough/sneezes, stay home if sick, practice “Social Distancing” – stay 6 feet or more away from people

Mr. Lapp is headed to Atlanta to pick up his son and will have limited access for a couple of days and Assistant TA Jen Constable will be available.

Board of Health Agent Flipp said it was just announced that gatherings are now no more than 10 people.

Mr. Lapp also highlighted what other Towns are doing as far as closings and it is similar to Rockland.

Mr. O’Loughlin asked the public to be responsible, stay home and follow the guidelines.

Local Emergency Declaration - Mr. O’Loughlin read “We, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Rockland, Massachusetts, hereby declare that immediately, and effective as of Monday March 16, 2020, a State of Emergency is declared to exist in Rockland. This Declaration of Emergency shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to our judgement, that the State of Emergency no longer exists.”

MOTION to vote Declaration of Emergency in Rockland by Ms. Nyman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mullen. Roll Call Vote.

Adopt/Confirm Remote Participation – Mr. Lapp has requested all Boards/Committees meet only as necessary. Ms. Nyman made a motion “That the Board of Selectmen vote to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that authorization or vote applying to all subsequent meetings of all local public bodies in the Town of Rockland.”

MOTION to allow Remote Participation as written by Ms. Nyman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mullen.  
Roll Call Vote.

Other Old Business Not Reasonably Anticipated – FY21 Budget – Mr. Lapp briefly commented on the balanced budget as presented.

## 6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

-Coronavirus only -no more comments

## 7. SELECTMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Mullen – Reminder “We are one”

Ms. Nyman –People reaching out to help seniors

Mr. O’Loughlin-Take of each other and keep checking on your neighbors  
-Stop and Shop open early for seniors

MOTION to enter into Executive Session Purpose No. 3 – to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining: AFSCME Clerical, AFSCME Highway, Park, Tree, AFSCME Joint Water Works/Police, Police Superior Officers, Fire

by Mr. Mullen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Nyman. Roll Call Vote. Unanimous approval.



Minutes by Susan Ide, Executive Assistant

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Open Session Minutes approved by the BOS on 4/7/20