



TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Board of Selectmen
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Chairman:
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Selectmen:
Michael P. Mullen, Jr.
Rich Penney
Kara L. Nyman

BOS Open
Session Minutes of
March 31, 2020

**REMOTE TELECONFERENCE
RECORDED FOR PUBLIC PLAYBACK ON WRPS (LOCAL
CABLE ACCESS TV)
WWW.WRPSROCKLAND.COM**

Via Zoom: Chairman Mike O'Loughlin, Vice Chairman Larry Ryan, Members Mike Mullen, Rich Penney, Kara Nyman, Town Administrator Douglas Lapp, Assistant TA Jennifer Constable, Police Chief Llewellyn, Fire Chief Duffey, Town Clerk Donna Shortall, Town Collector Judy Hartigan, Accountant Elizabeth Zaleski, Human Resources Director Stacy Callahan and Town Counsel John Clifford.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for all those affected by the Coronavirus

2. Community Announcements – none

3. Minutes – tabled until next BOS meeting

4. New Business-Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

-Mr. Lapp stated how proud is of all Rockland employees.

-Board of Health Agent Delshaune Flipp updated the Board on the current number of confirmed cases in Rockland, the procedures in place and people's rights to privacy. She is working closely with Fire Chief Duffey in ensuring the public's safety. Ms. Flipp provided the most recent information from the State Department of Public Health regarding business closures and public gatherings. She reminded the Board to reach out to her with any questions and/or concerns.

The Board thanked Ms. Flipp for all the hard work.

-Police Chief Llewellyn first thanked Fire Chief Duffey for all his hard work and support. The Chief provided the Board an update of the functions of the Police Department with the many daily changes. He has officers working and going out on calls from home. Special thanks to Deputy Eramo and Custodian Rick Sommers for their tremendous work. Chief Llewellyn does not support the idea of any bars/restaurants allowing "alcohol to go".

The Board thanked the Chief and his staff for their hard work.

Ms. Flipp added her thanks to all the local nail salons for their donations of surgical masks and protective gear.

-Fire Chief Duffey echoed the thanks to all departments for working together. The Fire Department is doing everything they can to protect the Fire department members as they continue to serve the public. Protective gear supply is in an "OK" situation at the current time and thanks to all the residents and public schools for the donations. This is an ever-changing time and all the firefighters have taken it in stride. Special shout out to Chief Llewellyn and Ms. Flipp for all they have done.

Mr. O'Loughlin thanked the Chief and all the firefighters.

-Town Clerk Donna Shortall gave a brief update regarding the Town Election and Town Meeting with the changing legislature. The Board can take a vote to postpone the Town Election to a later date with a new date to be determined. Down the road, the Board can vote to set up one location for voting and shorter hours.

Attorney Clifford thanked Donna for working with closely with the Secretary of State and legislation changes. The incumbents will remain in position until the actual election takes place. Town Meeting will probably have to be postponed but the Board can vote at a later date.

Mr. O'Loughlin would not recommend the one central location for voting as it goes against the new "social distancing" and community safety. This will be discussed at a later date.

Mr. Lapp told the Board he is contact with the East Bridgewater Town Manager and the need to coordinate Town Meeting as Mr. Clifford also services them. East Bridgewater is set for a 6/15 Town Meeting and Mr. Lapp recommends a possible 6/22 date for Rockland.

MOTION to postpone the April 11, 2020 Town Election to a later date - to be determined by Mr. Penney 2nd by Mr. Ryan. Roll Call Vote.

-Collector Judy Hartigan spoke of the pending bill to allow local option to delay tax bill due dates and waive interest/fees. Ms. Hartigan does not agree to allow delays and the waiving of fees at this time as it would curtail the monies coming into the Town. She is in tune to the needs of the community but we need to be very careful and the needs to be explored. Ms. Hartigan briefly updated the Board of the commitments that have come in and her department is in good shape. Town Accountant Zaleski spoke with Ms. Hartigan & Mr. Ellard and they all agreed it would not prudent at this time for reductions in interests & fees.

Mr. O'Loughlin tabled any vote from the Board until a decision from the State and Ms. Hartigan agreed.

-Human Resources Director Stacy Callahan spoke of the impact on staffing and human resources working with Assistant TA Jen Constable and department heads. A task force is working on the primary functions of employees and figuring out what duties can be done remotely. They have met with all Unions Reps and Attorney Clifford's office. Ms. Callahan and Ms. Constable are working on the Family Leave Act guidelines that are coming and the additional edits that are needed before presenting to the Board. Mr. Clifford spoke of the legislature statues passed that his office is diligently working on.

Mr. O'Loughlin thanked Stacy and Jen for hard work.

-Mr. Lapp brought before the Board an idea Ms. Constable is working on utilizing Community Preservation Act funds to provide funding for low income resident and landlord rents. The Board expressed their opinions and agreed to re-visit at a later date. Ms. Constable has reached out to CPA Chairman Derek Ewell and Community Development Director Wayne Darraugh, who will be looking into what CDBG can do.

-Mr. Lapp reviewed the decision of the closings of Town buildings and the staff reduction. Everyone is still working, remotely and on site. The Senior Center and Veterans office are providing meals for seniors and Veterans. Each department has been accepting paperwork and processing as necessary – business as usual. On behalf of Highway Superintendent Dave Taylor, he will be paving upper Union Street sooner than originally planned. All employees are having a lot of different types of meetings remotely sharing information and working together.

IT Director Geno Gingras has done a great job – thank you.

Mr. Lapp has requested all Boards and Committees hold meetings only if necessary. On the implementation of remote video teleconferencing for various board & committee meetings, the Board of Selectmen would require all applicants submitting to any town board or committee to submit all of their documents electronically. That will enable all to more efficiently and effectively share these documents with board/committee members, staff, and online for the public to be able to view, since they're no longer able to come to Town Hall, etc.

MOTION to require all Boards/Committees to submit all documents electronically going forward by Mr. Ryan, 2nd by Mr. Mullen. Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Lapp participates in a weekly Town Managers group sharing information. All are concerned about the FY21 budget that could potential have to “re-done”. Towns are currently waiting on the State for financial guidelines before taking any steps on changes. He is continuously working on the numbers with the Financial Team on the budget and keeping track of all expenses pertaining to CORVID reimbursements.

Board members thanked all for the hard work on the financials.

6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

-Thanked all Town employees and is very proud to be here in Rockland

7. SELECTMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Mullen –At the end of the day, Rockland pulls together

Ms. Nyman –Agrees with Mr. Mullen
Stay healthy and safe

Mr. Penney-Thanked all Town employees and the leadership team

Mr. Ryan-Everyone doing a great job

Mr. O’Loughlin-Echoed the members previous comments

-Boards primary goal has been to increase communication and it is working

-Potential of next meeting date keep as scheduled April 7 – all Board members agreed

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Penney, 2nd 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