



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022
MEETING MINUTES
FRANCIS HALL BUILDING, FRANCIS FARM
27 FRANCIS FARM ROAD**

Present: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman George Solas, Selectmen Michael Deignan, Selectman Robert Johnson II, Selectman Leonard Mills Jr., and Interim Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

Call to Order at 7:00 pm: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for October 11, 2022:

G. Solas motion to approve the Warrant for the week of October 11, 2021: 23-15B Payroll \$137,317.37; 23-14A Withholdings \$36,381.49; 23-14 Warrant \$217,888.23. Second by M. Deignan. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 8/29/22 and 9/6/22

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2022. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2022. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Announcements:

The next BOS meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2022 7pm at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Reminder: Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 7pm at the Francis Hall Building.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

Jake Kramer, Director of Veteran's Services, announced that November 11th is Veterans Day and there will be a memorial held near the American Legion at 11am. At 12pm there will be a steak dinner for the veterans. Mr. Kramer thanked 'Rehoboth Have a Heart' for sponsoring the event.

Geri Hamel, Town Nurse, gave a Town health update:

1. COVID numbers are increasing, but slowly coming down.

2. Saturday, October 15th there will be the 1st Annual Health and Wellness Fair. The Fair will be held at Francis Farm beginning at 9am.
3. Health and Wellness Clinic will be at the COA after pie and ice cream on 10/12/22.
4. The Flu Clinic was held on 10/11/22, there were 29 individuals vaccinated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Vote to Approve Fire Department FY23 General Appropriation Act Grant-Radio System

Chief Barresi was present to speak to this grant. It has been earmarked for his radio system. It is a reimbursement grant, invoice and copies of cancelled checks must be submitted before funds are sent. It seems the grant is up to \$25,000. Chief Barresi thanked Senator Feeney and Representative Howitt for their help.

M. Deignan motion to approve the Fire Department FY23 General Appropriation Act Grant which has been earmarked for the radio systems. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (2): Vote to Approve Selling of Engine 1 for \$3500 to Rhode Island

Chief Barresi was present to speak to this as well. He is looking for the Boards approval to sell Engine 1 as is to the City of Warwick, RI for the amount of \$3500. He is working with Town Counsel on the P&S. The City of Fall River was asked, but did not want to purchase it.

M. Deignan motion to approve the selling of Engine 1 for the amount of \$3500, to allow the Chief to work with Town Counsel on a P&S, and to authorize the Chair to sign and execute all paperwork on behalf of the Town. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (11): Discussion RE: Purchase of a Large Signage TV for Francis Hall, with possible action

Mr. Panofsky is asking the IT Department to purchase a large TV that will be used for displaying upcoming events/programs/etc. at the COA on the wall outside of the kitchen. The COA on Bay State had one, so this would be a replacement from the fire. Mr. Panofsky is asking to use insurance proceed funds to pay for it.

Linda Sherman explained that the TV/Computer will be a communication module. A current calendar will be displayed along with upcoming COA events/Town events.

Mr. Panofsky further explained that the TV could also be used as an entertainment tool for the COA. The previous building had a TV that provided the same purpose.

Sherman stated the cost would be approximately \$2,600. Mr. Panofsky was hoping funds would come from insurance proceeds.

M. Deignan explained there needs to be a funding source now, and be reimbursed later since the previous TV was lost in the fire.

M. Deignan motion to authorize the purchase of the signage system per Linda and Richard's request, and the source of funds will be from Balance of Insurance Proceeds. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (3): Discussion RE: Expanding Federal Farmland Preservation Fund, with possible action

Skip Vadnais mentioned this discussion at our 10/3/22 meeting. Information has been provided in the Board's packets for review and discussion this evening.

M. Deignan motion to join the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the Farmland of Local Importance program and to allow the Chair to sign the Farmland of Local Importance Document once it has been developed and shared with Rehoboth. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve Second Disbursement Payment for Antiquarian Society-Blanding Library- \$72,400.00

The Antiquarian Society is requesting the 2nd payment per our agreement with them for the Blanding Library services. This payment is in the amount of \$72,400 and represents 25% of the total amount of \$289,600.

G. Solas motion to approve the 2nd disbursement payment to the Antiquarian Society of \$72,400 for the Blanding Library services. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (5): Vote to Approve Chapter 61A -Mason St Map 2 Lot 1

We received a request from Mariano Chaves regarding Jose Chaves Life Estate property on Mason Street Map 2 Lot 1 to be withdrawn as chapter land. Our office reached out to all the appropriate boards/committees and I have received responses from all that they will not be exercising their right to purchase said property. AgCom will ratify their vote at an upcoming meeting. The BOS has a right to purchase this property as well.

G. Solas motion to Not exercise our right to purchase Mason St Map 2 Lot 1. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve FEMA-4496-DR-MA March 27, 2020 Covid-19 Safe Opening Project I \$7996.30

The Town Accountant received notification of approval from MEMA of the FEMA Safe Opening Project I Grant for the amount of \$7996.30. This amount represents 75% of the total cost that was submitted for this project to FEMA. The time period was 1/12/22 to 6/30/22. The costs incurred were for the safe opening of our town buildings to our employees and the public. There is still one project opened waiting for FEMA's approval.

G. Solas motion to approve the FEMA-4496-DR-MA March 27, 2020 Covid-19 Safe Opening Project I for \$7996.30 and to approve the Chairman of the Board to sign the necessary grant forms. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (7): Vote to Approve Keno License for Rehoboth American Legion Post 302

The Board of Selectmen's office receive notification from the Mass Lottery Division regarding the request to have Keno at the Rehoboth American Legion Post 302. Per MGL Chapter 10 Section 27A the Authorizing Board is given notice of this request and must approve or deny the request. If we deny the request, we need to request a hearing from the Mass State Lottery Commission with 21 days of receipt of their notice (10/3/22) and tell them why we are denying.

R. Johnson motion to approve the request from the Rehoboth American Legion Post 302 to obtain a Keno license from the MA State Lottery Commission. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (8): Vote to Approve Chapter 90 Project Request for Purchase of 2024 Dump Truck- \$172,652.70

The Board of Selectmen's office received a Chapter 90 Project Request form for the purchase of a 2024 Dump Truck in the amount of \$172,652.70 for the highway dept. L. Mills explained this would be used to replace an old Sterling vehicle.

L. Mills motion to approve Chapter 90 project request for the purchase of a 2024 dump truck in the amount of \$172,652.70 and to allow the Chair to sign the necessary documents. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (9): Vote Appointments to the Cultural Council

The Board received the reappoint request for Chris Hoskins as chair to the Cultural Council. Chris has been a carry-over until his official appointment.

G. Solas motion to reappoint Christopher Hoskins to the Cultural Council, effective 9/22/2022 to 9/22/2025. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Christopher has requested the Board's approval to appoint June Cruz to the Cultural Council, effective 10/22/2022 – 10/11/2025.

G. Solas motion to appoint June Cruz to the Cultural Council, effective 10/11/2022 – 10/25/2025. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (10): Vote to Approve COA Volunteer

The COA is requesting the Board's approval to allow Charlotte Martineau to volunteer with their sewing classes and other activities that may come available. CORI was successful.

G. Solas motion to approve Charlotte Martineau as a volunteer to the COA. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: Observation of items being left out for "free" on resident's property that are left for many days in the weather. After a while the items become an eyesore, and suggested the idea of a restriction for how long an item can remain out for "free" before going to the landfill.

Deignan: Delivered sad news that the Town Accountant has resigned. As a result, the next meeting's agenda will need to include an action item for the Board to accept and appoint someone interim to fill the vacancy.

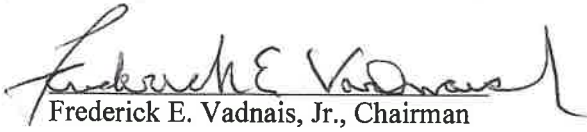
Solas: Spoke about the Proclamation to Richard "Doc" Mello, naming the complex "Richard Mello Athletic Complex" at Sammis Field after him. Many people attended, and it was a great event to recognize Mr. Mello's 43 years of dedication.

Johnson: no report

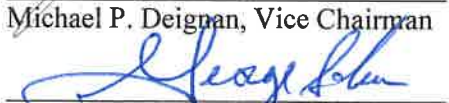
Mills: Received a request to turn water on at the COA kitchen. Explained that we are waiting for the final results from the water tests. Once the tests are received, the water will be turned on.


ADJOURNMENT:

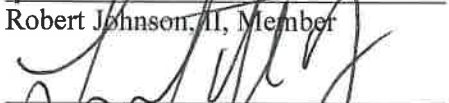
Selectman M. Deignan motion to adjourn the regular session. At 7:44pm. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


Michael P. Deignan, Vice Chairman


George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk


Robert Johnson, II, Member


Leonard Mills, Jr., Member

Respectfully Submitted,
Logan Shaker

Approved: 1/30/2023