



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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 7:07pm: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for October 24, 2022

G. Solas motion to approve the Warrant for the week of October 24, 2022: 23-17B Payroll \$131,096.75; 23-16A Withholdings \$144,902.66; 23-16 Warrant \$333,920.69; 23-16R Refund Warrant \$1,639.91; 23-16R1 Refund Warrant \$6,962.48; 23-16V Veterans Warrant \$6,912.43. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: none
Regular Minutes: none

Announcements:

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Reminder: Special Town Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, October 25, 2022 at 7pm at the Francis Hall Building. Doors will open at 6pm for voter check-in.

Early Voting has begun and will go through November 4th. Please check the Town's website for days and times. All precincts will vote here at Francis Farm in the Museum Building.

Tomorrow, October 25th we will be holding 2 bid openings at the Arcade building, beginning at 11am. Sealed bids are due in the BOS office by 10am tomorrow. Bids are for the Pavilion Enclosure at Francis Farm and also work on the Museum Building.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

David and Jennifer Lecomte, Town Events Committee, stated the Annual Porch Decoration winners will be announced 10/25/22 online. Mrs. Lecomte announced their next event coming up, A Night of Charcuterie, on 11/15/22 from 6-8pm at 5 Bridge Inn – Barn. Coming up next will be "Light Up Rehoboth," a Christmas lighting event.

Nancy Goulart, Dighton Lions Club, there will be a Lions Arts/Music Festival at Araujo's Greenhouse on 11/6/22.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Presentation by Nancy Goulart and Leonard Hull-Town of Dighton

Ms. Goulart and Mr. Hull were present to thank Rehoboth for all the help they provided during Covid. Ms. Goulart presented a writing that was added to the Dighton Annual Report and thanked Rehoboth for allowing Dighton to use Anawan Pharmacy.

Action Item (2): Discussion RE: Homestead Avenue Road Safety Issues, with possible action

M. Deignan lead the discussion after S. Vadnais recused himself due to the conversation being about his neighborhood. Tish Vadnais explained that three telephone poles snapped recently due to cars racing down the street between 6-6:30am and after 2pm.

Chief Trombetta responded that we need residents help when these situations happen. Residents should include a car description and license plate number when calling the report into the police. The current speed limit is 40mph on Homestead Ave.

M. Deignan added he's seen residents complain on Facebook in many areas about similar issues. How can we address this town-wide issue? There aren't enough officers to cover every road. Chief Trombetta explained there were nine accidents on Homestead Avenue in 2022 for various reasons.

A new resident acknowledged that most roads in Rehoboth have a speed limit of 40mph, but shouldn't it be 30-35mph? Chief Trombetta responded that the speed limits are set by the State, and there are different requirements for different areas.

M. Deignan suggested ways to get changes made: Form a petition to the state to re-assess roads, as well as a petition to amend the bylaws. A petition was tried in 2013-14 and did not pass at Town Meeting.

L. Mills spoke regarding roads being built in the 1600s. These unique roads were not built to accommodate vehicles. Chief Trombetta explained how the State of MA does not allow us to use cameras to catch drivers.

Sue Hass stated the volume of traffic is tremendous, and the speed on the corner of Perryville/Homestead Ave is extremely dangerous. Ms. Hass recommended a 3-way stop for the future. Ms. Hass went on to read an Environmental Impact Evaluation for the Rehoboth Country Club Project. Ms. Hass asked how the Police and Highway Departments feel about this impact on the road. Chief Trombetta will work with the Highway Department to see if stop signs/blind driveway signs will help.

S. Vadnais suggested to the public to challenge and ask Town Counsel to change the speed limit due to them being unsafe.

Richard Barrett, bus driver for 17 years in Rehoboth, was always getting in trouble for being late and driving too slowly. Mr. Barrett complained that people driving the speed limit get passed by others going too fast.

Ms. Sullivan acknowledged that most problems have been discussed, and will speak to the Highway Supervisor regarding blind driveway signs.

Action Item (3): Discussion RE: RFP from IT Committee, with possible action

G. Solas spoke to Board and Public letting them know that the IT Committee has reviewed the previous document and is ready to have Town Counsel review it.

M. Deignan motion to move ahead to approve the document for a request for an appraisal, subject to review by Town Counsel. Second by L. Mills. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Review, Consider and Vote on Response to Open Meeting Law Complaint Against BOS dated 10/3/22; Filed by Patrick Higgins on File with the Town Clerk.

Ryan Clemens from the office of Mead, Talerman and Costa has prepared a response for the most recent complaint sent in from Patrick Higgins. He is asking for the Boards approval so he can respond accordingly.

G. Solas motion to approve Town Counsel's responses to the Open Meeting Law complaint and authorize Town Counsel to submit. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais:

1. Discussed the Regional Agreement and other matters during the Annual Meeting. Dighton Rehoboth budgets are due mid-February from Dighton Rehoboth, and this does not allow enough time to submit them. An amendment to the agreement is being considered to move the due date.
2. The Board can change our Town Meeting date to June from May. M. Deignan explained how this will help tighten the numbers for the budget season, and is something to consider.

Deignan:

1. Attended the meeting with S. Vadnais and Superintendent Runey who was very productive and is looking forward to working with Dighton Rehoboth. A few points were produced from the meeting:
 - a. The Dighton Rehoboth Agreement refers to the "Advisory Finance Committee" that consists of two members each from the Finance Committee of Dighton and Rehoboth, along with a member appointed at large from each town. If any citizen would like to serve on the committee, please submit a talent bank form to be considered.
 - b. There is another position to serve on the Elementary Education Advisory Committee. There are to be 3 members appointed at large on this committee, so please submit a talent bank form for consideration to join.
 - c. The Finance Committee is still looking for a new member.

Solas:

1. The COA had 76 members attend the Luncheon. This is a great time for residents to spend time together.
2. The IT Committee would like to make the Town aware that an article regarding cyber security and other articles will be posted to the Town Website. The Committee would also like to educate the senior residents to protect them.
3. On October 29, 2022 from 9am – 3pm the Annual Fall Bazar at Francis Farm will be held. The Board has been invited and Superintendent Runey will be attending.

Johnson:

1. Working on the Francis Farm property to determine what the use of the property can be. Met with Artie Pierce and some ideas have been brought up about Conservation Restrictions.
2. Gear Farm is being worked on for use of the property as nature trails and for activities.

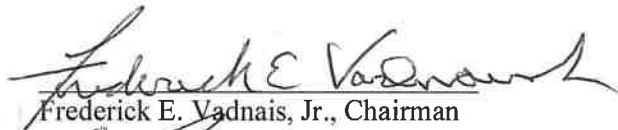
3. Conservation Commission is working on different items. There are no new updates on 46 Almeida St. Selectman Johnson asked Daniel Roach to add the Seekonk and Dighton Board of Selectmen to the correspondence.

Mills:

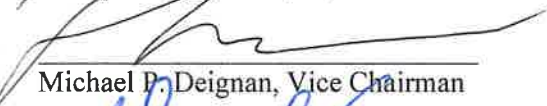
1. Buildings are still being worked on, and water testing continues. The COA and Town Hall water filtration systems have been added. Water pumps broke at the Town Hall, and the unit needs to be replaced. Filters and a new unit are on order.
2. Providence St road work is being done and paving continues.
3. Last week two appeals for commissioner were settled personally by the building inspector. L. Mills thanked all for their hard work.
4. Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Highway Department improvements are being made and meeting weekly. The Boards are corresponding frequently now.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman M. Deignan motion to adjourn the regular session. At 9:10pm. 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