



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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Rehoboth, MA 02769

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021  
MEETING MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman James Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectmen Michael Costello and Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator

At 6:00 PM it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21(a)**  
*(6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.*

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

M. Costello asked the Board to join him in observing a moment of silence for Scott Pennoyer, a member of the Conservation Committee, who recently passed away. He expressed his condolences for Scott's family.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrants for January 19, 2021:**

D. Perry motioned approve this week's Warrant: 21-29B Payroll \$99,577.88; 21-28A Withholdings \$31,439.78; 21-29 Warrant \$93,719.51. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: none  
Executive Minutes: 9/14/2020

**Announcements:**

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

**Town Administrator's Report:**

We have posted on the Town website two job openings. The Highway Department is looking for a truck driver/laborer position and the Transfer Station is looking for 2 monitors. You can fill out an application on the website and mail to the Board of Selectmen's Office at 148 Peck Street or email to [cmcdonough@rehobothma.gov](mailto:cmcdonough@rehobothma.gov)

Town Events Committee is looking for new members to help them organize future events in 2021. If interested, please fill out a Talent Bank Form which can be found on the Town website and email it to [cmcdonough@rehobothma.gov](mailto:cmcdonough@rehobothma.gov) in the Board of Selectmen's office.

Clarification regarding the situation on Homestead Ave. Zoning Officer and Board of Health have been in contact and find no issues. Homeowners hope to be able to move back in in the next month or so. Have asked for more clarification on septic cleaning, she will send update stating bi-weekly cleaning is being done.

Rob Johnson contacted our office regarding possibly presenting the dedication of the Fireman's Ball at a Selectmen's meeting, next week of week after. Only 3 people will be allowed to come in.

Regarding the Keep Rehoboth Beautiful Committee status of "ad hoc" verses "official", Town Counsel says Board can vote to make it a standard committee. Board discussed what that would entail, requiring minutes, number of members and meeting quorums.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Action Item #1: Discuss and Vote Town Nurse Additional Hours**

Jessica Potter, Interim Town Nurse, has been putting in a lot more hours than originally anticipated due to the contact tracing of all the COVID cases we have in town. Currently we have her down as 19.5 hours; she has been averaging at least 25 hours per week.

Jessica Potter was present.

J. Potter updated the Board on the current status on the COVID-19 situation in Town. In the first week of December, we had 67 cases in isolation. Currently, there are 448 cases in isolation, with 573 confirmed and or probable active cases. As these numbers have risen, her hours spent contact tracing have multiplied exponentially. She reviewed the data that she handed out to the Board. She voiced her concern for schools reopening at this time. She has been meeting with schools to review information and numbers. Gov. Baker has redacted the mandate that all school children have the flu vaccine in order to attend school this year. On a positive note, Gillette Stadium has been opened for vaccines for Police/Fire/Ambulance workers as part of Phase 1 of the vaccination roll-out. All have received their first vaccine. We had our 3 COA employees receive it and we are hoping to have the 7 Meals on Wheels volunteers receive it as well. Phase 2 will hopefully start in February. Domestic violence is up as well.

With all the requirements, she has been putting in 40 hours. She needs more help.

The Board and J. Potter discussed the possibility of setting up a testing site and/or looking for a place/means to be able to vaccinate Rehoboth residents, and if it could be funded by CARES funds.

The Board was receptive to her request for help and impressed with all her work and knowledge.

G. Schwall motion to allow Jessica to put together a proposal of what she needs and present it to the Board. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

M. Costello motion to increase Jessica Potter's hours as Nurse from 19.5 hours to 40 hours per week, effective immediately. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

J. Muri motioned to retroactively pay Jessica Potter for any reported but unpaid hours over her allotted 19.5 hours. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

In closing, J. Potter asked the public to be more vigilant, and to be kind to each other. Visit Mass.gov for more information.

**Action Item #2: Approve and Sign Contract with Lifeway Mobility**

Last week the BOS awarded the aluminum decking/ramps to Lifeway Mobility. They have supplied us with a contract to be signed. Please note the total for the job is actually \$33,552.68.

M. Costello motion to approve the contract with Lifeway Mobility for the total of \$33,552.68 and to allow the Chairman of the Board to sign the contract. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #3: Vote to Approve 2021 Common Vic Licenses, as submitted**

D. Perry motion to approve the 2021 Common Vic License renewals for the below mentioned businesses, effective 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021. Second by M. Costello. Vote 5-0.

License Type	Business Name	Business Address
Common Vic	Hassan Hujtaba dba Rehoboth Mini Mart, Inc.	61 Plain Street
Common Vic	Four Seasons Events, LLC dba Francis Farm	151R County Street

D. Perry motion to approve the 2021 Common Vic License renewals for the below mentioned business, effective 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

License Type	Business Name	Business Address
Common Vic	The Anawan Club	13 Gorham Street

**Action Item #4: Discussion on Historical Commission -Revolving Account**

The Historical Commission is asking if they can expend the funds in their revolving account, as its approval was not on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Interim Town Administrator reached out to Town Counsel, who responded that Town Meeting Vote is needed in order to expend funds on or before 7/1, if funds exist. We would need specific language on the motion.

*G. Schwall said we set it up at last Annual Town Meeting in Fall of 2019. There were two Town Events Committees listed on the article, one should have been Historical Commission. There was a typo.*

M. Costello motion to table the discussion until we have more information. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #5: Ratify Letter of Good Standing**

As previously discussed, owner of Francis Farm is applying for a grant, due 1/15/2021. He asked if the Town could put together a letter of "good standing" for his grant application. The letter was provided to Mr. Cascioli after he met with the Treasurer and they worked out an agreement. He has also been working with the Board of Health on water testing and septic. He has expressed his great appreciation of the Board's help.

J. Muri motion to ratify issuance of letter signed by Interim Town Administrator to provide Mr. Cascioli of Four Seasons Events, LLC dba Francis Farm with a letter of "good standing". Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item #6: Vote to Approve Cultural Council Member, Susan Reid**

Chairman of the Cultural Council is asking that the Board appoint Susan Reid to the committee. This is a three-year term.

J. Muri motion to appoint Susan Reid as a member of the Cultural Council, effective 1/19/2021 through 9/22/2024. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 4-0. M. Costello was not present for the vote.

**Action Item #7: Vote to Approve Blanding Library Payment**

The Antiquarian Society is asking the Board's approval to pay the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment, per the agreement, in the amount of \$63,004.75, which is 25% of the total owed.

J. Muri motion to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of \$63,004.75 to the Antiquarian Society for payment of the Blanding Library services. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 4-0. M. Costello was not present for the vote.

**Action Item #8 Discussion on Performance Reviews**

Chairman of the Personnel Board, Dave Scanlon has requested to meet with the Board to discuss how to implement performance reviews in regards to Town personnel. He would like to be able to set up training for supervisors.

The Board discussed when they would like to meet with him and were in agreement that they will fit it in the first week of February.

**Action Item #9: Acceptance of Highway Personnel Resignation**

Lionel Couturier has given his 2 weeks notice to the Superintendent of Highway.

D. Perry motion to accept the resignation of Lionel Couturier as Truck Driver/Laborer in the Highway Department as of 1/19/2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. M. Costello abstained.

D. Perry spoke to L. Couturier. His departure is a great loss to the department.

S. Vadnais read letter to Board from Town Counsel about concerns of exit interview. He asked D. Perry to handle with Town Counsel.

**Selectmen's Reports:**

**Muri:** Derek Rousseau asked if he would give an update on the Community Compact Grant Agreement for Fiber project, which he has asked and received an extension until June 1, 2021. Extension approved, due to delay in the ability to obtain product. Although the project has been slowed down the grant money is still secure and action is proceeding.

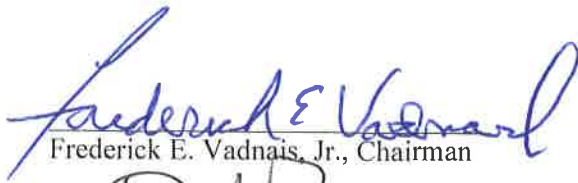
**Costello:** no report

**Perry:** no report

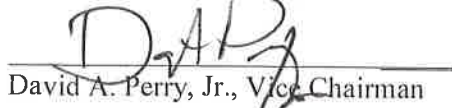
**Schwall:** no report

**Vadnais:** no report

**ADJOURNMENT:** Selectmen Muri made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting at 8:16 PM., Second by Selectmen Perry. Muri – aye, Vadnais – aye, Costello-aye, Schwall-aye, Perry-aye. (5-0)



Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman



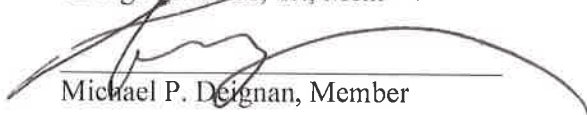
David A. Perry, Jr., Vice Chairman



James Muri, Clerk



George M. Solas, Sr., Member



Michael P. Deignan, Member



Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy McDonough

Assistant to the Town Administrator

**Approved: 7/26/2021**