

Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024
MEETING MINUTES
FRANCIS FARM - FRANCIS HALL - 27 FRANCIS FARM ROAD**

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

Absent: Selectman Michael P. Deignan

Call to Order at 7:00 PM: The meeting opened with the Board and the public participating in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Vadnais requested everyone remain standing- throughout Town today, flags were at half-staff because we all suffered a major loss to our community this morning, with the passing of Ken Abrams. His family lost a father, grandfather, uncle and, we lost much more than that as a community- Ken was a fabric of this Town...Constable for many, many, years; on the Conservation Commission; spent a lot of time and effort for the Veterans; a Vietnam Veteran... and, above anything else, Ken was a Patriot! He loved his country..."it's hard for me to get through this because I lost a very good friend..." Please take a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Kenneth Abrams.

The Chair asked the Veterans Officer to come forth and share a little more about Mr. Abrams.

Jake Kramer- first friend in Rehoboth was Ken Abrams when out of the military in 2016.

Ken Abrams served in the early '60's, during the Vietnam war era.

Ken Abrams served with the American Legion, for 28 years.

Ken Abrams, since 1999, worked hard to get the Veteran's Memorial; he did the dedication and the ceremony; in 2015. If it wasn't for Ken Abrams, we wouldn't be where we are today with the Veteran's Memorial.

Ken Abrams pushed to get the 3 flags at the site across the street from the Veteran's Memorial, which was dedicated in 2010.

Ken Abrams was the Commander of the American Legion in 2005.

Ken Abrams was one of my Valor Drivers and, he was a die-hard.

Ken Abrams was on the Park Commission.

Ken Abrams and I have budded heads on a lot of things but, we were dear friends and we could walk away being friends.

Jake Kramer saluted the Flag, "for Ken Abrams".

Consent Agenda

Warrant: Ratification of Warrants from 1/16/2024

G. Solas- motion to ratify the 1/16/2024 Warrant. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

Not read: 24-29B Payroll \$146,948.20; 24-28A Withholdings \$37,257.88; 24-28 Warrant \$161,363.85; 24-28R Refund Warrant \$2,267.68; 24-28R1 Refund Warrant \$5,942.60.

G. Solas- Warrant for the week of January 22, 2024: 24-30B Payroll \$128,582.08; 24-29A Withholdings \$43,930.23; 24-29 Warrant \$188,880.65; 24-29V Veterans \$5,260.34, motion to approve. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 11/14/2023 Cable TV License Public Hearing

G. Solas- the November 14, 2023, which was the Cable TV License Public Hearing, motion to approve. Seconded by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Announcements:

Our next scheduled meeting will be on **Monday, January 29, 2024, 7:00 PM** at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

At our next meeting, we will be holding a Public Hearing for a Pole Location at 7:15 PM for National Grid to install an SO pole at 225 Brook Street and a new midspan pole, as well.

The Town Administrator's office has been working with the Historical Commission and Town Counsel on the surveyor's contract for the Corn Crib donation approved at the Town Meeting.

We have posted on the Central Registry, a notice of Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding the Martin Street property, which abuts the Rehoboth South Fire Station Association Easement.

I have been working with Selectman Solas and Sue Pimental on the 2024 Cable TV License Renewal.

I am working with the BOH-Transfer Station, on a renewal contract with one of their vendors.

Our office is also working with the Personnel Board on Policy and Job Description updates.

We continue to work on different bids, with Town Counsel, and we're getting close to uploading them.

Lastly, I've been working on Human Resources situations for the past few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Discussion with Chief Trombetta, with possible action

Chief Trombetta spoke to the Board, and the public, about his past 40 years of service to the Town. He officially notified the Board of his retirement and thanked the current and past Select Board Members for their support. Chief Trombetta also thanked the present and past members of the Police Department, pointing out Steve Green and Jimmy MacDonald, who were in the audience and thanking all the members of the department that were present. The Chief continued by thanking the dispatchers, the administration

staff and traffic control personnel. The Chief expressed a sincere thank you for being given the opportunity to do a job he loved—and; has worked with a lot of “good guys for a lot of years” ... Mark Rossi, Jimmy Medeiros, Norman Todd, Tom Ranley, J. Ferreira. Chief Trombetta continued by stating “it’s a day that I’m glad, but sad” ...

Chairman Vadnais- has the last word! The Chair has worked with James Trombetta for 40 years and was one of the people (Selectmen) who voted him to the position - we are losing a large part of the knowledge in Town but, James Trombetta has agreed to stay on and help as we transition through some projects that are still open, such as union contracts to be finalized, and departmental changes.

The Chair asked the Board if they agree with this direction and, if so, if someone would make the motion.

G. Solas- motion to approve the appointment of James Trombetta, as Director of Law Enforcement Operations effective 1/22/2024 to indefinite. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

7:25 PM, the Chair called for a 5- minute recess.

At 7:30 PM

Chairman Vadnais- The Board of Selectmen is now in session and proceeded with the next order of business.

Action Item (2): Discussion Re: Possible Appointment of Acting Police Chief, with possible action

Chairman Vadnais- The BOS decided at its last meeting that it would be appointing an Acting Chief versus a permanent chief, at this point in time – the Board had an Executive Session (Executive Meeting, held on Thursday, January 18th), to discuss contract negotiations and that was the result of the Thursday meeting discussion; that was as far as the Board could go. the Chair advised the Board that if the Board wished to proceed, they would need to do their homework and provide, at this meeting, a name after performing their due diligence.

The Chair asked the Board if they’ve had enough time to do their due diligence and if prepared to move forward, or is a call for a postponement needed. All members of the Board were prepared to move ahead: R. Johnson, yes; G. Solas, yes and L. Mills, yes.

The Chair continued: when discussing the position of Acting Chief, no names were mentioned, because it was an Executive Session and would have been a violation of OML to do so. The Chair asked the Board members if prepared to put a name forward for consideration.

R. Johnson- motion to appoint Sergeant Louis Dibacco as acting police chief. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

The Chair added that the appointment becomes effective immediately and the ending date will be when a successor has been chosen.

An appointment slip will be ready at Town Administrator’s office at 9:00 AM, on 1/23/2024.

Action Item (3): Vote on Chapter 61A Change in Use of Classified Land for 69 Salisbury Street-Retreat Lot 14

The BOS office received a request to remove 69 Salisbury St, retreat lot 14 from chapter. There is a P & S for 8.768 acres, at a cost of \$295,000.00. All relevant Boards/Committees have voted "not to exercise" their right to purchase this property.

G. Solas- motion "not to exercise" our right to purchase 69 Salisbury Street-Retreat Lot 14 and further to sign the paperwork and forward to the attorney's office. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (4): Vote on Chapter 61A Change in Use of Classified Land for 71 Salisbury Street

The BOS office received a request to remove 71 Salisbury St, from chapter. There is a P & S for 1.378 acres at a cost of \$210,000.00. All relevant Boards/Committees have voted "not to exercise" their right to purchase this property.

G. Solas- motion "not to exercise" our right to purchase 71 Salisbury Street and further to sign the paperwork and, forward to the attorney's office. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (5): Vote to Approve Office Administrator Job Description for the Highway/Facilities Maintenance/Forestry Depts

G. Solas- motion to approve the job description for Office Administrator for the Highway/Facilities Maintenance/Forestry Departments, as submitted by the Personnel Board. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

The Chair confirmed that both liaisons, Selectman Mills and Johnson, are satisfied with the document submitted.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve Office Administrator Job Description for the Conservation/Planning Board/ZBA Depts

G. Solas- motion to approve the job description for Office Administrator for the Conservation/Planning Board/ZBA Departments, as submitted by the Personnel Board. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (7): Vote to Approve and Sign the Letter for the Annual Firemen's Ball on March 23, 2024

G. Solas- motion to approve and sign the letter for the Annual Fireman's Ball that will be held on March 23, 2024. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (8): Vote to Approve 3rd Disbursement of \$76,020.00 to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for the Blanding Library Services

G. Solas- motion to approve the 3rd disbursement of \$76,020.00 to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for the Blanding Library services and authorize the Treasurer to process the payment. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (9): Vote to Approve Volunteers for the COA-Jackie Mendrzychowski, Heidi Lane, and John Morrish

The COA is requesting the Board's approval of three volunteers that will help in various capacities, at the COA, ie. kitchen, Meals on Wheels and activities.

G. Solas- motion to approve volunteers for the COA-Jackie Mendrzychowski, Heidi Lane, and John Morrish. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (10): Vote to Approve 2024 Common Vic and 7-Day Entertainment License Renewals for VINO's Family Café, LLC dba VINO's Family Café 503 Winthrop St; Upcycle Edibles, LLC dba Rehoboth Baking Co. 7 Park Street, Unit 2; IRN Foodies, LLC dba Rehoboth House of Pizza 503 Winthrop St Unit #3; Kalimay, LLC dba iAlive Restaurant 569 Winthrop Street; KP Grille, LLC dba KP Grill 481 Winthrop St; LMYZ Catering, LLC dba Park's Asian Bistro and Sushi Bar 3 Park Street Unit #3; Norman Cotter Pine Valley Country Club, Inc. 136 Providence St; Jacob Justin, Inc. dba Plaza Pizza 289 Winthrop St; Hillside Golf, Inc dba Hillside Country Club 82 Hillside Avenue; Crestwood Acquisitions, Inc. dba Crestwood Country Club 90 Wheeler St; Rehoboth American Legion Rehoboth Post #302 84 Bay State Road; Campfire Hospitality, LLC dba Campfire Tavern & Table 7 Park Street.

G. Solas- motion to approve the 2024 Common Vic and 7-Day Entertainment Renewal Licenses for the listed businesses, effective 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

VINO's Family Café LLC, dba VINO's Family Café 503 Winthrop Street

Upcycle Edibles, LLC dba Rehoboth Baking Company 7 Park Street, Unit 2

IRN Foodies, LLC dba Rehoboth House of Pizza 503 Winthrop Street Unit #3

KP Grille, LLC dba KP Grill 481 Winthrop Street

LMYZ Catering, LLC dba Park's Asian Bistro and Sushi Bar 3 Park Street Unit #3

Norman Cotter Pine Valley Country Club, Inc. 136 Providence Street

Jacob Justin, Inc. dba Plaza Pizza 289 Winthrop Street

Hillside Golf, Inc dba Hillside Country Club 82 Hillside Avenue

Crestwood Acquisitions, Inc. dba Crestwood Country Club 90 Wheeler Street

Rehoboth American Legion Rehoboth Post #302 84 Bay State Road

Campfire Hospitality, LLC dba Campfire Tavern & Table 7 Park Street.

G. Solas- motion to approve the 2024 Common Vic and 7-Day Entertainment Renewal License for Kalimay, LLC dba iAlive Restaurant 569 Winthrop St, effective 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 3-0. Selectman L. Mills abstained.

Action Item (11): Vote to Approve 2024 Common Vic License Renewals for Anawan Club 13 Gorham St; Anawan-Oakton Grange #221 P of H, Inc. 243 Winthrop St; China Gourmet 503 Winthrop St, Ste 6; Krios Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts 3 Park St; Titan Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts 227 Winthrop St; Hazelton Golf Club, LLC 327 Summer St; Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity 43 Broad St; Stephen Provazza, SPCAP, Inc dba Honey Dew Donuts 317 Tremont St; Rehoboth Antiquarian Society, Inc 4 Locust Ave; Rehoboth Mini Mart, Inc. 61 Plain St.; Uncle Ed's Front Porch, Inc. 116 Winthrop St

G. Solas- motion to Approve 2024 Common Vic License Renewals for the following listed businesses, effective 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Anawan Club 13 Gorham Street

Anawan-Oakton Grange #221 P of H, Inc. 243 Winthrop Street

China Gourmet 503 Winthrop Street, Ste 6

Krios Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts 3 Park Street

Titan Donuts, Inc. dba Dunkin Donuts 227 Winthrop Street

Hazelton Golf Club, LLC 327 Summer Street

Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity 43 Broad Street

Stephen Provazza, SPCAP, Inc dba Honey Dew Donuts 317 Tremont Street

Rehoboth Antiquarian Society, Inc 4 Locust Ave

Rehoboth Mini Mart, Inc. 61 Plain Street

Uncle Ed's Front Porch, Inc. 116 Winthrop Street.

Action Item (12): 7:45PM Public Hearing Per MGL Chapter 138 and Amendments thereto for Pine Valley Country Club, Inc. dba Pine Valley Golf Club at 136 Providence St. for Multiple Amendment Changes to the General on Premises All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License for Change of Manager, Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers, Change of Ownership Interest, and Issuance/Transfer of Stock/New Stockholder and 7-Day Entertainment License.

At 7:45 PM The Chair requested a motion to open the Public Hearing.

On a motion made by Selectman R. Johnson, and seconded by Selectman G. Solas, it was voted to open the 7:45 Public Hearing Per MGL Chapter 138 and Amendments thereto for Pine Valley Country Club, Inc. dba Pine Valley Golf Club at 136 Providence St. for Multiple Amendment Changes to the General on Premises All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License for Change of Manager, Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers, Change of Ownership Interest, and Issuance/Transfer of Stock/New Stockholder and 7-Day Entertainment License. **Roll call:** Solas, aye; Johnson, aye; Mills, aye; Vadnais, aye. Vote 4-0.

Present was Jonathan Cotter, along with his mother, discussing the business change. The operation of the business will continue as it was. Changes are to the financial structure of the business, which is now 100% ownership/stock/directors to Jonathan.

The Abutters mailing went out on time and the public hearing was advertised in the Taunton Gazette, on January 12th. The business will continue with the Common Vic and also the 7-Day Entertainment License, as it had in the past.

Discussion:

Pete Turner, 10 Green Lane, abutter, spoke in support of the family and the business.

Robert Nadrowski, 33 Peckham Street – approves and just wants to make sure nothing is changing.

Diane and David Littlehale, 126 Providence Street, spoke in support of the family.

Mr. Norman Cotter thanked the abutters for coming out and supporting his family.

On a motion made by Selectman G. Solas, and seconded by Selectman R. Johnson, it was voted to close the Public Hearing. **Roll call:** Solas, aye; Johnson, aye; Mills, aye; Vadnais, aye. Vote 4-0.

L. Mills- motion to approve the Common Vic and General on Premises All Beverage Liquor License for Jonathan Cotter-Pine Valley Country Club, Inc. dba Pine Valley Golf Club, at 136 Providence Street, along with all amendments to the current license and approve the 7-Day Entertainment License as submitted. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Mills thanked the Cotter family for running a very successful business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais:

Chairman Vadnais suggested that reports be postponed and given at the next meeting, due to his previous request for the Board to work on recapping their specific assigned areas, for the first half of the year.

Johnson: none.

Solas: none.

Mills: none.

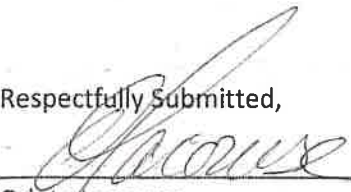
Deignan: Absent.

Other Business:

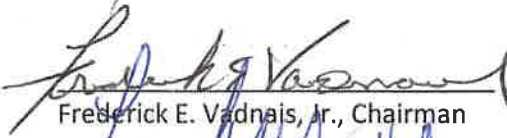
ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman G. Solas motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:56 PM. Second by Selectman R. Johnson.
Vote 4-0.

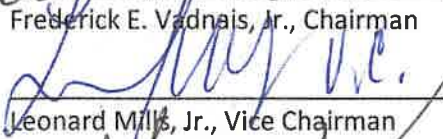
Respectfully Submitted,



Odete Lacourse



Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman



Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman



George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk

Absent

Michael P. Deignan, Member



Robert Johnson II, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Approve: 2/5/2024