

Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023
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 7:06 PM: The meeting opened with the Board and the public participating in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Consent Agenda

Warrant:

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of December 4, 2023: 24-23B Payroll \$272,664.67; 24-22A Withholdings \$40,210.05; 24-22 Warrant \$43,092.76. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: 11/6/2023
Regular Minutes: 11/6/2023

On a motion made by Selectman G. Solas, seconded by Selectman L. Mills, the Regular Minutes for November 6, 2023 were approved. Vote 4-0.

Executive Minutes for November 6, 2023 were approved and held in Executive Session.

Announcements:

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, December 11, 2023, 7:00 PM at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A reminder that the Police Department is accepting new and unwrapped toys, until December 18th. They are also collecting non-perishable food items for the Rehoboth Food Pantry.

The Town Administrator's office is working on 2024 License Renewals. Please forward paperwork to the Town Administrator's office as soon as possible.

The Town Administrator's office is working on different bids for town projects and trying to wrap things up to get them posted.

The Town Administrator's office is working with the Personnel Board on updating the Personnel Policies and job descriptions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Discussion with Deputy Chief Ramos Regarding Training Course

Discussion only:

L. Mills invited Deputy Chief Ramos and Officer David Aguiar to talk about the recent "Pro-Active" training they embarked in. Selectman Mills expressed gratitude, appreciation and pride to the Officers on behalf of himself, the Select Board and the Town.

Deputy Ramos explained, in detail, that the nonprofit program is run by retired Navy Seals that travel the country and provide training to police departments- this was a 40+ hours "Active Shooter" training program- this was in addition, above and beyond, to the required police department training- this was in conjunction with other communities, agencies and many Officers were trained – all are thankful for the opportunity to have been able to do this training. The Deputy Chief thanked the Board and town's people for always showing support.

Officer Aguiar stated that this was a once in a life time opportunity to be in the same room with American Heroes ... the DEVGRU is the highest trained individuals in our military ... formerly SEAL Team Six ... taught by the best of the best for what was not only an unbelievable training but, was a morale builder ... Thank you to the Board and the administration at the Police Department for the opportunity to do this training.

G. Solas- lived in many other parts of the country and, now when comparing to other parts of the country, is proud to live a community like Rehoboth. Selectman Solas praised Rehoboth Police Department and their relationship with the community.

S. Vadnais stated that the Board of Selectmen functions as the police commissioners and a lot of the work that is done is to prepare and protect the community – training equals insurance and we are prepared for what we hope we never have to use – preparedness is what the Board supports. The Board and the Police Department has done an amazing amount to be prepared.

Action Item (2): Vote to Approve New Hire Helen Saad as a Videographer

G. Solas - motion to approve Helen Saad as a Videographer for the Media Communications Department, effective 12/4/2023. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (3) Vote to Approve and Sign FY23 Annual Green Energy Report

G. Solas- motion to approve the FY23 Annual Green Energy Report and authorize the Chair to sign the report. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (4) Review and Approve Job Description for Media & Communication Manager

The Chairman asked to table item 4, because based on a discussion with Dr. Panofsky, Personnel Chair, this job description will be further reviewed with the Town Administrator and brought to the Board for consideration, at the next meeting.

G. Solas- motion to table. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action 1-Vote to Approve Historical Commission's Request to Fundraise

Item was tabled at previous meeting.

R. Johnson- this has been looked into and, the Historical Commission's request to fundraise is not only for one project and can be for any project the Commission is working on.

R. Johnson- motion to allow the Historical Commission to fundraise for different projects. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

Selectmen's Reports:

Johnson: Met with the CPC group about the playground plans and, will continue the conversation in January.

Solas: The Lions Club dinner, held at the COA; turkeys were donated and there were gifts for the seniors. It was a great event!

Reminder for anyone that might need transportation to the COA, GATRA is only \$1.25. If you can't afford it, reach out to the COA and we will find a way to get you here.

Mills: Road safety audit for Pine St-Walker St was received. All the work that was recommended in the report has already been started by the Highway Dept, Forestry Dept, etc. The report is available from the Town Administrator's office.

Thanks to Rob Johnson and family for donating the seasonal wreaths that are at Town Hall and the Police Station.

Deignan: Absent.

Vadnais: It's the next to last meeting of the calendar year, it's the half-way point thru the fiscal year- starting with...

Selectman Rob Johnson, who is the youngest member- the Chair recognizes that Rob had lots of concerns about being able to step up but, Rob has exceeded the Chair's expectations. The responsibilities that Rob is handling every day are not easy and are time consuming and, as Chairman, thank you for always stepping up and saying, "yes, I will take care of that". Thank you, Rob!

Selectman George Solas, has stepped up to fill the void for the town's IT department and has spent a lot of time meeting vendors in person, he knows vendors by name and is doing a fantastic job; George has taken on Public Safety communications project, working closely the Fire Chief and, most recently has taken on the Cannabis Licensing project. George is a man of great detail! A very hard worker and, also a good friend.

Selectman Lenny Mills elected and the next day was off and running! It was very simple knowing to give him construction, give him the buildings because it's what he's done his whole life. The town is lucky to have Lenny Mills at the table. He does a fantastic job! Lenny is also shadowing the Chair and working with the Police Dept.

The Selectmen put in an amazing amount of time- by the time they meet on a Monday night, the residents need to know that every single one of the Selectmen sitting at the table has already put in 25 hours of their time, during the week, doing hard work that doesn't have to come to the table to be mediated by the Board of Selectmen, because it's been worked out at another level. Citizens with concerns can call and, provide their information, a Selectman will respond and give the situation the highest level of attention. Thank you to all the Selectmen for all the hard work!

Post note- there will be no meeting the week of Christmas and the week of New Year. The Chair will just sign the warrants.

Other Business:

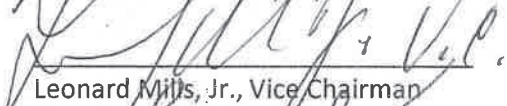
ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman R. Johnson motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:38 PM. Second by Selectman G. Solas. 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: 1/8/2024