

Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 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 7:05 PM: The meeting opened with the Board and the public participating in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Consent Agenda

Ratification of Warrant: Ratification of Warrants from 12/18/2023, 12/26/2023 and 1/2/2024

G. Solas- motion to ratify Warrant for the week of December 18, 2023:

Submitted and not read: 24-25B Payroll \$141,826.48; 24-24A Withholdings \$54,062.08; 24-24 Warrant \$166,454.39. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to ratify Warrant for the week of December 26, 2023:

Submitted and not read: 24-26B Payroll \$154,127.77; 24-25A Withholdings \$37,659.45; 24-25 Warrant \$169,455.40. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to ratify Warrant for the week of January 2, 2024:

Submitted and not read: 24-27B Payroll \$129,215.24; 24-26A Withholdings \$154,903.70; 24-26 Warrant \$173,143.39; 24-26V Veterans Warrant \$5,425.24. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 12/4/2023 and 12/11/2023

On a motion made by Selectman G. Solas, seconded by Selectman R. Johnson, the Regular Minutes for December 4, 2023 and December 11, 2023 were approved. Vote 4-0.

Warrant:

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of January 8, 2024: 24-28B Payroll \$140,886.55; 24-27A Withholdings \$34,920.71; 24-27 Warrant \$83,381.31. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Announcements:

The Chair asked for a pass on the next scheduled meeting, Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:00 PM at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building, and permission to schedule the next meeting for Monday, January 22, 2024, at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building.

Town Offices will be closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 15th.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Thank you to all the businesses that has sent in their business renewals to the BOS office. If there are any questions, please reach out to us.

FY25 Budget worksheets have all been sent out to all the Department Heads and Board & Committees. Thank you, Ashley for getting them out sooner than expected.

Monthly Department Head meetings will resume, starting on January 9th and the meeting will be at 10 AM, at the museum building.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Vote to Approve Year 5 Annual Report MS4 General Permit for FY23

S. Pimental, D. Arruda, L. Mills and K. Chace had a Zoom meeting with Fuss & O'Neil representatives, to review the Stormwater Report that was due in September. There are requirements that need the Town's attention for the next report. There are some concerns about Cameron Way that need to be resolved ASAP.

L. Mills- motion to approve the report that was submitted by Fuss & O'Neil and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the report. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Mills- reflected on the meeting with Sue Pimental, Kevin Chace and Fuss & O'Neil, regarding a State mandated requirement to test, to send results to the State, find out where the source is coming from and corrected- if not the Town is subject to penalties & fees.

Chairman Vadnais- we're doing a point source evaluation. Once determined that the point source is non-municipal, it's by a private individual, then is the Town's action to enforce against that individual?

Selectman Mills replied yes but, the Town's job, as mandated by the State, is to find out where the source of the pollutant is coming from, get it to be corrected and clean up the site. The Town has no choice; this is not an option! Suggestion is that when found, the individual/resident is contacted to discuss how it'll be rectified and move forward – perhaps not start fining people and being heavy handed right off the bat and, instead there should be a strong communication about the issue. It's important and people should know it's coming!

This comes under Stormwater.

Selectman Solas questioned if streams that run through backyard, will also be tested.

The State is testing and hoping to catch issues before it hits the streams. This is important and these are the tools to make sure we are protecting our water. The State is leaving it to the Town- The State gets the

report, does testing and sends the results back to the Town to let the Town know what's causing the issues and where it's coming from. These are contaminants that should go into a tributary and eventually reach our rivers and streams, or into the ground water.

The Chair recommends a discussion, for the ATM, and putting serious thought into a Stormwater Agent and how that's handled. It's currently an elected office and in the past, it's been a fairly simple task that the individual would do but in light of what's happening, the Stormwater Agent now has a greater burden, and in fact, what the Board is doing in assisting is what a Stormwater Agent would be doing. So, because of the complexity of this now for being an unpaid volunteer position, the Board needs to discuss on how to move forward- perhaps put in an article where the position can be an Appointed position.

The Chair asked the Town Administrator to schedule a discussion, on how to move ahead with the position of Stormwater Agent.

The Town Administrator stated to the Chair that the Town has voted to move forward with appointing this position, but will confirm.

Action Item (2): Vote to Approve Wilcox & Barton Task Order #7 Private Well POET System Operation & Maintenance

L. Mills- motion to approve Task Order #7 as submitted and authorize the Chair to sign it. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Mills mentioned that this is being work done by Wilcox & Barton on inspecting private wells and the fee is \$2,475.00

Action Item (3): Vote to Approve Chapter 90 Final Reports for 23-06 and 23-07 Resurfacing-Chip Seal \$307,024.77

L. Mills- motion to approve and sign the final Chapter 90 documents for completed work on re-surfacing projects 23-06 and 23-07. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Mills stated that we were struggling with sub-contractors to get the roads done. This year, much could not get redone because of the constant rain.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve Utility Installation License for MJD Excavating, Inc 231 Plain Street

L. Mills- motion to approve and sign the Utility Installation License for MJD Excavating, Inc. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (5): Vote to Approve Class II 2024 License Renewals for Jim's Rims, Inc. dba Wheels Unlimited 40 R Fall River Avenue and AutoShow Sales and Service, LLC 4 Falls Street and Manny & Sons Auto Repair and Tire, Inc. 2 Park Street

G. Solas- motion to approve Class II 2024 License Renewals for Jim's Rims, Inc. dba Wheels Unlimited, 40R Fall River Avenue; AutoShow Sales and Service, LLC, 4 Falls Street and Manny & Sons Auto Repair and Tire, Inc., 2 Park Street, effective 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve New Hires Nathan MacKenzie and Daisy Von Schrader as videographers

G. Solas- motion to approve new hires Nathan MacKenzie and Daisy Von Schrader as Videographers for the Media and Communication Dept. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (7): Vote to Approve Appointments: Susan Ohsberg-Advisory Finance Committee and Matthew Habershaw-Conservation Commission Member and Michael Cruz and Catherine Charbonneau-Cultural Council

The Conservation Commission is asking for the BOS' approval and vote to appoint Matthew Habershaw as a voting member to the commission. He is currently an Associate Member.

G. Solas- to appoint Matthew Habershaw-Conservation Commission Member, effective 1/8//2024-6/30/2026. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

FinCom is recommending Susan Ohsberg to be appointed as a member to the Advisory Finance Committee. She will be replacing Colleen Simpson.

G. Solas- motion to appoint Susan Ohsberg to the Advisory Finance Committee, effective 1/8/2024-6/30/2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Cultural Council is asking the Board to appoint 2 additional members.

G. Solas- motion to appoint Michael Cruz and Catherine Charbonneau to the Cultural Council, effective 1/8/2024-1/8/2027. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (8): Vote to Approve COA Volunteer-Henry Pires, Jr.

The COA is recommending Henry Pires, Jr. to join the volunteers at the COA and requests the Board's approval.

G. Solas- motion approve COA volunteer Henry Pires, Jr. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (9): Vote to Approve State Aid Funds of \$14,426.43 for the Blanding Library

G. Solas- motion to accept the funds from the state in the amount of \$14,426.43 and authorize the Treasurer to submit the funds to the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society for the needs of the Blanding Library. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (10): Vote to Approve 2024 Bristol Elder Services, Inc Agreement for \$24,852

G. Solas- motion to approve the 2024 Bristol Elder Services, Inc agreement in the amount of \$24,852.00 for the year and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Chairman Vadnais stated that this is for meals on wheels- information has been reviewed with the Interim Director of HHS, who has reviewed the contract and finds everything is in order.

Action Item (11): Vote to Approve Underground Gas Storage Permit Renewal for Francis Farm Property and Waive \$10 fee

L. Mills- motion to approve the 2024 Underground Gas Storage Permit and authorize the Chair to sign, and waive the \$10 fee. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (12): Vote to Approve 2024 Liquor Licenses for Jacob & Justin Inc. dba Plaza Pizza 289 Winthrop St; Rehoboth American Legion Post 302 84 Bay State Rd; Rehoboth Mini Mart, Inc. 61 Plain St; Vino's Family Café LLC 503 Winthrop St., Unit 1; Kalimay LLC dba IAlive Restaurant 569 Winthrop St; Hazelton Golf Club, LLC 327 Summer St; Crestwood Acquisitions, Inc. dba Crestwood Country Club 90-Wheeler St; LMYZ Catering, LLC dba Park's Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar 3 Park St., Unit 3; KP Grille LLC dba KP Grille 481 Winthrop St; Pine Valley Country Club, Inc. dba Pine Valley Golf Club 136 Providence St; Arya Ayan, Inc. dba The Grape Vine 289 Winthrop St., Unit 9; Liquor Basket Inc. dba Liquor Basket 49 Fall River Ave; Michael John Pacheco & Ana Maria Pacheco dba Chartley Country Liquors 319A Tremont St; Cumberland Farms of Massachusetts, Inc. dba Cumberland Farms Store 2314 232 Winthrop St; Campfire Hospitality LLC dba Campfire Tavern & Table 7 Park St; Hillside Golf LLC dba Hillside Country Club 82 Hillside Ave; Jay Mahalaxmi LLC dba Rehoboth Wine & Spirits 537 Winthrop St; Upcycle Edibles, LLC dba Rehoboth Baking Co. 7 Park St., Unit 2; IRN Foodies LLC dba Rehoboth House of Pizza 503 Winthrop St., Unit 3

G. Solas- motion to approve the 2024 Alcoholic Beverages License for the following businesses, effective 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024 and submit all necessary signed paperwork to the ABCC:

Jacob & Justin Inc. dba Plaza Pizza, 289 Winthrop St
Rehoboth American Legion Post 302, 84 Bay State Rd
Rehoboth Mini Mart, Inc., 61 Plain St
Vino's Family Café LLC, 503 Winthrop St., Unit 1
Hazelton Golf Club, LLC, 327 Summer St
Crestwood Acquisitions, Inc. dba Crestwood Country Club, 90-Wheeler St
LMYZ Catering, LLC dba Park's Asian Bistro & Sushi Bar 3 Park St. Unit 3
KP Grille LLC dba KP Grille, 481 Winthrop St
Pine Valley Country Club, Inc. dba Pine Valley Golf Club, 136 Providence St
Arya Ayan, Inc. dba The Grape Vine, 289 Winthrop St. Unit 9
Liquor Basket Inc. dba Liquor Basket, 49 Fall River Ave
Michael John Pacheco & Ana Maria Pacheco dba Chartley Country Liquors, 319A Tremont St
Cumberland Farms of Massachusetts, Inc. dba Cumberland Farms Store 2314, 232 Winthrop St
Campfire Hospitality LLC dba Campfire Tavern & Table, 7 Park St
Hillside Golf LLC dba Hillside Country Club, 82 Hillside Ave
Jay Mahalaxmi LLC dba Rehoboth Wine & Spirits, 537 Winthrop St
Upcycle Edibles, LLC dba Rehoboth Baking Co., 7 Park St., Unit 2
IRN Foodies LLC dba Rehoboth House of Pizza, 503 Winthrop St., Unit 3

G. Solas- motion to approve the 2024 Alcoholic Beverages License for the following businesses, effective 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024 and submit all necessary signed paperwork to the ABCC: Kalimay LLC dba iAlive Restaurant, 569 Winthrop Street. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 3-0. Selectman L. Mills abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Vote to Approve Media and Communications Manager Job Description

Tabled at 12/4/2023 meeting, at Chairman Vadnais' request.

Mr. Richard Pañofsky, Personnel Chair and Deb Arruda met and revised the Media and Communications Manager job description, changing to whom the position reports- changed from reporting to the Town Administrator to the Interim Finance & Compliance Director.

G. Solas- motion to approve Media and Communications Manager Job Description as presented by the Personnel Board. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Selectmen's Reports:

Johnson: Events Committee update: Light Up Rehoboth was a great success. Thanks to Ciara, Sue Pimental for coordinating the information uploaded to the local channel 98 and Earl Dias for taking pictures to be posted for voting. Great participation from the residents- the Perry's on Providence Street even had a basket of items to donate to the Food Pantry and a box for Letter to Santa. Events Committee is looking for new members to help with events like this one and other events in Town. Easter Egg hunt probably will be skipped. Clam Bake in August is being planned.

Solas: Talking about Channel 98 & 9, the new Media Manager has done a fantastic job of televising the events in Town. For those residents that cannot get a ride to any event at the COA, please call Linna and we will send GATRA to pick you up at no charge

Mills: When a letter is received (usually through the Town Administrator's office) about the roadways, ie. signage, speed limit, etc., it involves a lot of people – it starts with Debbie Arruda, gets assigned to me with the authority of the Chairman and then, it goes out to the Police Department's Deputy Chief Ramos and Kevin Chace Highway Superintendent and, then together with Rob Johnson who runs the Forestry Department and everyone partakes in a study to evaluate and suggest best resolution.

Letter to the Selectman (attached).

The real report is to thank the Selectmen for being gentlemen through all processes, especially the things not agreed upon- there's respect. There's a lot of intention to try to solve problem... Not everything is agreed upon and there are a lot of heated discussions, but it's always done with respect..."I want to thank you guys for the harmony that you bring, not only to the Board and to me as a job but, to this Town."... "I know we don't always agree, but that being said, you argue like true gentlemen and to that I'm truly grateful for".

Deignan: Absent.

Vadnais: As Chairman, with the right of assignment, asked Selectman Rob Johnson to work together on the Fire Department and Ambulance issues. The Ambulance contract expires in March and Ambulance is faced with financial challenges; proposing a one-year contract to provide residents with the services residents' need. Myself, Rob and Sue Pimental, Interim Finance Director as a team. Sue Pimental is involved because there may be Federal monies available that may be utilized to continue providing residents with quality emergency services.

Also, as to the Fire Department, Chief Frank Barressi is approaching mandatory retirement so, in less than 2 years there's a lot to learn. Rob has a long-standing background with Fire services, having served himself, and has associations with the Fire Department and he's needed to assist.

The Chair asked Selectman Mills if in agreement with the change in responsibilities, which he currently has and with Selectman Mills agreement, passed on the assignment to Rob to assist the Chair with the Fire Department and Ambulance moving forward.

Also, regarding the assignments Selectmen, the Chair requested the Board to put together the projects assigned, what projects have been completed, what projects are ongoing, what projects have not started yet but will be happening in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2024 and, if possible, speak to the projects that may be in the pipeline for FY2025 – what's been accomplished, what's being worked on in hopes to be accomplished and what's going to be happening (a peek into the future).

Other Business:

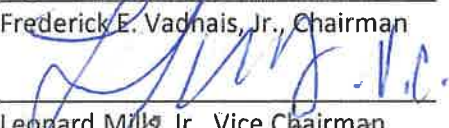
ADJOURNMENT:

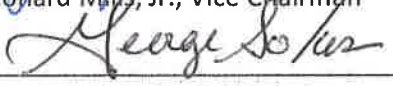
Selectman G. Solas motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:52 PM. Second by Selectman R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

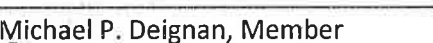

Odete Lacourse



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: 1/29/2024

1-08-10
12/27/2023

Dear Selectmen,
Thank you all for being ProActive
with road safety signage updates.
As Rehoboth continues to become more
populated we need to provide the leadership
to help make the area safe for all.
"The D R" difference. "Driving Responsibly."
To all a Safe, Healthy New Year, 2024.

Respectfully,
John A. Pacheco
508-252-3975
85 Hornbine Road.
Rehoboth, MA 02769.

Received

DEC 27 2023

Board of Selectmen