



Office of
SELECTMEN
148 Peck Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769

Tel.: (508) 252-3758
Fax: (508) 252-5342

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
MEETING MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL**

Present: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman James Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman George Solas, Selectmen Michael Deignan and Interim Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

At **6:37 PM** it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL CHAPTER 30A, §21 (3) *To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.*

Call to Order at 7:06 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for April 5, 2021:

D. Perry motion to ratify last week's Warrant: 21-40B Payroll \$111,962.59; 21-39A Withholdings \$33,645.71; 21-40 Warrant \$75,005.61. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Warrants for April 12, 2021:

D. Perry motion to approve this week's Warrant: 21-41B Payroll \$126,021.14; 21-40A Withholdings \$33,132.59; 21-41 Warrant \$107,786.11; 21-41R Refund Warrant \$2,715.79; 21-41R1 Refund Warrant \$14,768.75. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: none

Regular Minutes: 11/9/2020, 11/16/2020

D. Perry motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2020. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2020. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0

Announcements:

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Town Offices will be closed on Monday, April 19 in observance of Patriot's Day.

Town Clerk Laura Schwall was present to give the local election results. The election was certified on Friday. 1788 of our 9804 registered voters turned out to vote, which is 18.24% voter participation. This is the highest voter participation we've seen without a ballot question on the ballot. Of the 1788 voters, 1087 voted in person, 339 voted early in person, and 362 voted by absentee ballot. At the end of the census process, we have officially certified the 2021 Annual Town Census population of 12,977.

UPDATE ON COVID VACCINATION CLINIC:

Gerry Schwall, Coordinator of Special Projects, was present to update the Board on the vaccination center. On Saturday, homebound residents received their vaccinations. Town Nurse Jaime Conlon and Jessica Potter, Anawan Pharmacy, and the ambulance crew all helped. Thank you!

Because of our partnership with the pharmacy, we still have vaccine to distribute as we are using Federal vaccines. The allocation from State has been cut-off distribution to all areas, as they are focusing on other needs. Spoke to Secretary Sudders, thank you to Feeney for pushing the call to happen, but it did not go well. They are focusing on efficiency instead and not on getting vaccines to clinics.

Town Administrator's Report:

Town Nurse Update: We are now in the red. There had been a swing in the demographic of who is contracting COVID, with a high instance rate increase within the ages 20-29. We are anxious regarding back to in-person learning, the Easter weekend spike, and April vacation (along with the usual social gatherings.) Here are today's numbers: confirmed (within last month): 259, probable (within last month): 93, COVID-19 (within last three months) line list of addresses with individuals under isolation for emergency responders: 134, State deaths yesterday: 8, 14-day Average Daily incidents rate: 29.8 (ours is higher than Somerset and Taunton). This is why we are keeping Town Offices closed to the public. The Board weighed in and agreed that this is the best course of action at this time.

Forestry Dept: We have posted on our Town Website a job opening for the Forestry Dept. Rob Johnson is looking for a Full Time Laborer. Please view the website for more information or send in your applications to the Board of Selectmen's office.

Transfer Station: We are still in need of a Part Time Monitor for the Transfer Station. Please send applications to the Board of Selectmen's office.

Water Testing: The Board of Health posted on their website and the Town Website information regarding Free Water Testing Kits. MassDEP and UMASS are working together on testing well water for PFAS. Both groups have asked us to spread the word to our residents that you may be receiving a post card from them to order your free kit. At the moment the post cards are being mailed to areas they feel may have traces of PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances).

Keep Rehoboth Beautiful: The committee will be holding their annual town clean up on 4/18-4/25. All Covid protocols will be followed, social distancing, wearing masks & gloves, and hand sanitizing during breaks. The registration information and instructions are on their website. The orange trash bags and t-shirts will be handed to the volunteers outdoors at certain locations; look for the distribution dates on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Reorganization of the Board

As common practice after a Town Election, the Board takes the opportunity to reorganize. With two new members on the Board, it is necessary to take such action.

D. Perry motion to nominates Skip Vadnais as Chairman. Second by J. Muri.
No other nominations.

M. Deignan motion to close nominations. Second by J. Muri.

Roll call vote: Vadnais – aye, Perry – aye, Muri- aye, Deignan – aye, Solas - aye. Vote 5-0.

M. Deignan motion to accept the nomination of Skip Vadnais as Chairman. Second by D. Perry.

Roll call vote: Vadnais – aye, Perry – aye, Muri- aye, Deignan – aye, Solas - aye. Vote 5-0

M. Deignan motion to nominate D. Perry as Vice Chairman. Second by J. Muri.

No other nominations.

M. Deignan motion to close nominations. Second by J. Muri.

Roll call vote: Vadnais – aye, Perry – aye, Muri- aye, Deignan – aye, Solas - aye. Vote 5-0.

M. Deignan motion to accept nomination of D. Perry as Vice Chairman. Second by J. Muri.

Roll call vote: Vadnais – aye, Perry – aye, Muri- aye, Deignan – aye, Solas - aye. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motioned to nominate J. Muri as Clerk. Second by G. Solas.

No other nominations.

M. Deignan motioned to close nominations. Second by D. Perry.

Roll call vote: Vadnais – aye, Perry – aye, Muri- aye, Deignan – aye, Solas - aye. Vote 5-0.

M. Deignan motion to accept the nomination of J. Muri for Clerk. Second by D. Perry.

Roll call vote: Vadnais – aye, Perry – aye, Muri- aye, Deignan – aye, Solas - aye. Vote 5-0.

Chairman Vadnais then reassigned the selectmen liaison assignments to include the new Board members. He asked the Board for ratification of these appointments.

J. Muri motion to ratify the Selectmen Liaison assignments made by the chairman. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0

Action Item #2: Discussion Re: Town Meeting Warrant- Draft

Interim Town Administrator Deb Arruda presented the Board with the in-process draft of the Board for their input.

M. Deignan explained that we do not need a “Special” town meeting, which means we can consolidate the two agendas and we gain a week before we need to get it to the printer.

D. Perry asked a question regarding the revolving accounts.

J. Muri asked about the speed limit article- this was removed per Town Counsel.

Action Item #3: Discussion on Cell Units for the New Police Station

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Action Item #4: Vote to award Fire Alarm Proposal for the New Police Building

Mike Costello received three quotes to set up the Fire Alarm/Smoke Detectors etc. at the new Police Building. They were:

Berwick Electric: \$12,655.00

Professional Fire & Security, Inc.: \$12,728.00

Home & Commercial Security: \$14,778.69

D. Perry motion to award the Fire Alarm work to Berwick Electric for the amount of \$12,655.00. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Discussion: J. Muri asked if it was checked to see if it would interface with the current systems. Both M. Costello and D. Rousseau called in to confirm that it had all been checked.

Action Item #5: Vote to Accept Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant

Chief Barresi is asking the Board to accept the FY21 grant for the Firefighter Safety Equipment. The grant proceeds have to be expended by June 30, 2021. The grant total for Rehoboth is \$11,072.41 and the funds will be used to purchase other safety equipment needed in the department.

D. Perry motion to accept the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant for the amount of \$11,072.41. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #6: Vote to Accept MA Association of Health Board Grant (MAHB)

The Town has been fortunate enough to receive another grant. This one is for the Board of Health, Nurses Department. They have been awarded \$16,666.67 for costs associated with COVID-19 expenses. These funds can be used for prevention, testing and mitigation of COVID-19, including vaccinations for frontline & public safety workers.

J. Muri motion to accept the MA Association of Health Board Grant for the amount of \$16,666.67 *to be used between 1/1/2021-6/30/2021* for prevention, testing and mitigation of COVID-19. Second by M. Deignan.

Interim Town Administrator Debbie Arruda inquired if these funds can be applied towards the town nurses' hours worked to deliver and administer vaccines to the homebound, since we received the check before, although the board is only officially accepting and voting on it now. The Board agreed.

J. Muri motion to amend to include 1/1/2021-6/30/2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #7: Vote to Appoint SRPEDD Annual Commissioner for the Board of Selectmen

D. Perry motion to table. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Planning Board will nominate member to represent them. Board of Selectmen does not have much to add.

Action Item #8: Vote to Accept Resignation, as submitted

The Town Clerk received two resignations from the Finance Committee this week.

J. Muri motion to accept the resignation of Michael Deignan from the Finance Committee, effective April 5, 2021. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0. M. Deignan abstained.

J. Muri motion to accept the resignation of George Solas from the Finance Committee, effective April 7, 2021. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0. G. Solas abstained.

The Board encouraged residents with an accounting background to submit a talent bank form to the Finance Committee Chairperson Colleen Simpson and the Board of Selectmen's office.

Action Item #9: Vote Extension for the Part-Time Interim Town Nurse's Position

Back on November 16, 2020, the Board voted to accept Jessica Potter as the Interim Nurse to fill in for Jaime Conlon while she was on Maternity leave. The term was until the end of March; however, we are in need of Jessica's continued support with contact tracing due to the increase in cases.

J. Muri motion to extend the Part-time Interim Nurse's position to June 30, 2021. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #10: Vote to Approve Crown Castle Cell Tower RFP Process

We have three cell towers in Town that will have contracts expiring. The Interim Town Administrator is asking the Board's permission to begin the bid process.

J. Muri motion to allow the Interim Town Administrator to begin the bid process for the cell towers. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #11: Rescind Vote Taken on 11/29/2020 for AG&NR Appropriation of funds for Ormond Farm

The Board was asked by the Agricultural and Natural Resource Committee to appropriate \$20,000 for Ormond Farm from the Agricultural land trust. However, the state was not ready last fall with the paperwork, and the CPC is placing an Article in the Special Town Meeting Warrant to use another account. So, this vote has to be rescinded, in order to change the funding.

J. Muri motion to rescind the November 9, 2020 vote to appropriate \$20,000 from Agricultural Trust Fund for purposes of Ormond Farm. Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Action Item #12: Discussion on June 19th Legal Holiday

Last year the Governor amended G.L. c. 4 Section 7 to include June 19th as a legal holiday in Massachusetts. This holiday is called Juneteenth Independence Day and this year it falls on a Saturday. The Town will observe the holiday on Friday June 18th.

G. Solas motion to accept June 18th as the legal Juneteenth Holiday. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Chairman Vadnais instructed Interim Town Administrator to contact the Unions with this information.

Action Item #13: Appointments, as submitted

We received additional volunteers to help at the Vaccination Clinic.

J. Muri motion to appoint Lucille M. Amaral as a Worker/Volunteer in the Vaccination Clinic, effective 4/12/2021-12/31/2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to appoint Nancy Muri as a Worker/Volunteer in the Vaccination Clinic, effective 4/12/2021-12/31/2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0 J. Muri recused himself.

Selectmen's Reports:

Deignan: no report

Solas: no report

Perry: Incident in town, contractor hit an undocumented pipe while digging a foundation a few weeks ago. Nothing happened, until we had 2" of rain and it flooded other areas. Things have been fixed by builder, highway, ConCom. Everyone worked together.

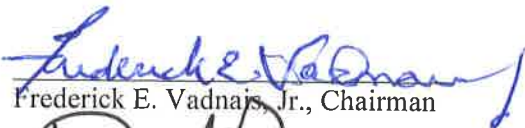
Muri: no report

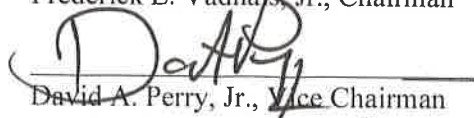
Vadnais: no report

At 8:07 PM it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL CHAPTER 30A, §21 (3) *To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. (6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair so declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.*

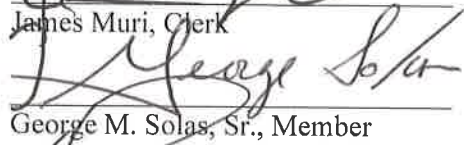
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen J. Muri made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 9:35 PM. Second by D. Perry.

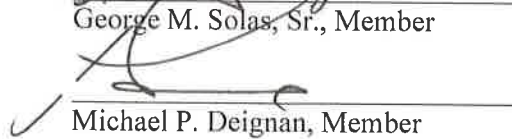
Roll call vote. Vadnais – aye, Muri – aye, Perry -aye, Solas – aye, Deignan – aye.



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: 9/27/2021**