

Office of
SELECTMEN
340 Anawan Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769



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***BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 15, 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., Selectmen Michael P. Deignan, Selectman Robert Johnson II and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

At 6:36 PM the Board voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to ***MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel; (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 7:13 PM: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for May 15 2023:

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of May 15, 2023: 23-46B Payroll \$171,826.33; 23-45A Withholdings \$33,990.23; 23-45 Warrant \$4,565,063.08. Second by L. Mills. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: None

Announcements:

Monday, May 22, 2023 will be our next Regular scheduled meeting at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Rehoboth Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 29, 2023 at 10 AM.

The American Legion and Rehoboth Anawan Lions Club would like to remind everyone that on the 2nd Sunday of each month they have an "All You Can Eat Breakfast", held at the Legion from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM and the cost per ticket is \$12.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1) Vote to Approve ARPA-Bristol County Projects: Radio Upgrades, PFAS Remediation & Testing, and Bulk Water Purchase

Sue Pimental was present to discuss the final project submissions.

M. Deignan- motion to approve the ARPA-Bristol County Projects for the Radio Upgrades for \$136,918.61; PFAS Remediation & Testing for \$644,000.00 and Bulk Water Purchase for the COA for \$40,440.00, as presented by our Interim Finance & Compliance Director. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (2): 7:15p Public Hearing for Kennel Permit-Bettencourt- 100 Simmons Street

Paul and Bonnie Bettencourt of 100 Simmons Street are asking for the Boards' approval for their Personal Kennel Permit. The Selectmen's office has worked with the Zoning Officer and Animal Control Officer, there are no issues with the kennel or dogs.

Permit is for 9 dogs; all pugs.

Selectman L. Mills, abutter, recused himself from the discussion.

Selectman R. Johnson, Animal Control Officer, abstained.

M. Deignan- motion to open the Public Hearing. Second by G. Solas. **Roll call:** Vadnais, aye; Deignan, aye; Solas, aye. Vote 3-0. R. Johnson abstained. L. Mills recused.

An Abutter was present and favors the permit, stating the Bettencourts are very good neighbors.

Selectman L. Mills, speaking as an Abutter, is in favor of the permit.

G. Solas- motion to Close the Public Hearing. Second by M. Deignan. **Roll call:** Vadnais, aye; Deignan, aye; Solas, aye. Vote 3-0. R. Johnson abstained. L. Mills recused.

G. Solas- motion to approve Personal Kennel Permit for Paul & Bonnie Bettencourt of 100 Simmons Street, effective May 15, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Deignan. Vote 3-0. R. Johnson abstained. L. Mills recused.

Action Item (3): Vote to Approve Nomination for the GATRA Representative-Richard Panofsky

G. Solas- motion to nominate Richard Panofsky as Rehoboth's Representative to the GATRA Board. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve 1st Quarter 2023-PEG-Franchise Fees of \$60,182.46

Every quarter the Board approves the Franchise Fees from Comcast for our PEG account. The 1st quarter of 2023 we received \$60,182.46.

G. Solas- motion to approve the Comcast Franchise Fees for first quarter of 2023 for the amount of \$60,182.46. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (5): Vote to Approve One Day Liquor Licenses for: Holy Ghost Brother Hood-43 Broad Street, James Hoyt, Jr., Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket- 205 Winthrop Street, Robert Lockhart, Rumford Hunting & Fishing Club, Inc.

G. Solas- motion to approve One Day Liquor License for Holy Ghost Brotherhood, 43 Broad Street for June 6, 2023 from 6 PM to midnight. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas- motion to approve One Day Liquor License for James Hoyt, Jr., Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket, 205 Winthrop Street for June 15, 2023 from 4 PM to 9 PM. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas- motion to approve One Day Liquor License for Robert Lockhart, Rumford Hunting & Fishing Club, Inc. for July 29, 2023 from 12 PM to 8 PM and September 16, 2023 from 12 PM to 8 PM. Firing Range will be closed during the sale of alcoholic beverages. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (6): 7:45 Public Hearing for Kennel Permit-Fisk-599 Tremont Street

Nicole Fisk is asking for the Boards' approval for her Personal Kennel Permit. The Selectmen's office has worked with the Zoning Officer and ACO, there are no issues with the kennel or dogs.

Permit is for 4 dogs; Shipoo, French bulldog, Coonhound/Shepard and yellow Lab.

G. Solas- motion to Open the Public Hearing. Second by L. Mills. **Roll call:** Deignan, aye; Vadnais, aye; Mills, aye; Solas, aye. Vote: 4-0. R. Johnson abstained.

No abutters were present.

G. Solas- motion to Close the Public Hearing. Second by M. Deignan. **Roll call:** Deignan, aye; Vadnais, aye; Mills, aye; Solas, aye. Vote: 4-0. R. Johnson abstained.

G. Solas- motion to approve Personal Kennel Permit for Nicole Fisk of 599 Tremont Street, effective May 15, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0. R. Johnson abstained.

Action Item (7): Discussion Re: Chairman of Board of Selectmen to be Voted as Member of the Board of Human Services & Community Health, with possible action

M. Deignan- motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to be a full voting member of the Board of Human Services & Community Health and to have the authorization to delegate the voting rights to a designee in his absence. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Discussion: Next week's agenda appoint Richard Panofsky.

Action Item (8): Vote to Approve Shayna Bennett as the Administrative Assistant in the Police Department

G. Solas- motion to approve Shayna Bennett, Administrative Assistant to the Police Dept, effective May 15, 2023. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Ms. Bennett was present, along with Deputy Chief Ramos who spoke to the board asking for their approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Vote to Approve and Sign the ARPA/Bristol County Codification Services Proposal for \$9,995.00

Discussion:

Present was Zachary Dumont from the General Code-Codification Program.

Selectman G. Solas spoke stated his concerns and questions about the contract and terms and conditions.

Town Clerk, Laura Schwall stated that she has reached out to Attorney Jay Talerman for his input – Atty Talerman has reviewed the proposal and said it was fine, but if a contract is presented, he would like to review it.

Mr. Dumont mentioned to the Board that most towns only use the proposal and not a contract but, will be happy to work with the Town of Rehoboth.

\$1,195.00 per year plus supplemental costs; all costs will be absorbed by Town Clerk, starting 2025.

Selectman G. Solas asked Mr. Dumont to explained the four options available and shared his comments.

Per Mr. Dumont stated they are not here to rewrite the bylaws, but to clean them up and make them uniformed.

S. Vadnais is concerned that when changes are made to the bylaws and they then need to be brought to Town Meeting. This could bring on other issues and create a very long meeting, with residents having many questions.

Mr. Dumont mentioned that if explained correctly to the residents they may not have any or very little concerns. The residents need to know that policies are not changing, just updating and cleaning language to today's time, i.e. dog officer vs ACO.

M. Deignan- agrees the search tool is very useful and helpful, but expressed concern about codifying and, if it needs to go to Town Meeting for a vote and, denied, ... then what?

Mr. Dumont- mentioned a case recently in another town that had to go to Town Meeting for a vote. Residents at first were in an uproar, but after clear explanation, they understood and agreed to the updates and to the system - the company has worked with 131 communities.

S. Solas mentioned the team that needs to be developed, how will that work?

Town Clerk, Laura Schwall- would like to see one representative from each Department/Committee/Board - would like to have Mr. Ed Bertozzi on the committee because he has a background in law and his expertise with the Planning Board.

L. Mills- before we vote on this we should speak to the Boards/Committees to get their feeling on this.

S. Vadnais- What does the Board want to do: Are we looking at only option 1, no changes made to language, just making it searchable? S. Solas supports option 1, with additional questions on future changes.

M. Deignan- motion to approve and sign the ARPA/Bristol County Codification Services Proposal for \$9,995.00 and going for option 1. Second by G. Solas.

L. Mills asked Laura how she felt? She would like us to go with Option 2 to fix typos and check with MGL that the bylaw is up to date.

L. Mills asked Mr. Dumont if we currently only go with Option 1 does the price change? Mr. Dumont answered no, because the Town has the option to add further changes while General Codifying is reviewing our bylaws.

MD-we can approve Option 1 and down the road add Option 2 so we have time to review with Boards/Committees and see if there are any issues at hand and then present them.

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: No report.

Deignan: No report.

Solas: No report.

Johnson: Home Depot volunteers update- power washed ACO, gave sink, toilet, painted the building and cleaned up the pens and inside the building as well.

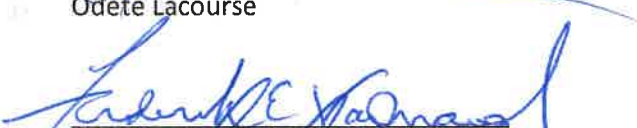
Mills: No report.

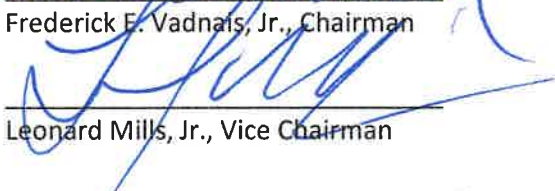
ADJOURNMENT:

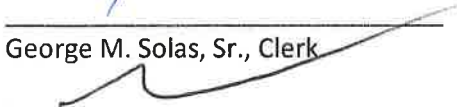
Selectman G. Solas- motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:36 PM. Second by Selectman L. Mills. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Odete Lacourse

Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman

George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk

Michael P. Deignan, Member

Robert Johnson II, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Approved: 5/22/2023