



**Office of
SELECTMEN**
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***BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022
MEETING MINUTES
FRANCIS HALL BUILDING, FRANCIS FARM
27 FRANCIS FARM ROAD***

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

Call to Order at 7:15 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for July 11, 2022:

G. Solas motion to approve the Warrant for the week of July 11, 2022: 22-54B Payroll \$106,854.12; 23-01B Payroll \$25,603.43; 23-02B Payroll \$171,492.96; 22-54A Withholdings \$31,831.74; 23-01A Withholdings \$7,251.00; 22-54 Warrant \$103,668.19; 23-01 Warrant \$1,648,199.60. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: 6/27/22

Regular Minutes: 3/21/22-resubmitted, 3/23/22, 4/19/22, and 4/25/22.

Selectmen Solas mentioned the Executive Minutes for June 27th were voted as approved and held.

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2022. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2022. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2022. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2022. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Announcements:

Next BOS meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 7pm at Francis Farm-Francis Hall Building to close out FY22.

The next BOS meeting will be held on Monday, July 25, 2022 7pm at Francis Farm-Francis Hall Building

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Reminder that the K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee will be holding another informational session here at Francis Hall on July 21, 2022.

On Thursday, July 14 at 11am in the Arcade Building, we will be opening the bid packets for the Portico at 340 Anawan Street. To date we have not received any bids.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

Geri Hamel, Public Nurse:

1. Updated the BOS on COVID cases from July 7th, 2022 – present. Morton Hospital and Sturdy Memorial had admissions.
2. Updated the Board on requirements for vaccinations for children 6 months and older.
3. Monkey Pox vaccine will be disbursed in Massachusetts. The state will receive 2,000 doses and 4 locations will be distributing vaccines in MA.
4. Camp requirements for local businesses need direction on how to proceed. S. Vadnais and M. Deignan recommended Geri to reach out to Rachel Smith as Chair of the Board of Health.
5. Geri Hamel covered “outreach” projects as well.

M. Deignan motion to authorize Public Health Nurse to enter into field study from Walden University contingent upon Town Counsel review and ratification on July 25th, 2022. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Presentation by Wilcox & Barton, Inc-David Foss- PFAS Discussion

David Foss introduced himself and co-worker/project manager, John Demille. Mr. Foss began an informative presentation on PFAS.

S. Vadnais stated the presentation was very informative and as more information comes in and further phases come up – Wilcox & Barton, LLC will be back with more updates.

Action Item (2): 7:45PM Public Hearing-Propane Gas Storage License Application-Old Castle AP6 A CRH Company 41 Almeida Road

The Board received an application from Propane Plus to install 4 storage tanks at Old Castle on 41 Almeida Road. The total volume will be 7,980, which triggers a public hearing and notification to the abutters, per MGL Chapter 148. A notice was placed in the Taunton Gazette, the fire Chief has provided the applicant with their approval and permit.

G. Solas motion open the Public Hearing for Propane Gas Storage License for Old Castle AP6 A CRH Company at 41 Almeida Road. Second by M. Deignan.

Roll call vote. Deignan – aye, Vadnais – aye, Solas – aye, Mills – aye, Johnson – aye. (5-0)

S. Vadnais acknowledged there were no abutters present at the meeting.

L. Mills motion to close the Public Hearing for Propane Gas Storage License for Old Castle AP6 A CRH Company at 41 Almeida Road. Second by G. Solas.

Roll call vote. Deignan – aye, Vadnais – aye, Solas – aye, Mills – aye, Johnson – aye. (5-0)

L. Mills motion to approve and sign the application submitted for Propane Gas Storage License for Old Castle AP6 A CRH Company at 41 Almeida Road. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (3): Vote to Approve Items for Auction/Storage/Disposition from Dorrance Castle

Lenny has provided the board with a list of items that are at the Dorrance Castle that can be either, auctioned, stored or relocated. The board needs to review the list and decide what to do with the items that have not been labeled. L. Mills stated that metal items can go to auction and what does not sell will be scaped.

G. Solas motion to allow Selectman Mills to properly dispose of the items that have been submitted. Second by M. Deignan. Motion 5-0.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve Highway Dept New Hires-Truck Driver/Labor Position

Selectman Mills, Mike Viveiros and Kevin Chace interviewed 6 candidates and selected 2 to fill the position of Truck Driver/Laborer in the Highway Dept. The following individuals are scheduled to start on 7/25/22, upon a successful pre-employment DOT physical and CORI check

Steven Thomas
Andrew Carter

L. Mills motion to approve the 2 new hires for the highway department as Truck Driver/Laborers, upon a successful pre-employment physical and CORI. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (5): Vote to Ratify Appointments to Highway Dept-Kevin Chace-Interim Superintendent and Facility Maintenance Dept-Mike Viveiros-Interim Facility Maintenance Superintendent

At our meeting on 6/27 Selectman Mills announced the promotions/appointments of two employees, we need to officially appoint them at this meeting. Both positions are temporary, we are on a trial basis.

L. Mills motion to ratify the appointment of Kevin Chace as Interim Highway Superintendent and Mike Viveiros as Interim Facility Maintenance Superintendent, effective 6-27-22 to 9-30-22. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve FY23 1st Qtr Library Agreement Grant Payment to Antiquarian Society of \$144,800.00

Our office received the request for payment from the Antiquarian Society on the Library Grant Agreement. This is the first payment for FY23 and represents 50% of the total (\$289,600). Upon approval we will disburse \$144,800 to the Antiquarian Society.

G. Solas motion to approve the payment of \$144,800 to the Antiquarian Society per the town's grant agreement for library services. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (7): Vote to Approve COA Volunteers

The COA Board is requesting the Boards approval on 2 volunteers to the COA. Richard Charbonneau will help in the kitchen, most likely cooking/prepping food
And Nona Maiorano will help with any services at the COA that are needed. CORI checks have been done on both individuals.

G. Solas motion to approve Richard Charbonneau and Nona Maiorano as volunteers at the COA. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (8): Vote to Appoint Reuben Fischman to the IT Committee

The IT Committee is requesting the approval of the board to appoint Reuben Fischman as a member to their committee.

G. Solas motion to Appoint Reuben Fischman to the IT Committee effective 7/11/22-6/30/23. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (9): Vote FY23 Re-Appointments

Vote re-appointments

G. Solas motion to reappoint Linda Ferreira and John Jordan to the Economic Development Committee, effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/24. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to reappoint Jason Landry and Connie Wenzel-Jordan to the Cemetery Commission, effective 7/1/22-6/30/25. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to reappoint Stephen Choquette and Krisna Prachanronarong to the Conservation Commission effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/25. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to reappoint Charlene Cunha to the COA Board effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/25. Second by 5-0.

G. Solas motion to reappoint David Downs, Brenda Saben and Catherine Potter to the Hornbine School Association Committee effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/25. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

M. Deignan thanked all the volunteers for their help.

G. Solas motion to reappoint the following individuals to the Building Dept, effective 7/1/22-6/30/23. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Gas Inspectors-Brian Clark
First Alternate James- Sine IV
Second Alternate- Paul Haselton

Plumbing Inspector- Brian Clark
First Alternate- James Sine IV
Second Alternate- Paul Haselton

Electrical Inspector- John Brennan
First Alternate- Mike Medeiros

Building Commissioner and Zoning Officer-William McDonough
Alternate Building Inspector- Mark Arruda

Action Item (10): Vote to Approve and Sign Eagle Scout Proclamations-Troop 13-James Fiore, Samuel DeMoura and Samuel Almeida

Troop 13 will be celebrating the Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, July 17, 2022 at 1pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Seekonk. There are 3 scouts that have achieved this rank and all 3 have completed their Eagle Project by helping an organization in town. Congratulations.

R. Johnson motion to approve and sign the Eagle Scout Proclamations for James Fiore, Samuel DeMoura and Samuel Almeida, all from Troop 13. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (11): Vote to Approve Maintenance Agreement with Power Equipment Co

Mike Viveiros is requesting the approval of the Board to approve the Maintenance Agreement with Power Equipment Co for the generators that are at various town buildings. This is for preventative maintenance

services on 7 generators for \$3735.00 not including parts, labor or travel expenses. This agreement will be in affect until either party cancels.

L. Mills motion to approve the Maintenance Agreement with Power Equipment Co for service on town generators at a cost of \$3735. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (12): Vote to Approve Temporary New Hire for Animal Control-Assistant Animal Control Officer

Rob updated the Board with the situation, and the need to hire Meghan Sullivan. This is a temporary per-diem position while Brian McKearney is out on medical leave.

G. Solas motion to Approve Temporary New Hire-Assistant Animal Control Officer-Meghan Sullivan. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0. Selectman Johnson abstained from voting.

Action Item (13): Vote to Approve Legal Services Agreement Between TOR and Baron & Budd, P.C. Sandman Law, LLC; and Cossich Sumich Parsiola & Taylor, LLC-PFAS Potential Litigation

The office of Sandman Law reached out to us regarding their legal services dealing with the PFAS situation. They are helping other local towns and our Town Counsel recommended that we sign the agreement as we do not know where this situation is going to end up. There is no cost to the town, unless we are awarded with a settlement.

M. Deignan motion to Approve and sign the Legal Services Agreement between TOR and Baron & Budd, P.C. Sandman Law, LLC and Cossich Sumich Parsiola & Taylor, LLC regarding legal services dealing with possible PFAS future litigation. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (14): Vote to Approve August 6th, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant

M. Deignan acknowledged the draft of the Warrant submitted with two articles. Article #1 to approve the withdrawal of K-8 would need another vote if the article passes. Article #2 deals with School Committee needs. M. Deignan provided the Board with a draft letter to be submitted in the Warrant.

M. Deignan motion to approve the August 6, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant as submitted, and include the letter provided by Selectman Deignan. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Town Events Committee Clambake Discussion, with possible action taken

Rob Johnson along with David LeComte will speak to this. We have checked with our insurance agent and the town events committee and all volunteers that have been appointed are covered under the town's insurance coverage.

David LeComte approached the Board with follow-up from questions asked at the previous meeting. The refrigerator from Miller Hall will be used outside. The cooking and set up will be done at the American Legion and brought over to Francis Farm for serving. The event is covered by insurance. Help from the Building and Highway Department will be needed to help gain access to buildings with tables, chairs, stones, and other items needed to set up the event.

M. Deignan motion to authorize the Town Events Committee to hold a Clambake at Francis Farm on August 20, 2022; and provide access to ingots and other set up items in order to hold the event, as discussed. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: Asked George, "How are we getting seniors to the COA?" – G. Solas is working with Linna on programs to get seniors more included. The town nurse has a pamphlet to mail out to residents with lots of info. COVID Test Kits will be available at the COA on 7/13/22 from 9am-3pm.

Deignan: Corrected an article in the Rehoboth Reporter by Joe Seigal that mentioned DR receiving over 3.4million dollars from the state. Stated that the article is factually inaccurate.

Solas: Announced the event: Day at the Farm sponsored by Rehoboth TRIAD on 7/25/22. There will be carriage rides and lunch provided at Gert's Café. If someone needs a ride can call the COA and they will help residents get a ride by GATRA.

Johnson: no report

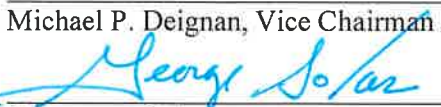
Mills:

1. In the process of transition of Highway to Facility Maintenance Right now both positions are sharing offices and other items. A space will be utilized at Francis Hall for Mike Viveiros temporary office.
2. Met a week and a half ago with a contractor, Deb Arruda, and Mike Viveiros at the Portico site. Waiting on bids to come in.
3. Thursday and Friday down spouts will begin to be connected at Town Hall. The area will be leveled out and the parking lot will be paved to make it more appealing.
4. Concerned with short staff and with events being added to Francis Farm. Stresses on a Facility Maintenance Crew. The Board needs to look into the future and decide how this is going to be handled. Mills is not against events, but we need to think about how to move forward. The Highway Department has many major projects that need to be done. – R. Johnson states the events program should have volunteers that help out.

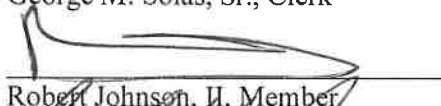
ADJOURNMENT:

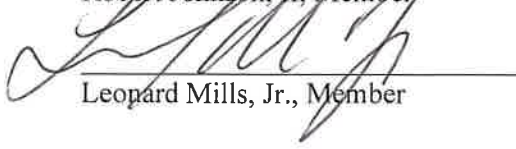
Selectman M. Deignan motion to adjourn the regular session. At 9:24PM. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


Michael P. Deignan, Vice Chairman


George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk


Robert Johnson, II, Member


Leopard Mills, Jr., Member

Respectfully Submitted,
Logan Shaker

Approved: 9/19/2022