



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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

**Topics: Potential Litigation-Point of Entry & Use Treatment System**

**Call to Order at 7:20 p.m.:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrant for September 26, 2022:**

G. Solas motion to approve the Warrant for the week of September 26, 2022: 23-13B Payroll \$135,869.87; 23-12A Withholdings \$146,798.68; 23-12 Warrant \$219,004.76; 23-12V Veterans Warrant \$6,912.43. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: 7/25/22

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

**Announcements:**

The next BOS meeting will be held on Monday, October 3, 2022 7pm at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Last week a representative from the production department at HGTV's Fix My Frankenhouse reached out to our office asking if we would allow them to come in and film the work that will be taking place on a home on New Street. I reached out to the police chief and the building inspector. The police chief had no issues and the building inspector had no issues as long as the contractors pull all necessary permits. I reached out to the Fire Chief, but he was out of the office last week. I let the Production Manager know that he had the okay to move forward. This project will take about 8-12 weeks. The production crew will be in town the first week of October for the "before" filming of the project.

I attended a webinar last Tuesday from the ABCC regarding the upcoming renewals for the liquor licenses. Our office should be starting that process sometime in October. All paperwork will have to be returned and signed by the business managers/owners no later than November 30th. This is a very lengthy project because we will also be working on all business renewals at the same time.

On Thursday, October 6th from 11am-1pm Congressman Auchinclos' office will be at the Arcade Building to meet with our residents to answer any questions they may have. Please stop by to say hello.

Reminder: FinCom continues to seek volunteers for their committee. Please send in a Talent Bank Form to the BOS office if you are interested. Thank you.

We have the representatives from Lagoa visiting Town Hall on Thursday, September 29th at 11am.

#### **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:**

Laura Schwall, Town Clerk, updated the Board on the status of the Clerk's Office.

1. Mrs. Schwall spoke to the Town Council and the State regarding Kathy Conti resigning as a Registrar temporarily and sitting in at the Special Town Meeting. Then in January of 2023 Ms. Conti would be reassigned as a Registrar. S. Vadnais asked who appoints the individual. Mrs. Schwall will find out how/who allows a sit in as Clerk at a Special Town Meeting.
2. Mrs. Schwall wants to hire LHS to help with the pole pads to make sure everything runs smoothly at the Special Town Meeting. S. Vadnais and M. Deignan thought hand counting was going to happen, not electronically. Mrs. Schwall stated pole pads are more efficient and easier to send the information to the state. M. Deignan asked what the cost to hire LHS would be. Mrs. Schwall stated it's approximately between \$500-1,000. M. Deignan said the Town Clerk's office can request a reserve fund transfer from the finance committee and there would be no need to go through the Board of Selectmen.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Action Item (1): Discussion with IT Advisory Committee Chairperson Regarding Cybersecurity, with possible action**

Anna Deignan brought the Board up to date on why Cyber Security is needed and how it came to be in 2004. Mrs. Deignan asked to be permitted to register as the Cybersecurity Awareness Month (CAM) champion for the Town. She listed ideas that she would like to explore with her committee. There would be no cost for registering.

M. Deignan gave his recommendation since the time frame is tight to allow the Committee to move forward as they see fit without coming back to the Board of Selectmen.

G. Solas motion to permit the Chair from the IT Advisory Committee to register for the 2022 Cybersecurity Awareness Month as the Town's Champion. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0. Selectmen M. Deignan abstained from voting.

##### **Action Item (2): Discussion of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) System, with possible action**

S. Vadnais stated as a result of discussion in the Executive Session, a BOS vote is necessary to move forward.

M. Deignan motion to approve insulation of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems as recommended by Wilcox and Barton, and to award the contract for insulation to Wilcox and Barton per the agreement reviewed in Executive Session. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item (3): Vote to Approve Two Grant Applications for the Bristol County Grant-ARPA**

Gerry provided the Board with two drafts of the applications for the Bristol County Grant projects. One was for the Fire Department's Radio Project and the other was the Emergency Operations Center at the castle. The BOS approval was needed in order to submit them to Bristol County.

M. Deignan motion to approve the two submissions of the Grant Proposals for the Radio Project and Emergency Operation Center to the Bristol County ARPA Grant Program. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item (4): Discussion with Green Energy Committee Chairperson Regarding Fall Grant**

Carolyn Panofsky spoke to the Grant Project the Committee has been working on. The Committee recently closed out the 2020-21 grant and are ready to move onto the 2022 process. The Provider, Energy Source, visited properties in the Town that had projects to be completed in the original grant. The properties were identified as the Animal Shelter, South & North Fire Station, and Library. The Animal Shelter has a current renovation going on, so Green Energy Representatives cannot make assessments while the construction is going on. Green Energy recommends moving forward with projects at the North and South Fire Stations which will cost \$181, 595.00. There will still be extra money in from the grant left over. There's an opportunity to receive subsidies for buying electric or hybrid vehicles for the Town.

M. Deignan asked if the Town can use grant money by purchasing two Charging Stations to be used by employees or visiting residents at Town Hall. Mrs. Panofsky believes this would be an acceptable purchase.

M. Deignan motion to approve projects for Pleasant St. and Tremont St. Fire Stations for the Green Energy Committee to proceed with the Grant Program as presented to the Board. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

M. Deignan motion to approve the two additional projects for SRPED Grant Writing Quarterly Reporting and two charging stations. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item (5): Vote to Approve Chapter 61A-Hass Family Realty Trust-Land off of Pine St & Broad St**

The law office of Luke Travis submitted to our office from his client Hass Family Realty Trust Chapter 61A request to convert the properties listed to residential use. The properties are located on Pine St and Broad St, Assessors map 37; lots 24, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, and 63, total approximately 24 acres of land. We received P&S' for at least 3 lots ranging from \$210,000 to \$322,500; there have been more put through since the date of the request. Votes have been taken from PB, ConCom, Ag&NPR, and CPC not to exercise their right. AgCom will be ratifying their vote to do the same at their next scheduled meeting. The BOS decision is needed.

R. Johnson motion to not exercise our right to purchase said property from the Hass Family Realty Trust. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0. Selectmen L. Mills abstains from voting.

**Action Item (6): Vote to Appoint Election Worker**

Town Clerk is requesting the approval of the Board to appoint Richard Dupuis as an election worker.

G. Solas motion to approve Richard Dupuis as an election worker -inspector at precinct 4-Republican, effective 9/26/2022-8/14/2023. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item (7): Vote to Approve October 25, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant**

M. Deignan went over the last-minute changes from the last copy the Board received.

M. Deignan motion to approve and sign the October 25, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant as submitted. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

**Selectmen's Reports:**

Vadnais: The Board of Selectmen had voted to outsource IT services. Selectmen Vadnais, Solas, and Mills have been working on the project.

Deignan: no report

Solas: The COA was closed Wednesday-Friday last week (9/19/22) due to water repair. Today, 9/26/22, there were 71 seniors of all ages who attended lunch. G. Solas spoke in length on updates at the COA for the water filtration system, kitchen updates, etc. Once all is up and running the COA should be prepared to open 100%.

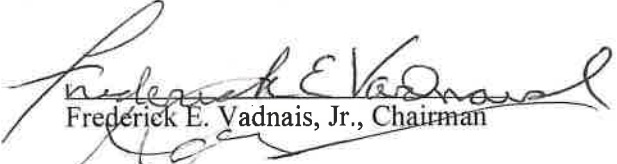
Johnson: On 11/19/2022, the Fire Station Annual Ball will be hosted at Crestwood Country Club. Everyone is welcome to attend and can purchase tickets from Rob Johnson or any other member of the Ball Committee.

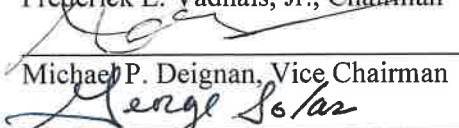
**Mills:**

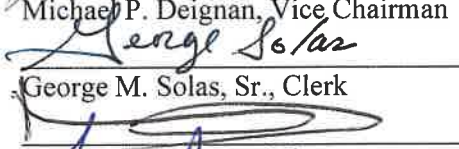
1. PFAS work has begun at the COA, but testing still continues. Signs stating to not drink the water will remain posted.
2. Dead shrubs and trees are being cleaned up in the area, and trees are being trimmed to keep away from the buildings. M. Deignan asked about the gazebo at the COA, and L. Mills stated he is working on it.
3. The portico construction still continues at the Town Hall. A crosswalk from Town Hall to the Highway Department has been installed. Asphalt is also being continued at Town Hall.
4. Road work and line painting continues on Route 118.
5. The Fire Station apron has been installed and is letting it cure.
6. The Old Town Hall, 148 Peck Street, is still being monitored and maintained.
7. Continuing to work with the Town Clerk on identifying Roads in Town for Chapter 90 funds.
8. Working to prepare the Town for snow removal, and are getting drivers lined up. Vehicles are being worked on to get them ready for winter routes.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Selectman M. Deignan motion to adjourn the regular session at 8:52PM. 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

  
Leonard Mills, Jr., Member

Respectfully Submitted,  
Logan Shaker

**Approved: 1/17/2023**