



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
MEETING MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL**

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

At 6:00 PM the Board voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL CHAPTER 30A, §21 (2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or to conduct 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.

Topics: Discussions Re: Dispatcher Union, Superior Officers Union, Veterans Agent

Call to Order at 7:12 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for September 20, 2021:

J. Muri motion to approve the Warrant for the week of September 20, 2021: 22-12B Payroll \$113,165.00; 22-12A Withholdings \$32,459.11; 22-12 Warrant \$469,024.24. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0. Chairman Vadnais was not in the room at the time of the vote.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: none

Regular Minutes: 2/8/2021, 2/16/2021, 2/22/2021, 3/1/2021, 3/8/2021 and 3/15/2021

J. Muri motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

J. Muri motion to approve regular Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

J. Muri motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

J. Muri motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

J. Muri motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

J. Muri motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

Announcements:

The Next Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Monday, September 27 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Selectman Muri read the proclamation for Gert Messier and the Town Nurse's updates on COVID and mosquito born illnesses.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Reminder of the upcoming Firefighters Ball, informed Board of new K-9 insurance rider, and that we will be moving forward with solar inverter replacements.

Reminders of job opening opportunities in town, as well as the openings on the Personnel Board and the Town Events Committee.

There will be a public hearing for a Class II auto license next week.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Vadnais announced the passing of Ed Bliss. Town Clerk Laura Schwall read a list of his many contributions to the town over the years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Discussion Re: Electronic Voting Devices with the Town Clerk with possible action

Town Clerk Laura Schwall was present to present the Board with the quotes for the electronic voting devices, or "clickers".

G. Solas motioned to approve the quote from Meridia for \$52,305.00 for 2000 units. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (2): Vote to Reject "Request for Proposal" for Consultant

Selectman Deignan spoke of the bids for the ARPA consultant. We received two but neither met the qualifications of the bid specs.

M. Deignan motion to reject the 2 bids that were received on 9/8/21, they were not fully completed per the bid specs. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (3): Vote to Approve Dispatchers' Unions Contract

The Board announced that it approved the Dispatchers' Union Contract effective July 1, 2020-June 30, 2023 tonight in Executive Session.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve Veteran's Agent Job Description and Contract

D. Perry spoke to how with our increase population, federal law requires us to bring on a full time Veteran's Agent.

D. Perry amended motion to current appointment of the Veteran's Agent to expire 9/20/2021. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve the Job Description for the Director of Veteran's Services. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

D. Perry motion to approve the Employment Contract with the Director of Veteran's Services, John D. "Jake" Kramer, Effective: 9/20/21 to 6/30/24. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

M. Deignan spoke to how our Veterans were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, especially in regards to medical care, mental health, and in some cases increased food insecurity. Bringing on Jake full time, he can address these needs.

Action Item (5): Vote to Accept Resignation from Anthony Arrigo from Historical Commission

The Town Clerk's Office received a letter of resignation from Mr. Anthony Arrigo from the Historical Commission. Due to a very busy family life and full-time job and many other commitments, he had to cut back on some responsibilities. His current appointment schedule would expire 6/30/22.

J. Muri motion to accept the resignation of Anthony Arrigo from the Historical Commission, effective immediately. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve Re-Appointments for Chief of Police, SMHG Representative and Alternate, Agricultural Commission, and Chapter 32B Insurance Advisory Committee and New Appointments for Chapter 32B Insurance Advisory Committee

Following are additional appointments and reappointments for various positions/committees.

*Due to COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency all 2020 reappointments were considered to be "hold-over" appointments until the State of Emergency was lifted. As such, the following appointed "terms" are being bridged by setting the effective dates with the beginning of the "holdover" appointed terms. This will adjust the appointment records accordingly and eliminate any "break" in service. (This vote effectively ratifies the holdover period)

Reappointments:

J. Muri motion to reappoint the following **individuals, to the following positions, effective dates as listed**, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and their consequent "holdover" status for all of fiscal year 2021:

Chief of Police, James Trombetta, (three-year term) 7/1/2021-6/30/2024*

Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

SMHG Representative, Lisa Dias-Cabral, 7/1/2021-6/30/2022*

Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

SMHG Alternate, Deborah Arruda, 7/1/2021-6/30/2022*

Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Chapter 32B Insurance Advisory Committee, (two-year terms)

Kathleen Amaral, effective 7/1/2020-6/30/2022*

Shayna Bennett, effective 7/1/2020-6/30/2022*

Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Agricultural Commission, (three-year terms)

Robert Peasley, 7/1/2020-6/30/2023*

Joan Ayotte, 7/1/2021-6/30/2024*

Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Agricultural Commission, (three-year terms)

Patricia Vadnais, 7/1/2020-6/30/2023*

Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0. Selectman Vadnais abstained.

New Appointments:

J. Muri motion to appoint the following to the Chapter 32B Insurance Advisory Committee:

Deborah Arruda, effective 9/20/2021-6/30/2023

Lisa Dias-Cabral, effective 9/20/2021-6/30/2023

Second by D. Perry. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (7): Vote to Approve Copier Lease for the Highway Dept.

Selectman Solas updated the Board on the lease that he and Derek Rousseau have been working on for the Highway Department copier. Highway was having issues with their current printer/scanner.

G. Solas motion to approve the Copier Lease with Canon for 5 years at \$80 per month for the Highway Department. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (8): Vote to Approve Contract with the Public Health Nurse

Selectman Deignan updated the Board on updated action for contract for Public Health Nurse, an expansion of our Town Nurse position. This new position will help those disproportionately affected by the pandemic, namely senior citizen and their mental health. There will be posted hours for office time to work with our senior citizens.

M. Deignan motion to approve the employment contract with the Public Health Nurse. Effective 9/20/2021-6/30/2024. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Richard Panofsky, chairman of the Personnel Board was present to hear the job description as his committee reviewed bit. He also hoped to get the word out that his committee is looking for new members.

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: no report

Deignan:

Updated BOS on COVID needs at 340 Anawan Street. New time frame from State requires that we have everything in place by the end of October for the CARES Act funds. So that we don't lose this funding. Asking that they vote tonight. Chairman will allow emergency vote.

M. Deignan motion to authorize the Director of Finance to initiate the reopening and virus mitigation projects at 340 Anawan Street. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Perry: no report

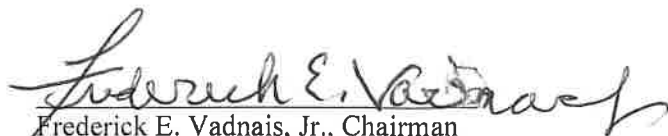
Muri: New volunteer to assist SHINE Coordinator. Please add her appointment to agenda for next week.

Solas:

1. Carol Kingman donated a piano to the COA for our new building.
2. IT committee would like to come and speak to BOS on social media status.

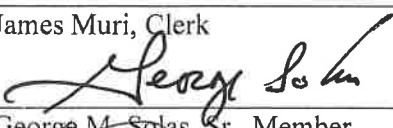
ADJOURNMENT: Selectman D. Perry motion to adjourn the regular session. At 8:00PM. Second by M. Deignan.

Roll call vote. Vadnais – aye, Perry – aye, Muri-aye, Solas – aye, Deignan – aye. (5-0)


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

Approved: 3/7/2022