

Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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Rehoboth, MA 02769



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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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., Selectman Michael P. Deignan, Selectman Robert Johnson II and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

**Call to Order at 7:00 PM:** The meeting opened with the Board and the public participating in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Consent Agenda**

**Warrant:**

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of October 16, 2023: 24-16B Payroll \$150,595.11; 24-15A Withholdings \$39,961.98; 24-15 Warrant \$28,645.93. 24-15R Refund Warrant \$183.20; 24-15R1 Refund Warrant \$2,263.22. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

**Minutes:** None.

**Announcements:**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on **Monday, October 23, 2023, 7:00 PM** at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Rehoboth Police Department will be accepting new, unwrapped toy donations until December 18, 2023. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Let's help them fill a cruiser!

The Board is still accepting names for the Museum Building. Please send your ideas to the Board of Selectmen's Office by October 24th.

I will be meeting with the Town Moderator and Town Clerk, within the next 2 weeks, to review the STM Warrant.

**Action Item (1): Discussion with Superintendent Runey Regarding FY24 Assessment Updates, with possible action**

The Chair invited Sue Pimental and Superintendent Runey to join and discuss the FY24 assessment.

Sue Pimental explained that after meeting with the Board, about a month ago, she contacted town counsel regarding the assessment voted on at Annual Town Meeting, which was different from what the school committee had voted on - The town's counsel and the school's counsel came up with a remedy for a new assessment; assessment will not be found on the Warrant.

Superintendent Runey-

1. Expressed apologies to the Board for clerical mistakes that led to this situation, and created more work for Sue and the Board. The Superintendent stated this is not the standard expected of the staff.
2. Would like to resume monthly meetings with Sue Pimental that were very productive the previous year.
3. In response to Selectman Solas' question about his business/financial office transition process, discussed working with TMA (out of Western MA), who was able to assign 2 retired business administrators for 2 days per week and available remotely on other days, allowing him to regain footing as far as the business office is concerned.
4. Mr. Runey took the opportunity to express how he and the students want to give back to the Town, and let the BOS know how he, his assistant and the students are involved in, i.e. the high school and Beckwith students took part in helping with the COA breakfasts. Currently working with Ralph Arguin on a future collaborative.

Chairman Vadnais explained that the BOS and Superintendent (and his staff) have been working together to develop a relationship and get a better understanding of each other's positions and concerns and challenges both face in meeting the Town's needs as it relates to educational obligations and, great strides and financial understanding have been made. The Board looks forward to continuing the conversations.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Action Item (2): Discussion Regarding Fair Committee, with possible action**

R. Johnson explained the need for an ad hoc committee for the "fair" to be able to move forward and voted on. There are 8 residents who have filled out talent bank forms and are interested in forming the committee. Selectmen Johnson suggests at least 5 in order to have a quorum but thinks the committee should consist of 5 members and having 3 additional "helpers"

R. Johnson- motion to approve the Fair Committee as an official ad hoc committee for the Town of Rehoboth, consisting of 5 members, effective 10/23/2023 to 6/30/2024. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

##### **Action Item (3): Vote to Approve Rehoboth Antiquarian Society-Library Services 2nd Disbursement Payment of \$76,020.00**

G. Solas- motion to approve the 2nd disbursement of \$76,020 for the Blanding Library Services, per the agreement between the TOR and the Rehoboth Antiquarian Society and to authorize the Treasurer to process the payment. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

#### **Selectmen's Reports:**

Johnson: None.

Deignan: The Chair of IT Committee has asked that Cybersecurity Awareness messaging be read and if anyone needs more information to visit [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org) or by reaching out to the IT Advisory Committee.

Solas: Attended the Bristol-Plymouth ground breaking ceremony over the weekend. There are 7 Towns and only 3 selectmen attended- 2 from Dighton and Rehoboth.

Selectman Solas read the amounts each city/town pays for students to attend Bristol-Plymouth and explained how Rehoboth pays its \$9M portion. The amount paid is based on the number of attending students.

Mills: Still having problems with traffic signs; road signs being vandalized and taken down. The signs are being cut down and thrown on the side of the roads. Please be aware. If you see anything please report to the police, immediately. Please advise your family, neighbors, friends of this situation. Please stay safe!


Vadnais: Confirmed that all Members have received a preliminary of the Town Administrator's contract. If anyone has any editorial comments or changes, etc. see the Chair after the meeting; next week this will be an agenda item.

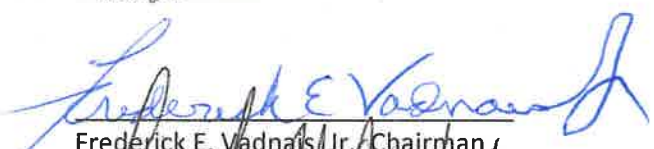
**Other Business:**

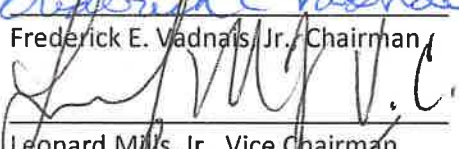
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Selectman G. Solas- motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:43 PM. Second by Selectman M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Odete Lacourse


  
Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

  
Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman

  
George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk

Absent

Michael P. Deignan, Member

  
Robert Johnson II, Member

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Approve: 10/30/2023**