



Office of
SELECTMEN
340 Anawan Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769

Tel.: (508) 252-3758
Fax: (508) 252-5342

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 7:10pm.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for October 3, 2022:

G. Solas motion to approve the Warrant for the week of October 3, 2022: 23-14B Payroll \$129,814.67; 23-13A Withholdings \$46,446.07; 23-13 Warrant \$109,860.17. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 8/8/22 and 8/22/22

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2022. Second by L. Mills.
Vote 5-0.

G. Solas motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for August 22, 2022. Second by L. Mills.
Vote 5-0.

Announcements:

The next BOS meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 7pm at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building.

Town offices will be closed on Monday, October 10th in observance of the Columbus \ Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

We had a very nice visit last Thursday outside of Town Hall with Albretina Maria Costa Oliveira from the municipal office in Lagoa. She was visiting with the different towns that are part of the "Sister" cities with Lagoa, here in the US. Our Ambassador to Lagoa, Manny Botelho was present with his wife, along with 4 of our selectboard members, myself and Marisa. We even had a surprise visit from Deputy Chief Ramos. She is hoping to see some of the Board members next year in Lagoa.

Tomorrow at Francis Farm we have 2 walkthroughs scheduled one at 10AM and the other at 11AM. These projects that have gone out for bid are for the enclosing of the pavilion and constructing a vestibule at the

Museum Building with possible ADA compliant restrooms. Also, installing a room divider inside the Museum. Those bid openings will occur on October 25th at the Arcade Building.

Last week I received another request to have a location in Rehoboth filmed. This time it is the History Channel. Sometime in December or January a group of people will be working on a history story that will include the Anawan Rock. As the time approaches, they will confirm dates with me. I have already advised the police and fire department of this visit.

On Thursday, October 6th from 11am-1pm Representatives from Congressman Auchincloss' 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.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:

Geri Hamel, Town Nurse, gave a Town health update:

1. Monday's Wellness Clinic went well.
2. Working with residents to do home visits and assist people who are unable to leave the house.
3. A Flu Clinic will be held Tuesday 10/11/22 at Anawan Pharmacy from 9am-12pm.
4. COVID-19 numbers are beginning to rise. Masks are recommended to keep immune compromised loved ones safe.
5. The Police Department will be doing a "Drug Take Back" to dispose of unused medications on 10/29/22 from 10am-2pm.
6. There will be a Health and Wellness Fair on 10/15/22 at Francis Farm from 9am-3pm.

Tish Vadnais stated her concern that the Conservation Commission is not forwarding information to the Water Commission/Agricultural Commission. S. Vadnais agreed that the Chairman of the Board of ConCom needs to share updates, and was told to do so. R. Johnson will take care of the situation and try to get updates monthly. L. Mills said at this time no written communication has come through from the department to ConCom. Information should not be sent until the information is accurate.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Vote to Approve New Hire-Police Dispatcher

Chief Trombetta was present, requesting the approval of the Board to hire Lindsey Strese as a full-time dispatcher in Rehoboth.

G. Solas motion to Approve the hiring of Lindsey Strese as a dispatcher for the Police Department, effective 10/13/22. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (2): Vote to Approve and Sign Green Energy Community 2022 Grant Application

As a follow-up to Carolyn Panofsky's presentation last week and to move forward with the 2022 Grant Projects for Green Energy Committee with Eversource, the Chairman needs to sign the Certification of Application to begin the process.

G. Solas motion to Approve the Chairman of the Board to sign the Certification of Application form for the Green Energy 2022 Grant projects. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (3): Vote to Approve the Senior Club's Request for Road Sign Placement for Bazaar

Steve Silva may be present for any questions the Board may have. The Rehoboth Senior Citizen's Club is holding their annual fall bazaar at Francis Hall on October 29th. They are asking for the Board's approval to place signs in town to advertise for the event. Placements will be as follows:

Corner of Moulton/Brook St

Winthrop St/RT. 44 (Townline in Seekonk; Townline Dighton and at Bay State Road)
Fairview and Tremont (in front of cemetery)
Anawan and Tremont (Corn Crib)
Transfer Station

G. Solas motion to approve the sign placements as mentioned for the Senior Citizens Club's annual bazaar on October 29th. Signs must be removed within 3 days after the event. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (4): Discussion RE: IT Department, with possible action

S. Vadnais and G. Solas brought the Board and Public up to date with the intention of what plans they are looking to do as an assessment. Need to go out and find a company that can come in and assess our current Town structure. The cost of this could approximately be \$10,000.

M. Deignan asked if the drafted document was written by G. Solas or others? G. Solas replied the draft was written by a combination of many thoughts and ideas put together from others.

M. Deignan asked for clarification that the IT Committee has not seen this document. G. Solas replied "no" he was unable to show the Committee before the meeting.

M. Deignan recommended the IT Committee review this information because they may have further ideas and thoughts. This could raise the ultimate price depending on what items they change.

S. Vadnais would like the IT Committee to look at the draft, but the Board needs to find out if there are funds available.

M. Deignan motion to have George Solas proceed with the process of putting together an RFP, and working with the IT Committee to finalize and send out the RFP. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (5): Discussion RE: Possible Creation of a Public Health & Human Services Board, with possible action

The Board of Community Health & Human Services would be established to help with future needs in the Town. The Voting Members would include: Two Medical Health personnel, the Chairman of the Board of Health, the Chairman of the Council on Aging, two at large members, and the Administrator of Human Services. The Non-Voting Members would include: the Council on Aging Director, the Public Health Nurse, the Board of Health Agent, and the Veterans Officer. There will be a workshop on 10/6/22 at 7pm with HHS Advisory Board, and Rachel Smith will attend for further discussion.

M. Deignan asked if the Board could get a better idea of each role for the HHS Board.

Richard Panofsky, Interim Director of Health and Human Services, stated the questions M. Deignan has are the same as his own questions. Only one side has met and discussed, so there needs to be a meeting with the next groups to get a better understanding on what is needed.

G. Solas said the thought for the Committee was to be able to help the Town residents fully and not just focus on one group. The Board needs to be better prepared.

Rachel Smith, Chair of the Board of Health, stated the Town is lucky to have Medical Health Professionals, but communication in the Town lacks.

S. Vadnais confirmed that an announcement was sent about Mr. Panofsky's new role. D. Arruda clarified the announcement was only sent to people that report to Mr. Panofsky. Mr. Panofsky will work with D. Arruda to get a more visible notification out.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve FEMA-4496-DR-MA March 27, 2020 Covid-19 Vaccine Project III Grant of \$65,780.01

Roberta received notification of approval from MEMA of the FEMA Vaccine Project III Grant for the amount of \$65,780.01. This amount represents 75% of the total cost that was submitted for project III to FEMA. The time period was 11/1/21 to 3/31/22. The costs incurred were unbudgeted staff members that worked at the clinic, equipment and/or supplies that were purchased, bottled water that were given to the patients that came to receive their vaccination, the lease of the space at Anawan Pharmacy and the cleaning of the space.

G. Solas motion to approve the FEMA-4496-DR-MA March 27, 2020 Covid-19 Vaccine Project III Grant for \$65,780.01 and to approve the Chairman of the Board to sign the necessary grant forms. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (7): Vote to Appoint Board of Health Member

The members of Board of Health are asking for the BOS' approval to appoint Gary Zimmer to the Board of Health.

D. Arruda will contact Tony Gaucher to advise him replacement has been approved. S. Vadnais thanked Mr. Zimmer for his service to the Town and stepping forward. R. Johnson thanked Steve Silva for applying as well.

R. Johnson motion to appoint Gary Zimmer as a member of the Board of Health, effective 10/3/2022 to 6/30/2025. Pending resignation of Tony Gaucher. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Action Item (8): Vote to Approve One Day Liquor License for Rehoboth People Have a Heart, 61 Reed Street

One Day Liquor License is being requested by the Rehoboth People Have a Heart for October 14th from 6pm to 10pm at 61 Reed Street, Rehoboth. R. Johnson gave background on "Rehoboth People Have a Heart." The group assists people by raising money for residents who need financial help. The group has already given \$30,000 to people in need.

G. Solas motion to approve a One Day Liquor License for Rehoboth People Have a Heart on October 14th from 6pm to 10pm at 61 Reed Street; firing range will be closed during sale of alcohol. Second by L. Mills. Vote 3-0. Selectman R. Johnson abstained from voting, and Selectman S. Vadnais left the room temporarily.

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: USDA/NRCS information will be in next weeks packets regarding soil farmland. There's no cost to the Town, but needs the Board's approval.

Deignan: no report

Solas:

1. Gave an update on the Senior Center luncheon. On 10/3/22, 67 residents came. On 10/4/22, pumpkin decorating and other activities will be happening.
2. On 10/9/22 and 5pm there will be a recognition of Doc Mello for his hard work with kids sports over 43 years.

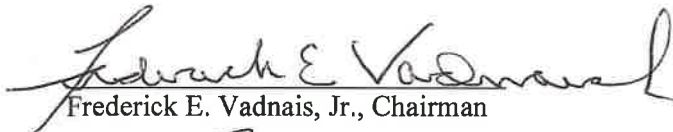
Johnson: no report

Mills:

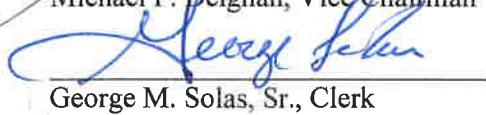
1. The generator from the Old COA location is being assessed for repair, if possible.
2. Town Hall paving in the front and painting lines have been completed. The parking lot is one-way traffic now.
3. Road paving and line stripping continue in Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

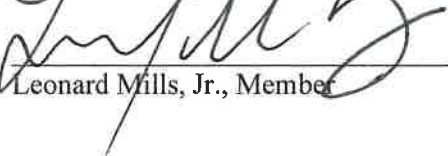
Selectman M. Deignan motion to adjourn the regular session. At 9:00pm. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.


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: 1/30/2023