

Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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Rehoboth, MA 02769



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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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 Robert Johnson II and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

**Absent:** Selectman Michael P. Deignan

At 6:35 PM the Board voted to enter into Executive Session *pursuant to MGL CHAPTER 30A, §21 (a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.*

**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.

Selectman George Solas began by talking about the unexpected passing of Bradley Marshall and said, he was our Outreach and Shine representative for the past 11 years, serving health insurance needs for our elders. Many seniors remember his dedication in providing them with help to better understand Medicare & Medicaid and health insurance questions, by providing one-on-one counseling and information. In 2015, he received the Public Servant Award from the Rehoboth Lions Club, MA State Senate & the MA House of Representative. He was a loyal and dedicated individual for our seniors.

Moment of silence observed in memory of Mr. Bradley Marshall.

**Consent Agenda**

**Warrant:**

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of November 6, 2023: 24-19B Payroll \$158,500.85; 24-18A Withholdings \$44,329.53; 24-18 Warrant \$638,146.42. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: 10/23/2023

On a motion made by Selectman G. Solas and seconded by Selectman L. Mills, the Regular Minutes for October 23, 2023 were approved. Vote 4-0.

Chairman Vadnais stated that in Executive Session, a type-o was corrected on the Police Chief's contract.

### **Announcements:**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, November 27, 2023, 7:00 PM at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building. If there is not enough for the Board to convene, Chairman Vadnais will sign the warrant and any documents, in absence of a meeting.

Jake Kramer, Veterans Agent - 57 Tremont Street- Saturday is Veterans Day and there'll be a ceremony at 11 o'clock at the intersection of Rt44 and Danforth, then conduct a smaller ceremony at Veterans Memorial and, then heading to the American Legion where dinner will be served; thank you to 'Rehoboth People Have a Heart' for the support and all they do; Rehoboth has only one WWII Veteran, according to the latest Town census, Mr. Everett Mann who is 97 years old and very active with COA. - And, on behalf of the Park Commission, December 3rd will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Tree lighting starting at 3:30p rain or shine. There will be food, activities and Mr. & Mrs. Santa.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, we will be holding Special Town Meeting in the Museum Building. Doors open at 6 PM.

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, in the Museum Building, there will be a Public Hearing regarding the Renewal of the Cable TV License through Comcast.

November 13<sup>th</sup> Senator Auchincloss will be attending the COA a "meet and greet" breakfast from 9-10 AM.

The Town Events Committee is looking for volunteers. Send talent bank forms to the Board of Selectmen's office.

There have been coyotes sighted at Francis Farm; please be aware and be careful walking on the grounds.

Town offices are closed on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran's Day.

Carol Willams celebrated "34 Years" with the Rehoboth Land Trust. An event was held on Sunday, 11/5 to celebrate her anniversary and Selectman Robert Johnson was also in attendance.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Action Item (1): 7:15pm Public Hearing-Classification of Land for Taxation**

**Present:** Members of the Board of Assessor Susan Taylor and Steve Green were present to discuss their recommendation for a classification tax rate for FY2024

**At 7:20 PM** on a motion made by Selectman L. Mills and seconded by Selectman G. Solas, the public hearing for the classification of land for taxation was opened. **Roll call:** Mills, aye; Vadnais, aye; Solas, aye; Johnson, aye. Vote 4-0.

Chairperson Susan Taylor reviewed the tax rate and stated that numbers are close to previous year:  
Residential 92.03% down from LY 92.45%  
Commercial 2.78%; down from LY 2.99%

Industrial .72%; up from LY.70%

Personal Property 4.47%; up from LY 3.86%

Assessors request a single rate - according to the state formula, the town is not eligible for a dual rate and must have a single rate.

The Chair, hearing no one from the public who wanting to speak on the subject, requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

On a motion made by Selectman G. Solas L. Mills and seconded by Selectman R. Johnson, the public hearing was closed. **Roll call:** Mills, aye; Vadnais, aye; Solas, aye; Johnson, aye. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas asked the Assessor what defines personal property and make the tax rate go up.

Susan Taylor explained there's a yearly procedure where a document is sent out and businesses list all equipment; the collected information is then entered into a property card then is tabulated based on state defined guidelines.

G. Solas- motion to approve the recommendation from the Board of Assessor's for a single tax rate for FY2024. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

Per Susan Taylor, once approved the information needs to be entered into the state program, which then the state will provide the town's tax rate.

G. Solas- motion to approve the Gateway LA-5 Submission as requested by the Assessor's Office. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (2): Discussion RE: Shared Services with the Public Health Nurse, with possible action**

Shared Services Grant Program presentation by Geri Hamel, Rehoboth Public Health Nurse- reporting on the shared grant with Rehoboth is a part of along with 10 other municipalities. The Municipal Public Health Shared Services Grant Program, now called, State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE), is hiring individuals to subsidize in communities that do not have enough public health personnel. Must reapply for the grant every 3 years.

Geri Hamel also reviewed current health promotions, including COVID & Flu vaccination schedules; health concerns, including current baby food recall.

G. Solas- motion to approve the agreement between the TOR and the Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance Inter-Municipal Agreement for Local Public Health Services, pending town counsel review. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (3) Vote on Chapter 61A- 138 Davis Street, Map 2 Lot 41 3.38 +/- acres**

The Selectmen's office received a request from Atty Luke Travis, on behalf of clients Steven and Tammy Noons, to remove from Chapter 61A, 138 Davis Street, Map 2, Lot 41, appx 3.38 acres. The appropriate Boards/Commissions, and all replied expressing no interest in purchasing this property. The Noons have a P & S for the property at a selling price of \$160,000.

G. Solas- motion not to exercise our right to purchase 138 Davis Street, Map 2, Lot 41 consisting of approximately 3.38 acres. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (4) Vote to Approve Chapter 90 Project for Crack Sealing-Pine St, Farm Rd, Holly Lane, Adams Cir, Fuller St and Clouds Way**

Request by the Highway Department for the Board's approval on state aid for crack sealing project, for Pine Street, Farm Road, Holly Lane, Adams Circle, Fuller Street and Clouds Way.

L. Mills- motion to approve the Chapter 90 Crack Sealing project, as submitted by the Highway Dept. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (5) Vote to Approve Request for Street Acceptance for Blue Heron Drive at Blue Heron Estates from Landmark Site Design**

Request from Landmark Site Design, on behalf of William Provost, to begin a Street Acceptance process for Blue Heron Drive, at the Blue Heron Estates.

R. Johnson- motion to begin the process to lay out the way for Blue Heron Drive and solicit a written report from the Planning Board and engineers with the Meets & Bounds description and any plans necessary for this process. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

**Discussion:**

Selectman Mills made mention mitigating issues on this subdivision which he has been working on with the developer and the engineer on the project and the town planner. With the Chairs approval a conversation has been had with Town counsel, a letter has been drafted outlining what needs to be done and it's in the process of being done. Issues are being worked on and there will be a resolution coming.

Chairman Vadnais clarified that the issues will be resolved before the process of approving the streets is approved. This is asking for engineering, etc. and is only the beginning process.

**Action Item (6) Vote to Approve New Hire Maureen Furey as a Videographer for the Media Dept**

G. Solas- motion to approve Maureen Furey as a Videographer for the Media Dept, reporting to Ciara Kilkenny. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (7) Vote to Approve COA Volunteer Louise Cabral**

G. Solas- motion to approve Louise Cabral as a volunteer for the COA. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Selectmen's Reports:**

Johnson: Attended the Events Committee meeting, prior to BOS meeting, and the group met with Camp Ramsbottom staff. The Camp is opening their facility for events.

Also, the gun club has offered to help the Events Committee with future clambakes.

Mills: To all residents, take a look at Anawan Street and the Police Station, where there is a new Police Department sign, better lighting making the Police/Fire/Town Hall more visible. In addition to all the paid town employees, there are a lot of volunteers who step up to get things done.

Request for more people to come forward and volunteer, because there is an infrastructure of volunteers that make things work! Thank you to the many departments and employees & volunteers that make the town work.

Solas: An update on the fiber optics at Rt. 44 and 118. The reason for the different street lights at the intersection is because the power from pole to lights have been disconnected to be moved. Once lines are moved and reconnected to the new poles, then workers can start making the roundabout circle.

Deignan: Absent.

Vadnais: None.

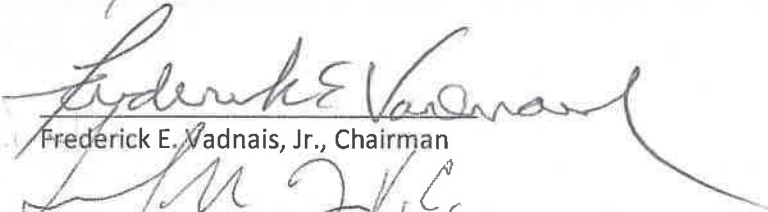
**Other Business:**

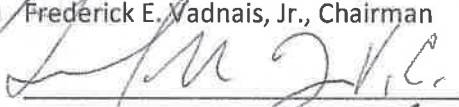
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Selectman L. Mills- motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:56 PM. Second by Selectman G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

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: 12/04/2023**