

Office of
SELECTMEN
340 Anawan Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769



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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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

Call to Order at 7:12 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 December 11, 2023: 24-24B Payroll \$188,859.96; 24-23A Withholdings \$59,260.86; 24-23 Warrant \$146,357.12. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Minutes: On a motion made by Selectman G. Solas, seconded by Selectman R. Johnson, the Regular Minutes for November 27, 2023 were approved. Vote 4-0.

Announcements:

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2023, 7:00 PM at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Reminder: this is the last week for the Toy Drive at the Rehoboth Police Department - boxes have been placed at Town Hall and the Senior Center for your convenience. The toys will be delivered to the "Tomorrow Fund Clinic" at Hasbro Children's Hospital next week.

Reminder: to all that haven't already, to please send in license renewal paperwork to the BOS office as soon as possible, for the 2024 license renewal.

The BOS will not be meeting the weeks of December 25th or January 1st, unless there is an emergency that needs their attention.

Notice received from the Interim Director of the Human & Health Services that GATRA is offering free rides from the end of November through the end of December.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Funding from AGNRPC to Off Set Fees for 165 Fairview and 44 Bliss Street-CPC Purchase at Town Meeting, with possible action

Rachel Smith, Chair of the AGNRPC, spoke to the Board regarding the process needed to assist the Community Preservation Committee with the expenses related to the purchase of 165 Fairview Avenue and 44 Bliss Street properties. Amount was approved, does not need Town Meeting approval, but the BOS approval is needed.

G. Solas- motion to vote authorize Rehoboth's Agricultural Natural Resource Preservation Council to assist CPC with expenses on the purchases of 165 Fairview and 44 Bliss Street, for a total of \$17,750.00. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (2): Vote to Approve 3-Year Contract with Vertical-(Town Phone Vendor) for \$16, 377.36 and One Time Fee of \$1650

G. Solas- motion to approve a three-year contract renewal with Vertical and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the digital contract when forwarded. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Solas gave some background information, stating that Vertical is the vendor that the Town uses for the office phones and remote hook up to our cell phones. The contract was reviewed and 'Auto Renewal' language was removed. The 3-year contract is a total of \$16,377.36 and a one-time fee of \$1,650.00 for basic support for the phones. The Chair added that it is \$1,364.78 per month.

Action Item (3): Vote to Closeout Chapter 90 Projects: 24-02 Line Painting, 24-01 Re-Surfacing, and 23-01 Road Barriers

L. Mills- motion to authorize the Chair to sign the final Chapter 90 documents for the completed work on the line painting, re-surfacing and road barriers. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve COA Volunteer Madeline Rossi

The COA is requesting the Board's approval for Madeline Rossi to volunteer during her time off from college. A successful CORI has been received.

G. Solas- motion to approve Madeline Rossi, as a volunteer at the COA Center. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (5): Vote to Approve Gate Repair Quote from Citiworks for \$23,066.00

L. Mills- motion to approve Citiworks as the vendor to work on replacing/repairing the gate at the police department and authorizing Deputy Chief Ramos to sign the quote of \$23,066.00. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

The Chair noted for the record that Citiworks is the lowest bidder.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve 2024 Auto Renewals for: Family Auto 513 Winthrop St; Fournier Auto and Truck Sales, LLC 496 Winthrop St; Bay State Truck and Trailer, Inc 527 Winthrop St; Big Al's Used Cars 329 Tremont St; Armando Pacheco dba AP Auto Sales 29 Fall River Avenue; 257 Anawan, LLC dba Anawan Auto 257 Anawan St; CMI 157 Tremont St; Reeds Junkyard, Inc. 199 Plain St; First Stop Auto Sales, LLC 509 Winthrop St; Rehoboth Auto Center, Inc. 71 Winthrop St; B&B Equipment Sales, Inc. 75 Providence St; GDA Enterprises, Inc. dba Seekonk Auto 244 Providence St; Gagnon's Garage Inc. 119 Winthrop St; Jerry's Auto Salvage 49R Summer St

G. Solas- motion to approve the 2024 Auto Renewal Licenses for the following business, effective 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024:

Class I- Bay State Truck and Trailer, Inc. at 527 Winthrop Street; CMI at 157 Tremont Street. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Class II- Family Auto 513 Winthrop Street; Fournier Auto and Truck Sales, LLC 496 Winthrop Street; Big Al's Used Cars 329 Tremont Street; Armando Pacheco d/b/a AP Auto Sales 29 Fall River Avenue; 257 Anawan, LLC d/b/a Anawan Auto 257 Anawan Street; First Stop Auto Sales, LLC 509 Winthrop Street; Rehoboth Auto Center, Inc. 71 Winthrop Street; B&B Equipment Sales, Inc. 75 Providence Street; GDA Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Seekonk Auto 244 Providence Street; Gagnon's Garage Inc. 119 Winthrop Street. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Class III- Reeds Junkyard, Inc. 199 Plain Street; Jerry's Auto Salvage 49R Summer Street; Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Selectmen's Reports:

Johnson: None.

Solas: Spoke about the Park Commission's tree lighting ceremony that was held over the weekend. Police and Fire Dept escorted Santa in style, Propane Plus brought the Grinch, Bill Higby gave the young & old hayrides; Shiny Grill served cheeseburgers and it was a wonderful evening. Local businesses came out to support the event. Special thanks to Kathy Amaral, Jake Kramer and Lissa Solas.

Mills: A mention, that Odete who works in the office of the Administrator and was the one who spearheaded the idea of getting the wreaths up at Town Hall & would like to give her a public recognition for doing that.

Putting out a thanks to Deb Arruda and her department. Rob & I watch over Planning Board, Zoning, Conversation Board, we're liaisons to the Forestry, Highway & the Building Dept and with the loss of a very valuable employee, Stacy Vilao, Debbie is working very hard within the confines of the Union to carry those departments through and taking the lead on trying to find a replacement- It's a lot of work and a lot of responsibility- thank you for taking the lead!

Deignan: Absent.

Vadnais: Spoke to the BOS regarding some upcoming budgetary challenges and the need to pay closer attention to, not just expenditures, but income flow as well. In order to accomplish all this in a timely manner, the Chair requests that the Town Administrator secure, from the accountant, a timeline on budgets for review (with the Boards permission) to determine if it provides adequate time for substantial

planning; The Chair asked the Board Members for permission and for the authority to undertake process, while working closely with Chief Financial Officer and Compliance Officer, as to Bristol County Financial requirements of the Town and then report back to the Board. Accountant's timeline is needed sooner, rather than later.

In response, D. Arruda explained that the Town Accountant is currently working on Schedule A which is due the beginning of January, as well as starting to work on departmental budgets – due to accounting system issues and a process which was not user-friendly, the accountant is having to recreate a spreadsheet for a more user-friendly way than the way it was done last year.

The Chair requests the accountant's timeline in writing, in the packet for Monday's meeting, to start the budgetary review process. The budgetary process starts with the accountant, then all department heads will be asked for information and will be held accountable. There's a need to formalize a process which has been a semi-formal process, in the past.

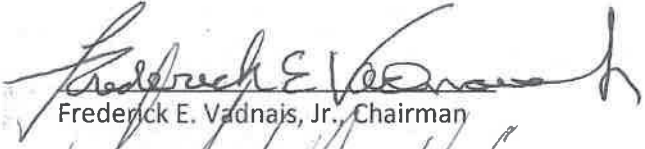
Other Business:

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman R. Johnson motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:32 PM. Second by Selectman L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


Odetta Lacourse

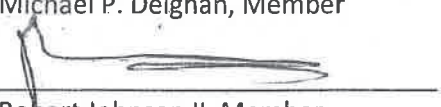

Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman


George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk

Absent

Michael P. Deignan, Member


Robert Johnson II, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Approve: 1/8/2024