

Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024
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 7:05 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 Warrant for the week of February 5, 2024: 24-32B Payroll \$139,687.50; 24-31A Withholdings \$34,091.06; 24-31 Warrant \$143,684.87. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Minutes: Regular Minutes: 1/22/2024

G. Solas- motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Announcements:

Our next scheduled meeting will be on **Monday, February 12, 2024, 7:00 PM**, at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FY25 Budgets are due to the accounting department, by 2/9/24.

Green Energy Grant project for Fall 2022 (weatherizing and heat pumps for the Fire Stations) has been completed and submitted to the State! All invoices have been paid. Once all has been approved and inspections are completed, the Town will be reimbursed for its portion of the expenses. Thank you to Carolyn Panofsky and Mike Viveiros and his crew, for all their help. This now gives the Town an opportunity to submit to the Spring 2024 Grant program, and the Town will be able to add additional locations for the opportunity for more savings.

Our office continues to work with Town Counsel and CPC to finalize paperwork and create Purchase & Sales agreements for property that was approved at Town Meeting.

And, we continue to work on the requirements necessary for the 2024 Contract Renewal for Comcast. Selectman Solas, Sue Pimental, our Attorney, and myself (Deb Arruda) will be meeting with a representative from Comcast, on 2/6th, to review progress and future ideas for the Media channels in Rehoboth.

Lastly, asking the Board, as an agenda item, to open Town Meeting Warrant Articles at the next meeting on February 12th, with a closing date of March 1st.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1): Vote to Approve Promotion of Craig Warish to Sergeant

Selectman Mills invited Chief DiBacco, along with Patrolman Craig Warish and Chief Trombetta to come forth. Also, Chief Warish was welcomed with a round of applause.

Acting Chief DiBacco announced that with a vacancy in the Sergeant's position- the next in line is Patrolman Craig Warish, who's been with the department for 17 years; is head of the fleet; is an officer who makes good sound decisions. Acting Chief DiBacco asked that the Board approve the promotion of Patrolman Craig Warish to Sergeant.

L. Mills- motion to approve the promotion appointment of Craig Warish to Sergeant, effective 2/5/2024 and the end term is indefinite. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Former Chief Warish (Sgt Craig Warish's father) pinned the new Sergeant.

Former Chief Trombetta congratulated Craig and stated that they've worked together for 17-18 years; the Sergeant has always been a team player; handles the majority of cruiser maintenance; always been committed to the Police Department as Patrolman and is certain to continue doing so as a Sergeant.

Chairman Vadnais declared a 5-minute recess.

At approximately 7:19 PM, the Chair reconvened the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Action Item (2): Ratify Approval of One Day Liquor License for So. Seekonk Gun Club-Dan Noons-61 Reed Street

G. Solas- motion to ratify the approval of a One Day Liquor License (Malt only) for Dan Noons for South Seekonk Gun Club at 61 Reed Street, for the hours of 6pm to 9pm. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (3): Vote to Approve One Day Liquor Licenses for: So. Seekonk Gun Club-Dan Noons-61 Reed Street; Rehoboth Republican Town Committee-61 Reed Street; Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity-43 Broad Street

G. Solas- motion to approve a One Day Liquor License (Malt Only) for Dan Noons for the South Seekonk Gun Club at 61 Reed Street, from 6pm to 9pm for the following dates: March 1st, 2024; March 2nd, 2024; April 5th, 2024; May 3rd, 2024; June 7th, 2024. Firing Range must remain closed during these events. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to approve a One Day Liquor License (Malt Only) for the Rehoboth Republican Town Committee for March 9th, 2024 from 6pm to 11pm to be held at 61 Reed Street. Firing Range must remain closed during this event. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0. Selectman Johnson abstained.

G. Solas- motion to approve a One Day Liquor License (All Alcohol) for the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity, 43 Broad Street for the following dates and times: March 17th, 2024 from 1pm to 7pm; March 23rd, 2024; April 20th, 2024; May 25th, 2024; September 21st, 2024 from 6pm to midnight; October 6th, 2024 from 1pm to 7pm; October 26th, 2024; November 23rd, 2024 from 6pm to midnight. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to approve a One Day Liquor License (Wine & Malt only) for the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity-Holy Ghost Feast in August, 43 Broad Street for the following dates and times: August 16th and 17th from 6pm to midnight and August 18th, 2024 from 12pm to 11pm. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve Purchase and Sales Agreement Between TOR and Mary T. Seccareccia Trustee of the Mary T. Seccareccia Living Trust- 44 Bliss Street for \$125,000

The Vice Chair of CPC, Artie Pierce, along with the Town Administrator Deb Arruda and Town Counsel, have been working jointly to finalize the paperwork necessary for the closing of 44 Bliss Street property, which was approved at the May Town Meeting. The closing date is scheduled for March 27, 2024.

Selectman Mills stepped away from the table and recused himself from the vote due to conflict of interest.

G. Solas- motion to approve and sign the Purchase and Sales Agreement between Town of Rehoboth and Mary T. Seccareccia, Trustee of the Mary T. Seccareccia Living Trust, 44 Bliss Street for \$125,000.00. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 3-0.

Selectman Mills rejoined the Board.

Action Item (5): Vote to Approve 3-Year Agreement with Sanborn Map Company, Inc (MapGeo) for \$37,890.00

G. Solas- motion to approve 3-Year Agreement with Sanborn Map Company, Inc (MapGeo) for \$37,890.00. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Solas explained the purpose of MapGeo and how it allows anyone to go to the Town website to look at all plots in Rehoboth.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve Agreement with Vision Government (PDF of Property Cards) for \$450

G. Solas- motion to approve Agreement with Vision Government for \$450 to process pdf files of our property cards. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Selectman Solas briefly explained that this is for the ease of reading property card information.

Action Item (7): Vote to Sign MasseVIP Application and Authorization Form for Green Energy Project

G. Solas- motion to sign the MassEVIP Application and Authorization Form, for Green Energy Grant Project, for possible future implementation of charging stations. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Chair Vadnais clarified that this not for specific projects, but a master or mechanism which establishes who will be responsible for the signing of future projects.

Action Item (8): Vote to Appoint Lynne Guimond and Marie Massoud to the Cultural Council

G. Solas- motion to appoint Lynne Guimond and Marie Massoud to the Cultural Council, effective 2/5/2024 to 2/5/2027. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (9): Vote to Appoint Acting Chief DiBacco to the Local Emergency Planning Board

G. Solas- motion to appoint Acting Chief DiBacco to the Local Emergency Planning Board, effective 2/5/2024 to 6/30/2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (10): Vote to Appoint Dawn Houlker-Azar to the Hornbine School Association Committee

G. Solas- motion to appoint Dawn Houlker-Azar, to the Hornbine School Association Committee, effective 2/5/2024 to 6/30/2027. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (11): Vote to Approve COA Volunteers Catherine Edington and Elaine Leite

G. Solas- motion to approve COA volunteers Catherine Edington and Elaine Leite. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais: Involved with the Ambulance Committee (along with Rob) for negotiations of contracts and, also, handling Police Union contracts. As things come up, I assign them to other selectmen, give them what needs to be done, but do not tell the members how to get it done. I am the oversight person; I monitor and coordinate projects. "I keep it running smoothly and make adjustments when necessary."

Johnson: None.

Solas: A reminder to the public that 31% of the Town's population are seniors. The COA programs continue to grow: January there were 18 new seniors signed up; February (in the last 5 days) there were 8 new members. Volunteers are needed to make the programs successful, especially in the recreations area (outdoor events), need help with administrative tasks and also, Meals on Wheels. Any Senior needing a ride to the COA, please call Linna Sherman to make arrangements. "It will not cost you a dime, to be with your peers, to eat and to have fun!"

Mills: None.

Deignan: Absent.

Other Business:

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman R. Johnson motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:37 PM. Second by Selectman G. Solas.
Vote 4-0.

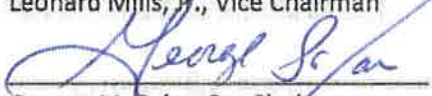
Respectfully Submitted,


Odete Lacourse

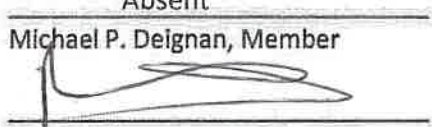

Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

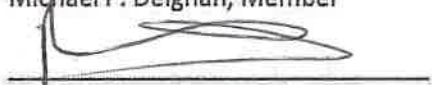
Absent


Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman


George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk

Absent


Michael P. Deignan, Member


Robert Johnson II, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Approved: 2/26/2024