

Office of  
SELECTMEN  
340 Anawan Street  
Rehoboth, MA 02769



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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRANCIS FARM- FRANCIS HALL  
27 FRANCIS FARM ROAD**

**Present:** Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectmen Michael Deignan, Selectman George Solas, Selectman Leonard Mills Jr. and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda.

**Absent:** Selectman Robert Johnson II

***At 6:15 PM the Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.***

**Call to Order at 7:25 PM:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrant for March 13 and 20 2023:**

G. Solas- motion to ratify the Warrant for the week of March 13, 2023: 23-37B Payroll \$132,993.27; 23-36A Withholdings \$49,806.90; 23-36 Warrant \$105,066.60. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of March 20, 2023: 23-38B Payroll \$126,320.71; 23-37A Withholdings \$36,220.14; 23-37 Warrant \$70,558.13. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Minutes:** Executive Minutes for 2/21/2023, 2/27/23, 3/6/23; 1/3/22, 1/13/22, 1/24/22, 1/31/22, 2/7/22, 2/14/22, 2/22/22, 2/28/22, 3/8/22, 3/14/22, 3/21/22, 3/28/22, 4/11/22, 5/2/22, 5/23/22, 6/13/22, 6/21/22, 7/11/22, 7/14/22, 8/8/22, 9/12/22, 9/26/22, and 10/17/22. Approved and Held in Executive Session.

Regular Minutes: G. Solas motioned to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2023 and March 6, 2023. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Announcements:**

The next BOS meeting will be held on **Monday, March 27, 2023**, 7:00 PM at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building.

Sue Pimental spoke about the Ballot Debt Exclusion and explained what the vote is for. The project is moving forward; the vote is to absorb the debt for the next 30 years in our taxes or, if it doesn't pass, the town will have to cut services.

M. Deignan also explained the situation and stated he has put an article in the Rehoboth Reporter and Rehoboth Talk Facebook page, to help the residents better understand their vote.

Officer Aguiar, with K9 Edo, celebrating Edo's 3rd anniversary with the Town, spoke about the work that both he and Edo have done in town and throughout the state. It's a great honor to be assisting with the Boston Marathon! Thank you to all for your support within the BOS and town residents.

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

Position of Office Administrator for the Health & Human Services Dept has been posted and we are accepting applications.

**At 7:45 PM** M. Deignan motioned to recess for 10 minutes to resume at 7:55 PM. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0. The microphones were not working properly.

**At 7:54 PM** Reconvened meeting. No business was discussed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Action Item (1) Vote to Approve Road Way Acceptances for Veader Estates-Veader Farm Road & Francelina Way and Preserve II-Layla's Way**

The Planning Board has submitted their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen to accept Francelina Way and Veader Farm Road which are part of Veader Estates, and Layla's Way, part of Preserve II. Fire Department, Police Department and Highway Department approvals have been received.

G. Solas- motion to approve the roadway layout for Veader Farm Road and Francelina Way at Veader Estates subdivision as recommended by the Planning Board, Fire Department, Highway Department and Fuss & O'Neil Engineers, and to place the roadway acceptance on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Warrant for final approval. Second by L. Mills. Vote 5-0

L. Mills- to approve the roadway layout for Layla's Way at Preserve II subdivision as recommended by the Planning Board, Fire Department, Highway Department and Fuss & O'Neil Engineers, and to place the roadway acceptance on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Warrant for final approval. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

##### **Action Item (2): 7:30 PM Public Hearing Notice for Cumberland Farm 389 Anawan St- Change of Officers/Director**

Cumberland Farms has submitted to our office an application to change the current officers/directors on their current liquor license.

**At 7:35** G. Solas- motion to open public hearing for Cumberland farms. Second by L. Mills. Roll call: Deignan, aye; Vadnais, aye; Solas, aye. Vote 4-0

The Board heard from no member of the public.

G. Solas- motion to close the public hearing. Second by L. Mills. **Roll call:** Deignan, aye; Vadnais, aye; Solas, aye; Mills, aye. Vote 4-0

G. Solas- motion to approve, as submitted by the Law office of Upton Connell & Devlin, LLP, the application for Cumberland Farms Store # 2314 changes of officers/directors. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 5-0.

**Action Item (3): Vote to Approve Recommendation for Promotion of Aaron Sousa to Equipment Operator in the Highway Dept**

Kevin Chace is recommending Aaron Sousa as the new Equipment Operator for the Highway Dept.

L. Mills- motion to approve the promotion of Aaron Souza as the Equipment Operator in the Highway Dept, per the recommendation of Kevin Chase-Supervisor. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

Per Kevin Chace, Aaron has been with the Town for six months, is a great worker and the perfect choice for the job.

**Action Item (4): Vote to Approve New Hires Jesse Souza and James Souza as Truck Driver/Laborers in the Highway Dept**

L. Mills- motion to approve the hiring of Jesse Souza and James Souza as Truck Driver/Laborer in the Highway Dept. Start date is pending successful results on a CORI check and DOT physical. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

Per Kevin Chace, it was not easy going through all the qualified candidates, but he knows these two candidates will be a great fit for the department. Both candidates have many years of experience with snow plowing.

**Action Item (5): Vote to Amend Common Vic License for IRN Foodies, LLC d/b/a Rehoboth House of Pizza 503 Winthrop Street-Correction on Managers Name: add Jhageiry Garcia**

At our last meeting on 3/6 the BOS approved an amended Common Vic License for Rehoboth House of Pizza due to managerial changes. However, the amended license did not include the second manager, which is on the Business Certificate.

G. Solas- motion to amend the Common Vic License for IRN Foodies, LLC dba Rehoboth House of Pizza-503 Winthrop Street to include Jhageiry Garcia as manager. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0

**Action Item (6): Vote to Approve One Day Liquor License for Deborah Jarvais for Riverside Sportsman Club- to be held at South Seekonk Gun Club-61 Reed Street**

Request from Deborah Jarvais from the Riverside Sportsman Club for a One Day Liquor License. The event to be held on 4/8/2023 at the So. Seekonk Gun Club, 61 Reed Street Rehoboth 3pm to 8 pm.

G. Solas- motion to approve the One Day Liquor License for Deborah Jarvais-Riverside Sportsman Club, to be held at the So. Seekonk Gun Club on 4/8/23 from 3 to 8pm. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (7): Vote to Approve 2 Instructors for the COA-Linda Pellegrini and Rachel Jacobs**

The COA is asking for the approval of two new instructors to run yoga classes and wellness classes. CORI's have been done and approved for both candidates.

G. Solas- motion to approve Linda Pellegrini and Rachel Jacobs as instructors for the COA. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

The Chair requested that G. Solas speak with the nurse to confirm that the COA director has spoken with her regarding these new appointees.

**Action Item (8): Vote to Approve and Sign the April 4, 2023 Annual Town Election Warrant**

Town Clerk Laura Schwall is asking for the Board's approval of the April 4, 2023, Annual Town Election Warrant, and to sign it.

G. Solas- motion to approve and sign the April 4, 2023, Annual Town Election Warrant. M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (9): Vote to Approve Appointments to Traffic Control Unit-Michael Borden and Lawrence Skelton**

Chief Trombetta is asking the Board's approval on two additional Traffic Control Unit personnel in preparation of the upcoming Roundabout work on RT 44 & RT 118.

L. Mills- motion to approve Appointments to Traffic Control Unit-Michael Borden and Lawrence Skelton, effective 3/20/2023 to 6/30/2023. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Selectmen's Reports:**

Vadnais: None.

Deignan: 1) attended Lorraine Botts' funeral and spoke with her son and father. Reception at the legion was well attended.

If we have a "wellness check" in place for our residents, perhaps we could add Gill to the list. Lorraine will be missed!

2) studio manager-residents are asking why we don't stream our meetings on social media outside of channel 9. This could be something we could look at when we begin the process of hiring for the position.

In response, G. Solas spoke at length about the plan for the department.

3) received a call from the helicopter pilot, who went and spoke to the resident.

4) Superintendent attended a PTSA meeting and spoke about a \$1.9M deficit within the schools and that there may have to be layoffs. However, their preliminary assessment showed over \$3M in E&D. There should not be any layoffs, based on the assessment.

In response G. Solas went into detail about his discussion with Selectman Hull from Dighton and stated he has attended many school committee meetings recently. Those meetings have been the best meetings organized in a long time.

5) If no one could hear the explanation this evening about the Debt Exclusion, please read the article in the Reporter. Any further questions, please email or call me.

Johnson: Absent.

Mills: residents are concerned about the new development that has trash all over the development and going into the ponds. Has spoken to the Building Department, Planning/Conservation, and the builder to work with them to clean things up and keep the animals safe.

L. Mills gave an update for the ACO building, stating that improvements are moving forward and that perhaps the Green Energy group will help with costs through grants. Home Depot has reached out. They have a program that helps and will have them paint the entire building at no cost.

Also, Rob Johnson wants to make people aware that he has a couple of kittens and a dog, that happen to be pregnant, and soon there will be kittens/puppies available. Improvements to the Animal Shelter are ongoing. These improvements to the building are important in order to keep the staff and animals safe and comfortable.

L. Mills added that the applications for both Town Hall & Francis Farm filtration system were signed today and forwarded to the state.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Selectman M. Deignan- motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:32 PM. Second by Selectman L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

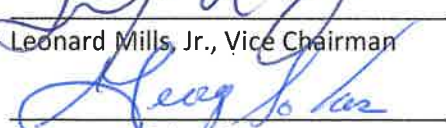
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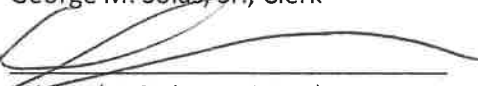
Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman



Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman



George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk



Michael P. Deignan, Member

Abstained

Robert Johnson, II, Member

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Approved: 4/10/2023**