



Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021
MEETING MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL**

Present: Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectman James Muri, Selectman Dave Perry, Selectman Gerry Schwall, Selectmen Michael Costello and Interim Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

At **5:30 PM** it was voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL CHAPTER 30A, §21 (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. (6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair so declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.*

Call to Order at 7:10 p.m.: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrants for March 29, 2021:

D. Perry motion to approve this week's Warrant: 21-39B Payroll \$114,341.52; 21-38A Withholdings \$134,455.31; 21-39 Warrant \$236,652.60; 21-39V Veterans Warrant \$7,499.59. Second by J. Muri. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: 1/11/2021
Regular Minutes: none

Announcements:

Due to the Town Elections on Tuesday, April 6th; the next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Town Administrator's Report:

Town Offices will be closed on Friday, April 2nd in observance of Good Friday.

American Legion Post 302 Food Drive: The American Legion with help from the Fire Dept. Chaplin, John Parker, began a food drive to distribute food to those in need this past Saturday, March 27th. They will be holding another food drive on Saturday April 3rd, between the hours of 12:30 & 1:30pm. The items include fresh milk, cheese, vegetables, dry goods, can goods, and other items. If they have a good response to this program, they may extend the program.

Keep Rehoboth Beautiful: The committee will be holding their annual town clean up on 4/18-4/25. All Covid protocols will be followed, social distancing, wearing masks & gloves, and hand sanitizing during breaks. The registration information and instructions are on their website. The orange trash bags and t-shirts will be handed to the volunteers outdoors at certain locations; look for the distribution dates on the website.

Town Nurse COVID 19 Updates: 16 probable cases in town with in the last month, 47 confirmed cases in town with in the last month, 41 in known isolation cases in town with in the last month, and 225 in isolation or quarantine within the last 90 days. Statewide, there were 29 deaths today, 30,772 current active cases and the average age of hospitalized patients is 63 years old. Several towns around us are slipping into the red. Also, the Homebound individuals who have filled out surveys, we are waiting on the shipment of vaccine.

J. Muri announced that all Veterans, their spouses and caregivers can get COVID-19 vaccinations from the VA (Veterans Administration) under the SAVE LIVES Act which was signed into law March 24. Call the Veterans Agent for more information.

Laura Schwall, Town Clerk, was present to give updates on the in-person voting taking place at Town Hall. In the first 2 days there have been 103 voters. Early in-person voting will continue Tuesday through Thursday 8:00am to 4:00pm. So far there have been 358 absentee ballots. You will need to fill out a new absentee ballot each year. 2021 forms are due 3/31/2021 by 5:00pm to the Town Clerk's office. You can vote up to or fill out ballot by 5:00pm. Please vote on April 6th if you cannot vote in-person this week or by mail-in.

UPDATE ON COVID VACCINATION CLINIC:

Selectmen Schwall gave an update on the vaccination center. Second doses will be available for residents. The problem is not being able to give shots, the problem is getting shots from the Feds. We are set up to give 400 vaccines a day, once we get them.

If you are homebound, visit the town website or call Amy Brown at the Health Department for assistance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Discussion Re: Scenic Roads in Rehoboth

Last week the Town Clerk's office received a few emails from residents that live near or on Perryville Road that were concerned with tree removal and stone wall removal on this Scenic Road without taking the proper steps. There is a bylaw in town that lists the scenic roads and prohibits removal of trees and stone wall without first receiving approval from the Planning Board.

The Scenic Roads in Town as voted at Town Meeting, are as follows:

Ash Street

Bay State Road (Moulton Street westerly to Winthrop St),

Carpenter Street (from Perryville Rd to Danforth St)

Davis Street (from Pleasant St to Mason St)

Fairview Avenue (from Anawan St easterly to Dighton line)

Hillside Avenue (from River St to Pine St)

Holmes Street

Locust Avenue

Perryville Road (from Anawan St to Homestead Ave)

Rocky Hill Road

School Street

Summer Street

The builder will need to put the wall back to its preexisting form to the specifications of the Planning Board, and replant trees to replace the ones they cut down, after consulting with tree warden Rob Johnson. The Building Department and the Planning Board are working together to assure this does not happen again. The Planning Board Agent has reached out to the residents that contacted the Town Clerk's office as well.

Action Item #2: Discussion Re: Town Meeting Warrant Draft

Interim Town Administrator Debbie Arruda presented the Board with the in-progress draft of the Annual Town Meeting warrant for their input. The Board advised her to move forward with the additions.

Action Item #3: Appointments, as submitted

The Chairman has appointed Mike Costello and Gerry Schwall as Ad-Hoc Appointments in order for them to be able to complete projects that they are currently working on. Both will report to the Board of Selectmen.

J. Muri motion to vote to ratify the appointment of Mike Costello as Public Safety Complex Project Manager, effective 4/7/2021- 6/30/2021, as well as Chairman of the COA Building Advisory Committee and any other assignments. Second by D. Perry. Vote 4-0 M. Costello abstained.

D. Perry motion to vote to ratify the appointment of Gerry Schwall as Coordinator of Special Projects, effective 4/7/2021- 6/30/2021 for working on COVID projects/vaccination and other projects to come. Second by M. Costello. Vote 4-0. G. Schwall abstained.

We have also received an additional volunteer for the Vaccination Center.

D. Perry motion to appoint Jean Baxendale for Working/Volunteering in the Vaccination Center, effective 3/29/2021-12/31/2021. Second by G. Schwall. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Action Item #1: Vote to Amend Travel Policy

M. Costello motion to amend the current Town Travel Policy to include fully vaccinated employees do not need to quarantine or show a negative test, effective 3/29/2021. Second by J. Muri. Vote 5-0.

Discussion:

Selectmen Schwall clarified that “fully vaccinated” means it has been 14 days after your second shot.

Selectmen's Reports:

Schwall: Been an honor to serve for the Town and the Board of Selectmen. We've gotten a tremendous amount done. Look forward to working in new role. Did all my work with the best interest of the town and its residents in mind.

Costello: 1986 is when my volunteer work in the Town began. It has been a gratifying journey, did all this for the town that I love. To Gerry, you and I did not always agree, but I respect you as a person, always a pleasure working with you. Thank you.

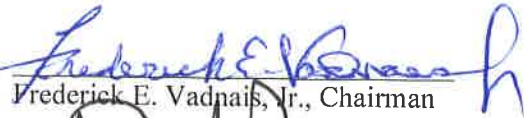
Perry: Had discussion/difference of opinion- set bar very high for other. Will miss you both. A lot of work done behind the scene. Look forward to continue working with you.

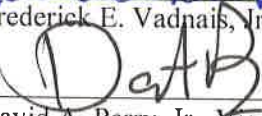
Muri: Thank you to both Mike and Gerry, many hours have been put forth for the Board of Selectmen and the Town. Thank you for your service.

Vadnais: no report

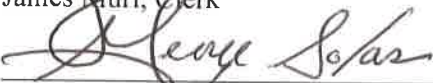
ADJOURNMENT: Selectmen Costello made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 7:50 PM. Second by G. Schwall.

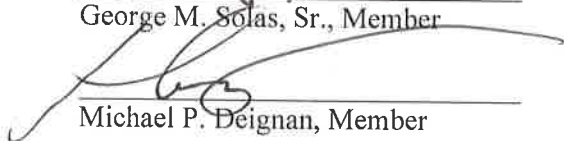
Roll call vote. Vadnais – aye, Muri – aye, Schwall-aye, Perry -aye, Costello-aye.

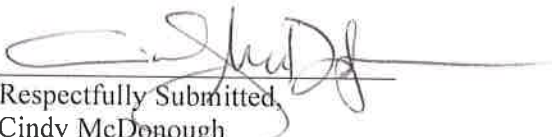

Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


David A. Perry, Jr., Vice Chairman


James Muri, Clerk


George M. Solas, Sr., Member


Michael P. Deignan, Member


Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy McDonough
Assistant to the Town Administrator

Approved: 9/27/2021