

Office of
SELECTMEN
340 Anawan Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769



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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 8, 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., Selectmen Michael P. Deignan, Selectman Robert Johnson II and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda.

At 6:36 PM the Board voted to enter into Executive Session pursuant to **MGL CHAPTER 30A, Section 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; (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 7:00 PM: The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1.0) Consent Agenda

Warrant for May 8 2023:

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of May 8, 2023: 23-45B Payroll \$129,444.58; 23-44A Withholdings \$34,700.19; 23-44 Warrant \$93,883.60. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Minutes: Executive Minutes: 4/24/23

Regular Minutes: 4/18/23 and 4/24/23

Executive Meeting Minutes for 4/24/2023 Approved and Held in Executive Session.

On a motion made by Selectman G. Solas, second by R. Johnson, it was voted to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April 18 and April 24, 2023. Vote 5-0.

Announcements:

The next BOS meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**, 6:45 PM at Francis Farm in the Museum Building for the Annual Town Meeting; Monday, May 15, 2023 will be our next Regular scheduled meeting at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

On May 15th we will have 2 public hearings for Kennel Licenses: 7:15 PM for 100 Simmons Street and 7:45 PM for 599 Tremont Street.

The Rehoboth Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 29, 2023 at 10 AM.

The American Legion and Rehoboth Anawan Lions Club would like to remind everyone that on the 2nd Sunday of each month they have 'All You Can Eat Breakfast', held at the Legion from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM and the cost per ticket is \$12.00.

Open Forum:

Tish Vadnais, AgCom Chairperson, approached the Board with Linda McHugh, Rehoboth Garden Club Plant Sale Chair to announce that the weekend plant sale was a great success. Ms. McHugh thanked the Board of Selectmen for allowing the use of Francis Farm for the plant sale; special thanks to Selectman George Solas, "patron saint"; thank you to Mike Viveiros and crew for all the help setting up; thank you to Val Sousa, of Souza Family Farm in Rehoboth, for the discounted plants; AgCom for support and many others.

Linda McHugh is hoping that, with the money they raised, their scholarship this year will be larger than the \$2,500.00 scholarship offered last year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1) Action Item (1) Discussion Re: ARPA/Bristol County Projects, with possible action

Motion: Vote to authorize Susan Pimental to sign ARPA/Bristol County documentations, after review with the Chairman and/or final approval from the Board.

Discussion:

Present: Sue Pimental and Fire Chief Barresi.

S. Pimental reiterated to the Board and the public, how ARPA/Bristol County Funds work; how money has been allocated but projects have to be approved before funds are disbursed to the Town; reviewed the projects that are in line for approval; PFAS project will be submitting for approval; getting quotes from Wilcox and Barton on the ongoing project and looking for the BOS's vote to ask for the funds - estimate for PFAS project is at over \$600k.

M. Deignan- motion to authorize Interim Finance & Compliance Director to move forward with establishing a project as described. Seconded by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

S. Pimental explained that the Town will have to absorb the ongoing costs of PFAS after ARPA no longer funds the projects. Very problematic.

Chief Barresi- spoke regarding the public safety issues on the Radios/Repeaters needed to bring the department up to code and have better coverage. Estimated cost is \$91K.

M. Deignan- motion to authorize for advanced payment from Bristol County for Sue Pimental. Second by L. Mills. Vote 5-0.

Chief Barresi- also requesting approximately \$160K-170k for technology infrastructure the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), at the castle building.

S. Pimental needs the Board's approval to move forward to get accurate quotes and products needed.

M. Deignan- motion to authorize Fire Chief to proceed to retrieve the quotes necessary for the EOC project and authorize the Interim Finance & Compliance Director to submit a project through Bristol County. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

Per S. Pimental, additional project – water tanker needed for the COA to allow the Senior Center to operate, and open up more days to provide food. Mike Viveiros is working with DEP and with a company out of Fall River to get a tanker at COA and get water to the COA...estimated at \$50k.

M. Deignan- motion to authorize the Interim Finance & Compliance Director to submit project as outlined to Bristol County. Second by G. Solas. Vote 5-0.

M. Deignan- did we not already have Sine put in a filtration system? Per S. Pimental, DEP did not approve it. We will get a credit towards other system and DEP is working with us so we comply.

L. Mills explained the process that has transpired and the importance of PFAS in Town, and the actions that the Selectmen, the Board of Health and DEP are taking to try and get this under control.

Mr. Richard Panofsky created a list of projects that may be covered under ARPA or Insurance proceeds. Need help from the BOS on how to proceed- some project ideas on the list include, areas that need improvement at Francis Farm.

S. Pimental does not have accurate numbers at this time but, will come back to the Board once numbers are available to allow the Board members to decide which projects should go forward.

M. Deignan- motion to empower Interim Finance & Compliance Director to work with Interim Director of Health & Human Services to move forward on the projects that are listed. Second by L. Mills. Vote 5-0.

L. Mills mentioned being asked by the public why the Town can't use Federal money to put towards Town debt.

S. Pimental explained the reason why debt cannot be paid down using Federal funds and, detailed what is not allowed, how the audits are done, and the approval process on each project.

At 7:42 PM Chairman Vadnais asked for a quick recess to speak to Mike Deignan.

7:45 PM R. Johnson had to leave the meeting to take an emergency call.

7:45 PM Chairman Vadnais called the meeting back to order and announced that Selectman Johnson left due to emergency town business.

Action Item (2): Vote to Approve and sign the ARPA/Bristol County Codification Services Proposal for \$9,995

S. Pimental discussed Codification Services project; project for the Town Clerk's office.

G. Solas- questioned what is the codification and how it worked?

S. Pimental explained that Codification project and how it works with our website and the bylaws to update our system to make it easier to "search" the Bylaws. There are additional costs for updating the

system yearly, additional cost for lawyers to research, etc. It's not just the \$9,995.00 - \$9,995.00 is to get the system uploaded. The additional maintenance fees would be added to the Town Clerk's budget and would be the Town Clerk's responsibility for the upkeep. Town Clerk will review all changes before permanent changes and we should have our Town Counsel review, as well. Town Meeting may have to vote on some changes, as well.

L. Mills- I've worked with this system in different towns and it does help the residents, or anyone that is looking for information.

G. Solas has many concerns and is not comfortable voting.

L. Mills- motion to table the discussion until George Solas has time to review with the Town Clerk and, bring discussion back on May 15th, along with the Town Clerk, for further discussion. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

M. Deignan thanked Mr. Panofsky for all of his help and services.

Mr. Panofsky thanked the BOS and explained how he helped to explain and review the Codification proposal with Selectman Solas.

Action Item (3): Vote to Approve and Sign the Deputy Director of Health & Human Services Agreement Between TOR and Elizabeth Doyle

Selectman Deignan stated that the Board, in executive session, voted to appoint Elizabeth Doyle as the Interim Department of Health & Human Services, effective 5/30/2023 to 6/30/2024.

M. Deignan- motion to approve and sign the employment agreement for the Interim Deputy Director of Health & Human Services between the Town Rehoboth and Elizabeth Doyle. Vote 4-0.

S. Rimental read the recommendation that she sent to the Board of Selectman and, explained that Richard Panofsky will be leaving in June.

Action Item (4): Vote to Approve and Sign Job Descriptions for: Building/Maintenance Superintendent; Building/Maintenance Technician; Building/Maintenance PT Technician; Highway Superintendent; Health & Human Services Office Administrator; Town Accountant

Mr. Richard Panofsky is requesting the approval from the Board on the submitted job descriptions and to authorize the Chairman to sign them.

L. Mills- motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the job descriptions for Building/Maintenance Superintendent; Building/Maintenance Technician; Building/Maintenance PT Technician; Highway Superintendent; Health & Human Services Office Administrator; Town Accountant. Seconded by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

L. Mills- thank you Richard Panofsky for all of your help as a volunteer in this position.

Action Item (5): Discussion Re: Town Events County Fair, with possible action

David Lecomte, The Events Committee Chair, Jenn Lecomte, The Events Committee Clerk, and Town Events Committee member Kelli Trexler and Historical Commission Chair Author Pierce.

Dave LeComte explained the Events Committee mission for the Country Fair; work with other committees to bring people together; any funds that are raised, after expenses are paid, would be split amongst all committees that participate; Pre-sale tickets only so, controlled entry and parking on the grounds.

S. Vadnais- location outlined would have to be approved by Selectman Mills and maintenance supervisor; need to work with Police Department & Fire Department to coordinate coverage for the event.

S. Vadnais asked the Town Administrator to look into insurance requirements (Horse liability and activities) and work with L. Mills and Dave LeComte on the proposed September 21 thru 27 event dates.

D. LeComte reviewed possible events at the Fair.

M. Deignan- can event be free to the community? It would bring back the "heart of Rehoboth".

S. Vadnais- need to take into consideration how we control the traffic, determine if the campus can handle it, determine need to restricted areas of activities vs parking, etc.

Christine McKearney spoke to her experience on holding events at Francis Farm - one time had a function with 3,000 people and the area could not handle the crowd; the neighbors were not happy. Need to consider involving them before setting a date.

Committee representing all parties will be set up to discuss needs before coming to the Board, again.

Action Item (6): Vote to Approve Temporary Outdoor Seating Liquor Licenses for: Rehoboth American Legion Post 302-84 Bay State Road; Kalimay, LLC dba iAlive Restaurant-569 Winthrop Street; KP Grille, LLC dba KP Grille-481 Winthrop Street

The Attorney General's office has extended the Outdoor Seating for Liquor Licensed Establishments. The listed establishments are the only ones in town that currently have outdoor seating approved.

G. Solas- motion to approve the temporary outdoor seating Liquor Licenses for: Rehoboth American Legion Post 302-84 Bay State Road; Kalimay, LLC dba iAlive Restaurant-569 Winthrop Street; KP Grille, LLC dba KP Grille-481 Winthrop Street, effective through April 1, 2024. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 3-0. Selectman Mills abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

Selectmen's Reports:

Vadnais:

- GATRA Board needs Rehoboth to nominate a replacement for Brad Marshall; Richard Panofsky has volunteered and will be placed on May 15th agenda.
- The Outreach position is vacant. Mr. Panofsky is working with the Town Administrator to post the position.
- Town Meeting is tomorrow. Hope to see you there.

Deignan: No report.

Solas:

- Briefly spoke about the MA Walk Challenge last Wednesday.
- The un-masquerade ball is in June.
- Weekly, Monday, lunch brought over 55 people to the COA.

Johnson: Absent.

Mills:

- Reviewed the work that the Maintenance Building Dept has been doing on a daily basis; preparing for Town Meeting; setting up for the Plant sale... set up and take down.
- Highway Department has also been busy with the repair to the salt shed netting and other road work and improvements around town.
- A catch basin machine was rented to go around and clean the systems. The machine has been rented for a month. There are about 500 catch basins in Town.

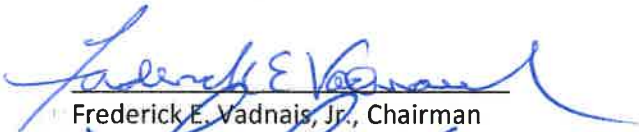
ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman L. Mills- motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:51 PM. Second by Selectman M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

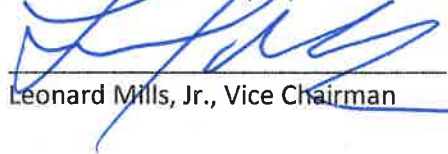
Respectfully Submitted,



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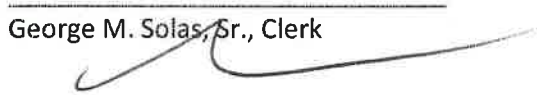


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

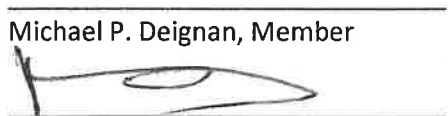


Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman

George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk



Michael P. Deignan, Member



Robert Johnson II, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Approved: 5/22//2023