

Office of  
SELECTMEN  
340 Anawan Street  
Rehoboth, MA 02769



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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 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 Michael P. Deignan and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

**Absent:** Selectman Robert Johnson II

At 6:43 PM the Board voted to enter into 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; (7) to review and approve Executive Session Minutes: 7/24/2023.***

**Call to Order at 7:18 PM:** The Board and the public participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1.0) Consent Agenda**

**Warrant:**

G. Solas- motion to ratify the Warrant for the week of August 14, 2023: 24-07B Payroll \$134,243.80; 24-06A Withholdings \$33,713.45; 24-06 Warrant \$2,911,998.78; Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to approve the Warrant for the week of August 21, 2023: 24-08B Payroll \$139,909.39; 24-07A Withholdings \$37,022.09; 24-07 Warrant \$76,901.21. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Minutes:** Executive Minutes: 7/24/2023

The Board voted to approve and hold the Executive Minutes for July 24, 2023 in Executive Session.

Regular Minutes: 7/24/2023 Amendments

G. Solas- motion to approve amendments to the July 24, 2023 Regular Minutes. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Announcements:**

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on **Monday, September 11, 2023, 7:00 PM** at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building. Meeting could be sooner if there's business that needs to be discussed prior.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

All of our new hires are doing well in their new roles.

We have received quite a few applications for the Administrative Aide for the Assessor's office. We will begin setting up interviews within the next week.

Lisa Cabral and I will be attending a Human Resource Committee Meeting, being hosted by the Town of Fairhaven, on Thursday the 24th from noon- 2pm. Looking forward to meeting other town representatives.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Action Item (1): Vote Fall Special Town Meeting Date and Open the Warrant**

G. Solas- motion to schedule the Fall Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, November 14th at 7PM to be held in the Museum Building at Francis Farm. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant and have it close on Monday, September 11, 2023. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (2): Discussion on Civic Plus-AudioEye Software Program for Town Website, with possible action**

G. Solas- motion to approve and sign the quote of \$4,200.00 with Civic Plus-Custom AudioEye Software program. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Solas explained what the software is and the need for this upgrade in order for the Town Website to be compliant with ADA requirements. AudioEye will keep track of any requirements or requests that are made by the readers/viewers.

In response to Selectman Deignan's question of where the funds are coming from, Deb Arruda responded that Sue Pimental mentioned funds are coming from IT budget and possibly another account.

**Action Item (3): Vote to Acquire the Property and Buildings on 133 Bay State Road as per the May 9, 2023 Annual Town Meeting-Article 23**

G. Solas- I hereby move that the Board of Selectmen acquire, as authorized pursuant to Article 23 of the May 9, 2023 Rehoboth Annual Town Meeting, the property and buildings thereon known as 133 Bay State Road, Rehoboth, MA for the sum of \$45,000.00 to be held under the care, custody, and control of the Rehoboth Historical Commission, and further to authorize the Chair, Frederick Vadnais, Jr., to execute and enter into any and all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition of said property. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (4): Vote to Approve 2nd Quarter Payment of \$59,178.49 PEG Franchise Fees-Comcast**

G. Solas- vote to approve the Comcast franchise fees, for second quarter of 2023, for the amount of \$59,178.49. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (5): Vote Appointments for the Traffic Control Unit-David Ferreira, Julie Greene Lacey, Joseph Robitaille, Jr.; Conservation Commission Associate Member-Matthew L. Habershaw; CPC-Parks Commission Rep-Mary E. Solas; Election Workers-Elizabeth-Ann Brink and James Brink; Town Events Committee-William Baptista and Debra Baptista**

G. Solas- motion to appoint David Ferreira, Julie Greene Lacey, Joseph Robitaille, Jr. to the Traffic Control Unit; William and Debra Baptista to the Town Events Committee, and Matthew L. Habershaw as the Conservation Commission Associate Member, all effective 8/21/23 to 6/30/24. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

M. Deignan- motion to appoint Mary E. Solas as the CPC-Parks Commission Rep, effective 8/21/23-6/30/24. Second by L. Mills. Vote 3-0. Selectman Solas abstained.

G. Solas- motion to appoint Election Workers: Elizabeth-Ann Brink as Unenrolled-Inspector-PCT 1 and James Brink as Republican-Inspector-PCT 1, effective 8/21/23 to 8/14/24. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (6): Vote to Approve COA Volunteers: Jack Lynch, James Brink, Elizabeth-Ann Brink, Brendan Brown, Avery Brown, Amy Abrams, Stephen Donovan, Laura Lauriston, and Mary-Ellen Pereira**

G. Solas- motion to approve COA Volunteers: Jack Lynch, James Brink, Elizabeth-Ann Brink, Brendan Brown, Avery Brown, Amy Abrams, Stephen Donovan, Laura Lauriston, and Mary-Ellen Pereira. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (7): Vote to Approve and Sign Chapter 90 Final Report for Line Painting**

G. Solas- to approve and sign the Chapter 90 Final Report for the line painting on Fairview Ave, Tremont St, New St, Danforth and Perryville. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (8): Vote to Approve Contract between the TOR and Oakhill Engineering, LLC for Services at 44 Bliss Street and 165 Fairview Ave**

G. Solas- motion to approve and sign the contract between the TOR and Oakhill Engineering, LLC for services at 44 Bliss Street and 165 Fairview Ave. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Action Item (1): Vote Appointment Thomas Nicholson-Conservation Commission Associate Member**

This Appointment was tabled at the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting needing further review, clarification and guidance by Town Counsel.

G. Solas- motion to appointment Thomas Nicholson as Conservation Commission-Associate Member, effective 8/21/23 to 6/30/24. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Selectmen's Reports:**

Vadnais: Complaint was received from Mrs & Mr Slinko regarding traffic on Williams Street. Assigning Selectman Mills to follow up and work with the resident on finding a resolution.

Deignan: Per direction of the Chair, I have reorganized FinCom and Colleen Simpson continues as Chair, Mike Fleming, Vice Chair and Bob Gagnon, Clerk.

Also, resident asked if the round-a-bout could be named after someone- what's the process?  
Per Selectman Vadnais, the naming of a monument, bridge, etc. is done through the state, when it's on a state road. Residents may go through their representatives to submit such a request. This can be revisited once the project is complete.

Solas: The Holy Ghost Parade was this past weekend – I was happy to participate and walk the approximately 1.5 miles, in the center line down Rt44!

Selectman Mills thanked George for representing the Board and the Town at this event.

Johnson: Absent.

Mills: Work has begun at the Police Station entrance, which is in need better lighting and safety.

Thank you, to the residents of the Town, for patience- completion of roadwork is delayed due to the rain and will continue as soon as roads are dry.

Completion of the COA parking lot is also delayed due to rain.

Traffic signs in town are being vandalized- for the last 4 weeks, signs are being cut and thrown into the tall grass or on the sides of the road. This is very dangerous for motorist. If anyone sees anything going on, please call and report it to the Police Dept. Do not take action.

There are concerns that trucks are being diverted to side roads in Town to avoid the construction area- the Police Department is aware and the Town is on it and we are making sure that the bridges and culverts will not be destroyed.

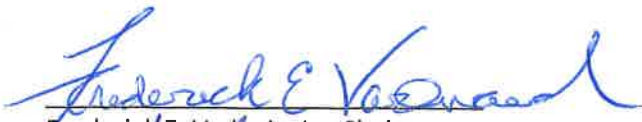
**Other Business:**


**ADJOURNMENT:**

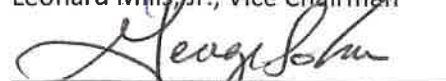
Selectman L. Mills- motion to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:48 PM. Second by Selectman M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.


Respectfully Submitted,

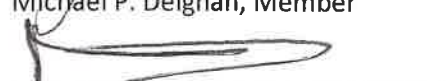
  
Odete Lacourse

  
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**

**Approve: 9/11/2023**