



Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRANCIS HALL BUILDING, FRANCIS FARM  
27 FRANCIS FARM ROAD**

**Present:** Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Selectmen Michael Deignan, Selectman Robert Johnson II, Selectman Leonard Mills Jr., and Interim Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

**Absent:** Selectman George Solas

**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**

**Warrant Approvals:**

M. Deignan motion to ratify the Warrant for the week of August 15, 2022: 23-07B Payroll \$133,529.73; 23-06A Withholdings \$37,755.82; 23-06 Warrant \$2,590,624.01; 23-06R Refund Warrant \$12,274.89; 23-06R1 Refund Warrant \$4,619.81; 23-06R2 Refund Warrant \$603.70. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

M. Deignan motion to approve the Warrant for the week of August 22, 2022: 23-08B Payroll \$185,338.53; 23-07A Withholdings \$38,051.48; 23-07 Warrant \$87,258.26. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Minutes:** Executive Minutes: none  
Regular Minutes: 4/11/22, 5/16/22, and 6/6/22

M. Deignan motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2022. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

M. Deignan motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2022. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

M. Deignan motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for June 6, 2022. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Announcements:**

The next BOS meeting may be held on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 7pm at Francis Farm in the Francis Hall Building if the Board has business to conduct.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

At the Sept 6th BOS meeting we will have a public hearing for Hillside Country Club. The hearing will be for a manager change, financial officers changing and financial investment changes.

I have been asked by the Board of Health and FinCom to announce that both are looking for volunteers. These groups need help and if anyone could spare an hour or so a month to help them, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:**

Laura Schwall, Town Clerk:

1. Announced the Attorney General's office approved the Bylaw amendments submitted in May. After the election, L. Schwall will work on updating the Town Bylaws and putting them on the website.
2. This Saturday, 8/27/22, will begin the in-person early voting schedule from 10am – 4pm. The polls will also be open Monday – Thursday (8/29/22-9/1/22) from 8am – 4pm, and Friday (9/2/22) from 8am – 12pm.

Geri Hamel, Town Nurse:

1. Gave a COVID update: There are over 8,000 new cases in Massachusetts in the last week.
2. Monkey Pox update: There are 243 cases in Massachusetts this week. Advised the public to be vigilant.
3. Hoping to host a Health and Wellness Fair for the community on October 15, 2022.
4. There will be Flu Clinic's at all meetings as soon as the vaccine order arrives.
5. The ice cream social on Wednesday's have been extremely successful.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Action Item (1): Vote Appointment of Deputy Chief Position in the Police Dept-Sgt Ramos**

Chief Trombetta was present to discuss changes in his department. Announced Deputy Rossi retired after 34 years with the department, and Sergeant Todd after 30+ years. Chief Trombetta wanted to thank them both for their time and dedicated service.

S. Vadnais said some kind words to both gentlemen and thanked them.

Chief Trombetta spoke more about the promotion to Deputy Chief. The position was added to the department 4 years ago. Sergeant Ramos has been recommended by Chief Trombetta.

Deputy Chief Ramos said some kind words and thanked the Chief and the Board of Selectmen for putting faith in him to do this job.

M. Deignan motion to appoint Brian Ramos as Deputy Chief of Police, effective 8/21/22-6/30/25. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (2): 7:15 PM Pole Hearings for Fairview Avenue and New Street-National Grid & Verizon**

Representative from National Grid, Mike Parent, was present to review installation of a new JO Pole on New Street and relocating the same. On Fairview they are installing 2 new JO poles and relocating the same.

M. Deignan motion to open the public hearing. Second by R. Johnson.  
Roll call vote. Deignan – aye, Vadnais – aye, Mills – aye, Johnson – aye. (4-0)

S. Vadnais acknowledged there were no abutters.

M. Deignan motion to close the public hearing after discussion from representatives. Second by R. Johnson.  
Roll call vote. Deignan – aye, Vadnais – aye, Mills – aye, Johnson – aye. (4-0)

M. Deignan motion to approve the new JO pole placements on Fairview Avenue and New Street and the relocation of JO poles on the same streets. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (3): Discussion with Town Nurse RE: Shared Services Grant, with possible action**

Geri Hamel was present along with Anne Marie Fleming, Director of Public Health in North Attleboro, to review with the board the Shared Services Grant. Geri explained briefly about the service, and Anne Marie Fleming went into further explanation of the project.

S. Vadnais asked to add the discussion as an action item to the next meeting.

**Action Item (4): Review, Consider and Vote on Response to Open Meeting Law Complaint Against BOS dated 8/8/22, Filed by Patrick Higgins on File with the Town Clerk.**

M. Deignan motion to approve Town Counsel's responses to the OML complaints and authorize Town Counsel to submit. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (5): 7:45 PM Public Hearing-Jay Mahalaxmi, LLC dba Rehoboth Wine & Spirits 2022 Late Renewal of All Alcohol Retail License**

This 2022 renewal for Rehoboth Wine & Spirits was never received in our office during the renewal process last year. Our office has been working with the ABCC and business owner to try and rectify the situation. Although it is a renewal, ABCC states a public hearing has to be heard as if this was a new business. The paperwork will be submitted and marked "late renewal" as per the direction of the ABCC. No changes to the current business are allowed.

M. Deignan motion to open the public hearing. Second by R. Johnson.

Roll call vote. Deignan – aye, Vadnais – aye, Mills – aye, Johnson – aye. (4-0)

S. Vadnais acknowledged there were no abutters.

M. Deignan motion to continue the public hearing to Monday, December 19, 2022. Second by R. Johnson.

Roll call vote. Deignan – aye, Vadnais – aye, Mills – aye, Johnson – aye. (4-0)

**Action Item (6): Discussion with Green Energy Chair RE: Grant Closure, with possible action**

Carolyn Panofsky was present to speak to the closing of the current Green Energy Grant. The last item to complete the grant specifications has been completed-Heat Pump at the highway dept. In order to apply for another grant this one has to be closed by 9/2. We will have the final invoices to be paid in the 8/25 warrant. Carolyn Panofsky updated the Board on the last project completed and closing out of the grant.

M. Deignan motion to approve the recommendation of the Chair of the Green Energy Committee to close out the current grant. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (7): Vote to Approve Street Names for Rehoboth Country Club Phase 2 & 3**

The Planning Board asked for the Board's approval on the following street names for Rehoboth Country Club Phase 2 and 3: Ledge Hill Lane, Hardwood Drive, and Brenden Way.

L. Mills asked if the names were given by the developers. S. Vadnais replied yes, the names are on the Form M.

M. Deignan motion to approve the recommended street names from the Planning Board as submitted for Phase 2 and 3 of the Rehoboth Country Club. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (8): Vote to Approve One-Day Liquor Licenses for Holy Ghost Brother Hood of Charity and Lisa Trott of Terrydiddle Farm, LLC**

Our office received requests for One-Day Liquor Licenses from:

Holy Ghost Brother Hood of Charity for 9/17 from 6pm to 12am for a dinner; 9/25 from 4pm to 12 am for a dinner, both to be held at 43 Broad Street.

Lissa Trott from Terrydiddle Farm, LLC, 33 Chestnut Street for 9/4 from 12pm to 4pm for a retirement party.

M. Deignan motion to approve One-Day Liquor Licenses for Holy Ghost Brother Hood of Charity, 43 Broad Street on 9/17 from 6 pm to 12 am and on 9/25 from 4pm to 12am. And Lissa Trott from Terrydiddle Farm, LLC of 33 Chestnut Street on 9/4 from 12pm to 4pm. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (9): Vote to Approve Reappointments to the Recreation Committee; Agricultural & Natural Resources Preservation Council; Board of Health; ZBA; and Constables-Rachel Smith, David Pereira II, Mark Hass, Sandra Phillips, Frank Gouveia, William Carmichael, George W. Kellum, Rose Amaral, Ralph Arguin**

M. Deignan motion to approve following reappointments. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Rachel Smith-Rehoboth Agricultural & Natural Resources Preservation Council-BOH Rep, effective 7/1/22 - 6/30/25

David Pereira II-Zoning Board of Appeals, effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/25

George W. Kellum, IV BOH, effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/25

Tony Gaucher, BOH, effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/25

M. Deignan motion to approve following reappointments. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Constables, effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/23

Mark R. Hass

Sandra Phillips

Frank Gouveia

William Carmichael

Recreation Committee, effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/23

Rose Amaral

Ralph Arguin

**Action Item (10): Vote to Approve Appointments for Recreation Committee and Building Dept.-Randal Vincent, Nancy Muri, Colleen McBride, and Lisa Halajko**

M. Deignan motion to Appoint the following individuals, effective 8/22/22 – 6/30/23. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Randal Vincent-Second Alternate Electrical Inspector

Nancy Muri-Recreation Committee

Colleen McBride-Recreation Committee

Lisa Halajko-Recreation Committee

**Action Item (11): Vote to Approve COA Volunteer-Robert Caron**

COA is recommending Robert Caron as a volunteer to help with the seniors and activities.

M. Deignan motion to approve Robert Caron as a volunteer at the COA. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (12): Vote to Approve 2nd Quarter PEG (Comcast) Franchise Fees**

This is the quarterly franchise fee payment that the town receives from Comcast.

M. Deignan motion to Approve the 2nd quarter PEG Franchise Fee payment of \$58,093.19 and direct the Treasurer's office to deposit the funds in the appropriate account. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (13): Vote to Nominate Signatory Authority to Board of Selectmen's Office Personnel**

Every year the accounting office asks each department to designate a person or two to have "signatory authority" to approve invoices/bills/payroll for their department.

M. Deignan motion to nominate Deborah Arruda, Interim Town Administrator as the main person to authorize invoices, bills and payroll for the BOS office; and Marisa Medeiros, Assistant to the BOS as the alternate. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (14): Vote to Designate Member to the Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)**

Each year the Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) a division of SRPEDD asks the Town to appoint a main contact for the town and an alternate for this group. The JTPG is an advisory group that pertains to transportation in southeastern MA. In the past, the Superintendent of Hwy was the contact and their liaison was the alternate. The BOS will need to decide who they will be appointing this year. The effective date of this is June 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023

R. Johnson motion to appoint Lenny Mills Jr. as a member to the JTPG and Kevin Chace, as the alternate. Effective June 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023. Second by M. Deignan. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (15): Vote to Acknowledge Receipt of Form M for Rehoboth Country Club-Phase 2 & 3**

The Planning Board has provided copies of the Form M plans for the Rehoboth CC to the Board and is asking for the acknowledgement that it has been received. Board will need to review the Form M and decide if a Gravel Committee Meeting is necessary.

M. Deignan motion to acknowledge receipt of the Form M for Rehoboth Country Club, Phase 2 & 3. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (16): Discussion RE: Fall Special Town Meeting, with possible action**

The Board will discuss the necessity of holding the Fall Town Meeting in November. To date we have appropriations that need to be voted on regarding salary line adjustments (BOS, HWY, Accountant, Fire Dept & Facility Maintenance); \$353.90 appropriation for Network Transportation Reserve Receipts – pulled back from May town meeting; prior year bill from PD for \$4000; Bristol – Plymouth Tech Re-Statement -amended agreement to add Town of Freetown as a member.

M. Deignan stated that Bill Cute and the Town Clerk would like to discuss a different date. M. Deignan suggested pulling all the department heads and Boards in early September to see if they have anything to add.

S. Vadnais gave M. Deignan the responsibility to work through this and report back. The rest of the Board agreed with this action.

L. Mills asked that the Town Meeting not be held on a Saturday and R. Johnson agreed.

**Action Item (17): Discussion RE: K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee, with possible action**

Now that the August 6th meeting is behind us and the vote has been cast, is there any reason to keep the committee? Should we archive the website where information was provided by the committee?

M. Deignan motion to dissolve the K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

The Board thanked the Committee for their service to the Town.

**Action Item (18): Discussion RE: Hornbine School Saturday Class Offerings, with possible action**

Cathy Potter asked the Board to approve Saturday Classes for 3rd-4th grade students from various communities to attend classes at the Hornbine School for a fee. Skip has asked Rob to look into this and give an update.

R. Johnson spoke to Cathy Potter on needs. Saturday classes would open up the schedule so more people could attend. The groups are be small to make it easy, and the kids dress up for history lessons. The cost would be changed to \$25 per child, and the fee would be a payment for the teacher and other expenses. No vote was needed – Rob will follow up.

**Selectmen's Reports:**

Vadnais: no report

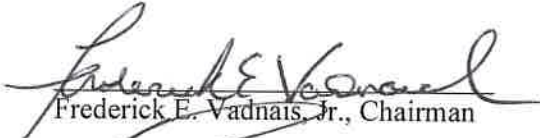
Deignan: Effective a week from this Friday (8/26/22), M. Deignan will be on FMLA for 12 weeks to care for his infant daughter. Any calls and emails will be returned when possible.

Solas: absent


Johnson: The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Clam Bake went well, and the event sold out. R. Johnson thanked the Town for the support.

Mills: no report

**ADJOURNMENT:** Selectman M. Deignan motion to adjourn the regular session. At 8:50PM. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.



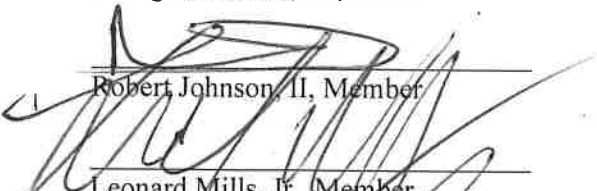
Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman



Michael P. Deignan, Vice Chairman



George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk



Robert Johnson, II, Member



Leonard Mills, Jr., Member

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Logan Shaker

**Approved: 10/3/2022**