

Office of
SELECTMEN
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
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 Robert Johnson II and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

Absent: Selectman Michael P. Deignan

Call to Order at 7:02 PM: The meeting opened with the Board and the public participating in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Consent Agenda

Warrant:

G. Solas- Warrant for the week of March 18, 2024: 24-38B Payroll \$129,485.62; 24-37A Withholdings \$41,007.11; 24-37 Warrant \$65,198.66; 24-37R Refund Warrant \$2,026.30; motion to approve. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 3-0. Selectman Mills abstained.

Minutes: None.

Announcements:

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7:00 PM**, at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

At our next meeting the Board will be reviewing and voting on Street Layout/Acceptance for Dublin Road and O'Hern Way at Trinity Estates. Any abutter or resident that would like to view the plans, please reach out to Daniel Roach in the Planning Board Department.

The Personnel Board, Finance Committee and Town Events Committee are all in need of volunteers. If anyone is interested, please submit a Talent Bank form to the BOS' office.

Francis Farm Building Move Bid(s): were due today. We did not receive any bids and, I will have to reach out to Commbuy's to see what the options are because those buildings will have to be moved – will work with Rob Johnson & Mike Viveiros to figure out next steps.

Anawan Fire Association is sponsoring a New England Clam Boil, on Friday, May 10th at 7:00 PM, at the Seekonk Rod & Gun Club. For more information or to purchase tickets please call 508-226-2914.

An update on the Portable Bathroom is on route.

Today at 10:30, there was a walk-thru for the vault at Town Hall- present was one contractor, the engineer, Mike Viveiros and the Building Department Assistant Commissioner were there.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Item (1) Discussion RE: 2024 Town Wide Clean-up Day with Keep Rehoboth Beautiful, with possible action

Ron Whittemore, 21 Pond Street and Nancy Muri, 82 School Street, were present to talk about the Town-wide clean-up project. Customary to run on the week of Earth Day; this year it's from April 13-20th. There will be sign ups & registrations, distribution of materials on Tuesday, April 2nd, weather permitting, at Francis Farm near the voting area, from 10-2:00 PM and Saturday, April 6th, from 10-2:00 PM materials will be distributed at the Redway Plain Gazebo, Tuesday evening, April 9th, from 5:30-7:00 PM, at the Redway Plain Gazebo and Saturday, April 13th, from 10-2:00 PM, at the Redway Plain Gazebo.

Information and registration visit www.keeptrehobothbeautiful.com.

There will be red trash bags available at the Highway Department- thank you to Lenny Mills and Kevin Chace for their help.

There will be a designated area at the Highway garage, set up with cones, where trash can be dropped off. There will be trucks in different locations to allow people to drop their trash in. Trash can also be dropped off at the North Fire Station or the South Fire Station on the weekends, April 13-14 and 20th.

For large items, such as batteries, tires, mattresses, furniture, etc. call the Highway Department or leave near a dump truck at one of the Fire Station.

Nancy Muri spoke about how the committee was started by Abby Abrahamson, as a school project and as requested by Ms. Abrahamson, the committee has remained a youth lead and majority youth membered committee. The committee is and has been chaired by Lorelei Kellum and 4 other student members, along with 4 adults. Mrs. Muri spoke very highly of the students involved, saying they are bright, polite, enthusiastic, and they are doing an incredible job, while holding leadership roles in the committee.

The Chair suggested reviewing safety with volunteers, perhaps having extra police presence. Due to the safety of the volunteers, Selectman Mills was assigned to bring the event date(s) to the Police Department's attention.

Action Item (2) Discussion RE: Board of Health Candidate Patrick Thibeault, with possible action

Selectman Johnson stated that Patrick Thibeault filled out a Talent Bank form for the Board of Health. His background is a good fit and he is very interested in working with the BOH.

R. Johnson- motion to nominate Patrick Thibeault, to the BOH effective, 3/18/2024 to 6/30/2027. Second by L. Mills. Vote 4-0.

The Chair confirmed that all members have had an opportunity to review the application. Chairman Vadnais also read Mr. Thibeault's education and qualifications, stating that he is a welcome addition to the BOH.

The Chair thanked Mr. Thibeault for coming forward.

Action Item (3) Vote to Open the 2024 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for Additional Article Submissions

G. Solas- motion to open the Spring Town Meeting Warrant. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

G. Solas- motion to add 2 additional articles to the Warrant: South Fire Station – Martin Street Easement Article. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Discussion:

Selectman Johnson- RE: South Fire Station-Martin Street Easement. This was voted upon at Town Meeting, but the deed was not correct. Chairman Vadnais, added that there were two parcels of land and it was written as one and the description needed more information added to the vote that was taken.

R. Johnson- motion to add the Article for the Zoning Bylaw for the Helicopter. Second by G. Solas. Vote 4-0.

The Chair explained that at the last Town Meeting a bylaw was passed for the regulation of landing of helicopter and, the Attorney General's office and our Town Counsel worked together to come up with this bylaw, which regulates the ability, of when and where, to land a helicopter and which does not conflict with any State regulations.

G. Solas- motion to close the Warrant. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (4) Vote to Approve One Day Liquor License for Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity

G. Solas- to approve One Day Liquor Licenses for All Alcohol for the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity, for March 29th and April 12th, 2024 from 6 PM to 12 AM, at 43 Broad Street. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Action Item (5): Vote to Nominate the Inspector of Animals-Robert Johnson II and Brian McKearney

G. Solas- motion to nominate Robert Johnson II and Brian McKearney as the Rehoboth Inspectors of Animals, effective 5/1/2024 to 4/30/2025. Second by L. Mills. Vote 3-0. Selectmen Johnson abstained.

Full disclosure: The Chair, as a board member of MDAR, would normally abstain from this vote; however, in order to have a quorum and move forward his vote was necessary.

OLD BUSINESS:

Selectmen's Reports:

Johnson: A reminder to everyone about the pet pantry, located in front of the animal shelter- it's been used a lot, but donations of cat and dog food, blankets, towels, etc. is needed.

Solas: On Sunday, along with Lenny Mills attended a 100-year celebration at the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity. Respect, Pride, Tradition and Value was outstanding. The Town presented a Proclamation, signed by the Board of Selectmen, to the Holy Ghost Brotherhood of Charity.

On Friday, I attended a MMA representing Rehoboth; this was a great opportunity to get exposure and meet with other town representatives.

Mills: There are open positions in Town in the Police Department, Highway Department, Facility Maintenance, two office administrator position at the Town Hall, which is currently internal posting to be external postings by next week.

Letter from Representative Howitt: Update from MassDOT for Rehoboth- Route 44 at Route 118 Roundabout project status update. The contractor is currently shut down for the winter while utilities (Verizon) perform their work items on the site. The contractor will coordinate with the utilities for a late Spring/early Summer resumption of work to include drainage installation and box cut widening of the roadway.

Vadnais: Regarding a recent complaint about dumpsters on the street, specifically at Pine-and-Homestead where there are multiple dumpsters, one of which has been overflowing for weeks - The Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen may have joint responsibility on the issue – the BOS where the we have the power and authority to assign dumpsters locations and if there's a hardship in a particular area.

The Board should consider whenever a dumpster is on a public way, that the Superintendent identifies and a form letter goes to the home owner and the dumpster company – the homeowner, as the responsible party, will be given a specific amount of time to move the dumpster off of public way. The dumpsters that are not necessarily on a public way will be handled differently, but as per the written policy, the Board still has absolute authority and responsibility to have dumpsters removed from a public way.

Announced a new member of the family... **wait for it!** The dog talks, talks and talks... only sometimes can be understood... is a best buddy. So, after having him for one week and getting to know his personality, he has officially been named- HIS NAME IS 'GEORGE' 🐶

Deignan: Absent.

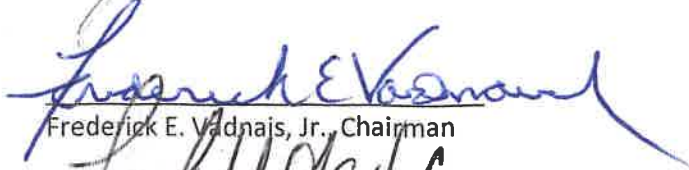
Other Business:

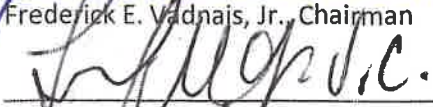
ADJOURNMENT:

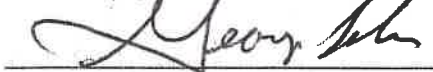
Selectman R. Johnson motioned to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:35 PM. Second by Selectman G. Solas
Vote 4-0.


Respectfully Submitted,


Odete Lacourse


Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman


Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman


George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk


Robert Johnson II, Member

Absent
Michael P. Deignan, Member

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Approve: 3/25/2024