

Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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Rehoboth, MA 02769



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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 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 7:15 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 4, 2024: 24-36B Payroll \$133,759.04; 24-35A Withholdings \$133,506.99; 24-35 Warrant \$82,701.47; 24-35V Veterans Warrant \$4,993.87; motion to approve. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 3-0. Selectman Mills abstained.

**Minutes:** Regular Minutes: 2/12/2024 and 2/26/2024

G. Solas- motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2024 and February 26, 2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Announcements:**

Our next scheduled meeting will be on **Monday, March 11, 2024 7:00 PM**, at Francis Farm, in the Francis Hall Building.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

A reminder that tomorrow, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the 2024 Presidential Preference Primaries will be held from 7 AM to 8 PM, at the Museum Building at Francis Farm.

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

One bid was received last week for the South Fire Station- Martin Street parcel. The bidder was from The South Fire Station Member Association; I am reviewing the contents and will be working with Town Counsel to prepare the Purchase & Sale Agreement for the Select Board's approval.

The next bid due is for the moving of the historic buildings at Francis Farm. There was a walk-through scheduled last Monday and one contractor showed up. Bids are due on March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM.

We received three CORI applications for Hornbine School teachers. All three were returned satisfactory.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Action Item (1): Discussion RE: FY25 Budget Reviews, with possible action**

Sue Pimental was present to review the budget spreadsheet. Ms. Pimental pointed out items submitted by the department heads, which were confirmed by the Town Accountant, as well as items/comments to show why there may be a significant increase/change.

- There are accounts that still need total dollar amounts confirmed, i.e. contract services and accounts where there should be adjustments made. Ms. Pimental also called attention to the Stormwater permit, which the Town is absorbing some of the tasks in FY24, but in FY25 there "will be a fair amount of catching up to do", equating to the large charge. Going forward FY26-27, depending on how much more is added, i.e. catch basins, the accounts would be more maintenance and will not change as significantly as FY25.
- The biggest increase is in the Health & Human Service Department because, in the past positions were largely covered by ARPA and, in this budget they are covered by the Town. Ms. Pimental explained that this is due to the re-shifting in the department based on the need for services (and that this was not unexpected).
- The school assessment is a significant increase from the previous year, at 8.5% due to less reimbursement from the State, i.e. transportation. It will change slightly because of a type-o and will increase by about eleven thousand dollars from the budget presented. Ms. Pimental suggested that the Board entertain a debt exclusion in FY26.
- The budget is being fully funded by raise in appropriate and using about half million in free cash, and FY25 is in good shape. FY26-27-28 will be more challenging.

Ms. Pimental also declared to the Board that she will be putting together a 3-year operating plan and is currently working with certain department heads to put together a capital article - suggesting capital articles for the Town Meeting - also recommending that there should be an article that starts to save to help for future capital, for FY25.

- FY26 and FY27 budgets may be very challenging - suggesting the Board consider a debt exclusion in the coming years.

The Chair will meet with Ms. Pimental to discuss the capital portion and the establishment of funds for capital projects to then bring before the Board.

Selectman Solas explained that the Town's long-term debt per Capita is \$34.00 and it's due to the efforts of the Board. Ms. Pimental agreed that the Board has done a great job in bringing the Town great facilities, with no debt.

Discussion only and no vote taken.

**Action Item (2): Vote to Appoint Traffic Control Unit: Thomas McDonald, Alicia Rodrigues, David Pereira, and James Trombetta**

L. Mills- motion that Thomas McDonald, Alicia Rodrigues, David Pereira, and James Trombetta, be appointed for Traffic Control unit, effective 3/4/2024 to 6/30/2024. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (3): Vote to Appoint Board of Registrar Jennifer Moitoso**

G. Solas- motion to re-appoint Jennifer Moitoso, to the Board of Registrars, effective 4/1/2024 to 3/31/2027. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (4) Vote to Approve ABCC 2023 Annual Report**

G. Solas- motion to approve the ABCC Annual Report, for 2023, with a grand total of \$21,370.00 for license fees. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (5): Vote to Approve Wilcox and Barton Proposal for FY25 Ongoing Environmental Consulting Services for MassDEP RTN 4-29201 for \$208,220**

G. Solas- motion to approve and sign the proposal submitted by Wilcox & Barton for the FY25 Ongoing Environmental Consulting Services for MassDEP RTN-4-29201 for \$208,220. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

Chairman Vadnais commented that this \$208,220.00 is not coming from taxpayer dollars - this is coming from ARPA Funding and that thanks to the Finance Director's efforts.

**Action Item (6): Vote to Approve COA Volunteers – Francelina Costa and Eileen Pontes**

G. Solas- motion to approve Francelina Costa and Eileen Pontes as volunteers for the COA. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**Action Item (7): Discussion Re: Northern Bristol County Health Alliance-Revalent Product Agreement with Geri Hamel, with possible action**

The Chair requested a motion to table Action Item 7 because Ms. Geri Hamel was not available.

L. Mills- motion to table. Second by R. Johnson. Vote 4-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Selectmen's Reports:**

Johnson: The Town Events Committee is in dire need of members, but ones who would like to be the lead, or Chair the committee.

Solas: None.

Mills: The Highway Dept is dealing with drainage and water challenges, due to the tremendous amount of rain. These challenges, however, have given us the opportunity to look, re-evaluate, modify, and tweak some drainage areas. The systems are stressed but the Highway Dept is on top of it and working hard on this.

The Building Maintenance Dept, along with the physical work, is working on evaluating and projecting for capital improvements (roofs, wells, pumps, septic systems, parking areas and more); working to inspect all buildings and making sure all meet safety & insurance compliances. Sue Pimental has been instrumental and working on plans and 3-5-10 years projections so that we are prepared.

The Building Dept, including the Building Inspector, Electrical, Gas & Plumbing, continue to work really well. The Commissioner Bill McDonough and Deputy Commissioner Mark Arruda are very accessible and work hard for the Town of Rehoboth. There's been a lot of stress on this department, with new buildings, homes, and new projects in Town.

The Police Dept is working well under the Acting Chief DiBacco – the department is transitioning smoothly. There's been a coherent transition of power- thanks to the Chair's advice, retired Chief Trombetta is available as a consultant and a resource.

Lastly, Sue Pimental has done a great job for all my departments and is helpful to all the department heads; she not only knows their budgetary challenges but helps encourage the department heads to get their projections moving forward so there are no surprises for the Town – she is instrumental to me and my departments in this process.

There are two openings in the Building Maintenance Dept.- reach out to the BOS office for an application. Posting, confirmed by Deb Arruda, will go up later this month.

Anyone interested in finding out about how to bid on projects for the Town, watch for postings, contact the Town Administrator's office, reach out to Kevin Chace, Highway Dept or Mike Viveiros in the Building Maintenance Dept for bids which meet requirements, it will be on Commbuys. How the bid is advertised or posted depends on the dollar amount of the project- Selectman Mills asked the Town Administrator to explain further how the bid process works.

Vadnais: In recognition of service of Gary Zimmer, aka "The Colonel", who has had to resign from the Board of Health - a big loss to the Town. Gary has stepped forward whenever he's been asked to help with anything – He will remain a Constable – Gary has done very good work, representing the Select Board on the BOH and H&HS – Thank you for the service you've provided particularly on the BOH!

Gary is a war hero - he's done a lot for this Board and a lot for the Town- Thank you!

Also, it's not too early to start thinking of the Memorial Day Parade, which the Town has always done an excellent job with- we have a debt owed to those who have given their life to protect this country. For those who would like to participate, please contact the Veterans Officer Jake Kramer by calling or emailing.

Still working on contracts, and as mentioned earlier, will be working with Sue Pimental Finance Officer to continue the conversation and work on capital articles.

Soon, by this summer, we will have an exercise room in the Miller Building. We will have equipment and Sue Pimental has found funding for the project.

Deignan: Absent.

Other Business:

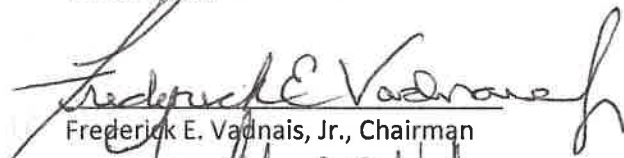
ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman R. Johnson motioned to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:57 PM. Second by Selectman G. Solas  
Vote 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



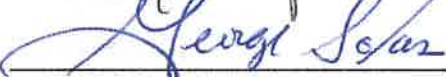
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Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman



Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman



George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk



Robert Johnson II, Member

Absent

Michael P. Deignan, Member

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Approve: 3/11/2024**