

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Selectmen's Meeting Room, 979 Somerset Ave, Dighton, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Taylor.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Input

Tom Pires advised everyone that transfer station stickers will be on sale Saturday for next year.

D-R Advisory Finance Committee

Selectman Taylor said we currently have Nancy Goulart as a member of this committee and we will check with Ed Swartz for two additional members.

Liquor License for Vinayak, Inc

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectmen Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to sign the license that was approved by the Alcoholic Beverages Commission in Boston for a license transfer from Mount Hope Liquors to Vinayak, Inc.

Lettering of Town Vehicles.

Selectman Zografos had some concerns about privacy with regard to lettering the Veteran's agent's vehicle.

Selectman Zografos motioned to letter the Building Commissioner's sedan as well as the Veteran's Agent, identifying them as town vehicles, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously.

Appointment of Joe Tamarkin to the Community Preservation Committee

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen appoint Joe Tamarkin to the Community Preservation Committee.

Raising and Lowering of the Flag

Chairman Taylor explained that there was a current procedure in place, but the state also gave local authorities the power to decide.

Chairman Taylor said the Board of Selectmen would like to get input from the residents.

Another suggestion was that instead of raising and lowering the flag for our town officials, we could raise the town flag with black banner on it.

Selectman Zografos said if we are not going to follow the United States Flag Code, the town should definitely have a clear policy in place.

Chairman Taylor agreed.

Award bid for Testing and Inspection Services for Dighton Police Station

Chairman Taylor explained that this bid was regarding testing and inspection services for the Dighton Police Station.

One bid was received from Briggs Engineering in the amount of \$11,654.00 and another bid was received from U.T.S. of Massachusetts, Inc. in the amount of \$9,596.00.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectman award the contract for testing and inspection services for the Dighton Police station to U.T.S. of Massachusetts in the amount of \$9,596.00.

Chairman Taylor announced that the groundbreaking for the Dighton Police Station will be on November 21, at 9:00 am.

Waiver of Workers Compensation Insurance for Snow Plow Drivers

Chairman Taylor read the names of the independent contractors for the snow plow season.

Roger Sisson, Jr.
Gregory Mendes
Kevin Rapoza
Samuel Pine
Michael McDonald.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** to grant the waivers for the five independent contractors.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** that the town require liability insurance for the snow plow drivers at the rate of \$100,000.00/\$300,000.00 each.

Establish rates for Snow plow drivers for 2017-2018 snow plow season

4 X4 pickup truck with a less than an 8 foot plow	\$65.00/hour
One ton pickup truck with an 8ft plow or larger	\$75.00/hour
Trucks 25,000 - 26,000lbs	\$75.00/hour
Six wheel trucks over 26,000lbs and over	\$85.00/hour
Front End Bucket Loaders (with a 3 yard bucket)	\$110.00/hour

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the snow plow rates as recommended by Superintendent Ferry.

Road Opening Permit for Columbia Gas at 641 Park Street to replace a gas service.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the road opening permit at 641 Park Street.

Letter of Resignation from Heidi Baacke

Chairman Taylor read the letter from Heidi resigning her positions as administrative assistant to the Planning Board, Clerk to the Highway Department and all appointed positions.

Selectman Taylor said that Heidi has been with the town for 15 years and the town hated to see her go.

Selectman Zografos added that Heidi was a wealth of knowledge and will be dearly missed.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Heidi Baacke with thanks for her service.

D-R High School Roof Repair

Dr. Azar said he and Catherine Cooper were at the meeting tonight to share some thoughts about what happened at the Town Meeting in Rehoboth on Monday evening.

Dr. Azar said the warrant article was tabled, but the good news was that it was tabled to look at it further.

Dr. Azar said he had been prepared to discuss this at the Rehoboth Town Meeting and had an army of people there also to discuss it also. They were not prepared for the motion to table it which prevented any discussion.

Chairman Taylor asked what the time frame was.

Ms. Cooper said they had tabled it for further consideration. She believed it would now be on a Special Town Meeting in January, in time to be included on the ballot for the election in April.

Selectman Zografos asked if it would have been easier to vote on it that night.

Selectman Goulart said if they had taken the initial step it still would not have totally resolved this. It would have required another special election.

Glen Jefferson - Hillcrest Drive

Mr. Jefferson said as a parent he was hearing the negative comments and he knew in advance that they would table this.

Chairman Taylor did not want to disparage Rehoboth and its residents.

Glen also said he hoped Dighton was doing something to see if there was mold present in the building.

Leah Quinn – Council Oak Way

Ms. Quinn said there are serious repairs that need to be done and asked what would be done in the meantime.

Building Commissioner, James Aguiar said inspections are done every year in all of the schools.

Ms. Quinn asked about mold issue and said that was unacceptable.

Mr. Aguiar said he had not seen any mold on any surfaces.

Dr. Azar said the biggest mold issues right now were at Palmer River.

Dr. Azar said he had a very good relationship with the town and the fire department, and they work together to make sure schools were structurally sound, especially when there is a snow event.

Dr. Azar felt comfortable that the school committee would send this back to the Board of Selectmen very quickly.

Dr. Azar said Rehoboth's portion of this roof was one million dollars which meant that the town of Rehoboth would pay an additional \$26.00 in taxes per year for the new high school roof.

Ms. Cooper added that the repairs would not have been done in the winter anyway.

Ms. Quinn wanted to know what safety measures were in place and what could be done on the Dighton side to get the ball rolling faster.

Selectman Goulart said she would ask Mr. Pires to speak on behalf of the Board of Health.

Mr. Pires said he was comfortable with the fact that Dr. Azar and our officials were on top of this. He also said the Board of Health would assist in any way they could. He was confident that anything that could be done was being done. Mr. Pires also added that the Board of Health did not have a problem shutting schools down if there was a problem

Mr. Pires said if nothing happens within the timeframe, then you should be outraged.

Mrs. Janice Terry said the frustration is that Dighton has stepped up to the plate every time and Rehoboth is somewhat responsible for us being where we are.

Chairman Taylor said if this does not get approved in January then the town has a responsibility to work with the school committee to get this resolved and Selectman Zografos agreed.

Mr. Chris Andrade, of the school committee, asked that the board of selectmen send a letter to Rehoboth Selectmen asking for their support. He thought they needed to hear from the board of selectmen.

Rhonda Lovell- Williams Street

Mrs. Lovell asked what would happen to the children if the school needed to be shut down.

Dr. Azar said that would be on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Azar said if it was one day, that would mean that the kids would stay home while we assess the building and if it were longer, the kids would be dispersed to Dighton and Rehoboth campuses.

Chairman Taylor said Rehoboth parents need to mobilize and as far as the safety, he had all the confidence in the school department and the building inspector.

Rachel Conti

Ms. Conti asked about air quality tests, when the last test was and what the results were.

Dr. Azar said he would direct that question to his business manager and he would also check with facilities manager to see if there were any rooms to be tested.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board of selectmen write a letter to board of selectmen in Rehoboth and to the school committee urging them to support the cause.

Fire Chief's Contract

Chairman Taylor said the board reviewed it and Town Counsel had also approved.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board of selectmen ratify and sign the Fire Chief's Contract.

Announcement from Town Clerk's Office

The town clerk's office will be open on November 22, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm to accept initiative petitions for the 2018 state election and for any other business in the Town Clerk's Office.

Announcement from the Town Clerk, the Treasurer and the Assessor's office that there would be no meetings on the evening of November 22, 2017.

Chairman Taylor also mentioned that there would be no selectman's meeting and town hall would be closed on November 22.

Correspondence from Green Street Solar Power was read by Selectmen Zografos asking to meet with the selectmen regarding a possible solar project at the landfill.

Chairman Taylor thought the board should meet with them and Selectman Zografos agreed.

Chairman Taylor said he would reach out to them and set up a meeting.

Public Notice from Bristol County Mosquito Control

The notice was read by Selectman Zografos and followed by the response from Mr. Charles Mello from Conservation that explained that Bristol County Mosquito Control was in the process of renewing its permit and the town would be notified when that happened.

Reports

Selectman Goulart attended the MMA monthly meeting today and Randy Hunt, a representative that had filed legislation to put a .05 deposit on nip bottles, spoke at the event.

Mr. Hunt said the deposit on nip bottles of \$.05 would raise 40 million dollars and people would be more inclined to pick them up if they were worth something.

Selectman Goulart said there was also a legislative update on storm water.

Selectman Goulart said there were two ballot questions discussed that MMA had weighed in on.

One was The Fair Share Amendment to the Constitution and that MMA had sent a letter in support of a 4% surtax on private income of more than one million dollars. This money would go directly to cities and towns for State Aid Chapter 70, unrestricted State Aid, and Chapter 90 Highway.

Selectman Goulart said MMA would oppose a ballot question to reduce sales tax to 5%. In addition, that bill also requires a mandatory tax free weekend.

The other topic discussed was a senate Bill 2196 in response to climate change, directly related to the Executive Order 569, and the recent statement from Governor Baker which said that Massachusetts would live up to the Paris Agreement on climate change. Selectman Goulart said there were 11 other states that were also on board.

Announcements

The announcements were read by Selectman Zografos, Selectman Goulart and finished by Chairman Taylor.

Selectman Goulart added an announcement that St. Vincent de Paul was preparing food baskets and if anyone was in need of one to stop by St. Nicholas' Parish Office.

Chairman Taylor said if anyone was interested in the planning board position to stop by and see Heidi Baacke.

Warrants

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #19A-18 in the amount of \$89,113.96, Warrant #19B-18 in the amount of \$40,561.97, Warrant #19C-18 in the amount of \$192,010.51, Warrant #19D-18 in the amount of \$2,295,985.25 and Warrant #19E-18 in the amount of \$1,138,174.19 all dated November 8, 2017.

Executive Session

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** to go into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter30B, Section 21(a)(3).

Chairman Taylor said the board would not be returning to an open Session. Open meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen

John P. Taylor – Chairman

Brett R. Zografos – Clerk

Nancy J. Goulart – Member

