

**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARDS OF SELECTMEN/HEALTH
December 9, 2009**

Nancy Goulart, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: Nancy Goulart, Edward D. Reese, Sr., and Thomas Pires

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Approve Minutes

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to approve meeting minutes of December 2, 2009.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Approve Warrants

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to approve the following warrants:

Warrant #024A-10 Payroll \$ 50,068.43

Warrant #024B-10 Vendor bills \$ 234,782.12

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Edward D. Reese, Sr., read announcements.

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District

Dr. Kathleen Montagano, Supt. of Schools at D-R, met with the board to discuss her email asking if the town planned to call a special town meeting to act on the proposed budget increase of \$28,141 for the purchase of textbooks for the Dighton Middle School. Mrs. Goulart said there was confusion because if the amount requested was to be taken from a special account, it could be paid from that account and not increase the budget. Dr. Montagano stated that that was one option but the school committee took the other option which was to vote to increase the budget for FY10 by that amount and to take it from the special account so there would be no increase in Dighton's assessment. The board did not object to the \$28,141 for textbooks and no town meeting was needed.

The discussion then turned to the \$400,000 that was taken from the E&D Account and put into special accounts to be used to offset an anticipated reduction in state aid. Using round numbers and not the exact percentage split in the Regional Agreement, Dighton's share of the \$400,000 was \$171,000, and Rehoboth's share was \$229,000. When the state aid numbers were received, the minimum contributions for both towns were reduced. Of the Rehoboth amount of \$229,000, \$130,000 was deducted for the minimum contribution leaving \$99,000. The town requested that its assessment be reduced by \$72,000 leaving a balance of \$27,000. Then the school committee voted to set aside \$16,000 for athletic/after school programs to help fund the programs if the parents' group was not able to raise all of the money needed to fund the programs. That left a balance of approximately \$11,000 in the Rehoboth account.

Of the Dighton amount of \$171,000, \$35,000 was deducted for the minimum contribution leaving \$136,000. The requested \$28,000+ for the purchase of textbooks was deducted leaving a balance of \$108,000. Then the school committee voted to set aside \$16,000 for athletic/after school programs to help fund the programs if the parents' group was not able to raise all of the money needed to fund the programs. That left a balance of approximately \$92,000 in the Dighton account. Since Dighton had its final financial town meeting on November 24 for FY10, Mrs. Goulart stated that the town now had the option to request a reduction in its assessment for FY10.

Dr. Montagano stated that the \$93,000 was not really available because the district had been notified that state aid for transportation had been cut by \$275,000 and the \$93,000 might be used to offset Dighton's portion of that reduction in aid. Mrs. Goulart responded that the transportation issue is separate and distinct from the money set aside from which Rehoboth successfully received a reduction in its assessment for FY10. She further stated that the Regional Agreement is a partnership and that when one partner exercises an option to have its assessment reduced and there is money available to the other partner to do the same, the other partner, being Dighton in this case, has the right to exercise the option and request a reduction in its assessment. The amount needed to offset the decrease in transportation aid can be taken from the E&D Account because as of its certification date, it was at the five percent (5%) allowed in the Regional Agreement.

Mrs. Goulart stated that there is no connection to the refunds that each town received because the balance in the E&D Account exceeded the amount allowed in the agreement. Also, the Board of Selectmen was not aware when it went to town meeting in June and in the two succeeding special fiscal town meetings in November that there was an amount of money set aside that could have been used to reduce its assessment. Now that this information has been made public, the townspeople have the right to know that it could have been used to reduce what was raised and appropriated at the town meetings.

Mr. Swartz, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that he knew about the money and that Rehoboth had received a reduction in its assessment. He went on to say now that our town meetings have been completed, as has happened in the past; the school district has worked with the town to help out by reducing the assessment. Mrs. Goulart stated that the town would probably make a request for a specific amount to be used to reduce its FY10 assessment and would discuss this at its meeting on Dec. 16.

In an unrelated matter, Mrs. Goulart asked Dr. Montagano if an updated schedule of capital costs could be prepared to help us with planning. The last schedule the town received was through the expansion/renovation of the high school. Dighton would like the updated schedule to include the septic project currently under construction. Dr. Montagano stated that she would request the updated schedule from the district treasurer and forward a copy to the town.

December 9, 2009

Mrs. Goulart advised Dr. Montagano that the town had received a letter from a parent alleging abuse, assault and battery on her daughter on the vehicle that transports her to and from school. The parent said the other student riding the bus also has assaulted her. This problem was first brought to the selectmen in February 2009 and the board responded to the parent with a copy of that letter being sent to the school district. The board expressed its concern and sought a speedy resolution.

The problem continues and the parent has now contacted a number of outside agencies and departments requesting their intervention to stop this abuse. Dr. Montagano stated that she could not discuss the matter because of confidentiality. Mrs. Goulart stated that she would not breach confidentiality but that the case being mentioned was well known to the school district. The board requested that the continuing assault and battery allegations involving a Dighton resident and her child on the school vehicle be resolved expeditiously. Dr. Montagano again declined to discuss the matter. Mrs. Goulart said that the board turned the letter over to the police dept. because crimes were alleged. Dr. Montagano stated that the alleged assaults did not occur in Dighton and that is why she did not provide information to the Dighton police.

Pole Hearing

Joanne Robideau, representative of Verizon, and Ron S. Rusin appeared before the board requesting the installation of a new pole on Hart Street to provide service to a new residence. The notice was read by Thomas Pires. No objections were presented. Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to approve the installation of a new pole on Hart Street.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Goulart asked Mr. Rusin if he received her voice mail regarding property located at 418 Hart Street. Mr. Rusin assured the board that 415 Hart Street will be secured and demolition will take place in the upcoming weeks. He was advised to have the police check the premises prior to demolition.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was read:

Letter from Gary Olney requesting waiver of requirement for worker's compensation insurance for plowing snow for the town. Motion: Edward D. Reese, Sr., seconded: Thomas Pires VOTED waive worker's compensation insurance requirement for Gary Olney for the purpose of snow plowing for the remainder of FY10.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Letter from town counsel confirming that it does not appear that a site plan is required for the animal shelter located at the transfer station because this is a pre-existing non-conforming structure.

Letter from Craig Engler regarding his living arrangements. Motion: Edward D. Reese, Sr., seconded: Thomas Pires VOTED to grant an extension to December 30, 2009,

December 9, 2009

to Craig Engler under the condition that he provide a status report to the board on or before December 20, 2009.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to close the transfer station on December 26, 2009, as recommended by Thomas Ferry, Highway Superintendent.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Motion: Edward D. Reese, Sr., seconded: Thomas Pires VOTED to authorize the chairman to sign the contract for the local arts grant for FY10 in the amount of \$4,000.00.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED permit the highway department to accept the 1983 GMC truck loaned to the school department and to park the vehicle at the highway department to be used for parts as recommended by Thomas Ferry, Highway Superintendent.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Lin's Propane

The first stormwater inspection at Lin's Propane was performed on December 8, 2009 by Nancy Goulart and Thomas Pires. The berm was removed as ordered by the town. Motion: Edward D. Reese, Sr., seconded: Thomas Pires VOTED to lift the cease and desist order dated September 14, 2009 and allow Andrew Johnson to continue with the project.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

The stormwater plan will be reviewed one more time and any further questions will be submitted to Mr. Johnson.

Executive Session

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to go into executive session under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 39 section 23B (3) at 8:50 PM. Mrs. Goulart announced that the Board would not return to open session.

Vote: Nancy Goulart AYE
Edward D. Reese, Sr. AYE
Thomas Pires AYE

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to return to open session at 10:35 PM.

Vote: Nancy Goulart AYE
Edward D. Reese, Sr. AYE
Thomas Pires AYE

Boards of Selectmen/Health
Page 5
December 9, 2009

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to adjourn at 10:35 PM.
Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,
Boards of Selectmen/Health
Kerrie J Easterday, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

