

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, 5 November, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

Chairman Dean V. Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Seniors of the Dighton Rehoboth Varsity Football Team were present, along with members of the Dighton Fire Department and EMTs, including Chief Roderick, John Gauthier, Fred Wilbur and Joseph T. White, Jr. Also present were, Carol Bedard and Kenneth Rhines.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

The Senior Varsity Football team is addressed by Patrick Menges. He mentions that they are headed off to a very important game this Friday night. Their season record stands at 6-2. Selectmen Menges adds that all of these players had to meet high academic standards during the year. He then addresses each team member and asks them about their plans for next year and beyond. He adds that the Town is proud and stands solidly behind you in your future endeavors.

Acknowledgements: Fred Wilbur and Joseph T White, Jr. A letter was read by Selectmen Menges, from Charlton Memorial Hospital, which stated that because of their acute assessment skills and rapid deployment, a 65 year old female patient was able to be treated and discharged after only 3 days. He added that the Board of Selectmen would like to take this opportunity to recognize you for your exemplary service, and presented them each with a copy of the letter, signed by all board members.

John Gauthier, Firefighter RFF #37, is called up to the Table. A letter from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Recruit Training Program. This letter states that on October 20, 2014, during a physical training exercise, called the Tower Climb, RFF John P. Gauthier was observed coaching another recruit firefighter through this exercise and continually remained with him, giving positive reinforcement throughout. This upholds the long tradition of the Firefighters to never leave anyone behind. Patrick then mentioned that the Board would like to recognize Mr. Gauthier and present him with a copy of this commendation letter signed by the Board members.

Chief Roderick thanked the Board for recognizing his firefighters for their commendations and that they train very hard, and he would also like to welcome his newest firefighter to the Town. He is State and Nationally certified and also has an EMT certification.

The Minutes from October 29, 2024, were approved on a motion from Selectman Pires and seconded by Selectman Menges. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Warrants: 19-A \$72,246.18; 19-B \$123,043.49; 19-C \$156,170.31 were approved on a motion by Tom Pires, seconded by Patrick Menges. Approved by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

- News from Mass DOT South Coast Rail was read by Dean Cronin. The South Coast Rail Project has been nominated as one of the Top 5 Projects on the Job/Opportunity Creation Category for the North American Strategic Infrastructure Leadership Forum in Washington. It placed a close second behind the Port of Everglades Project in Florida. The South Coast Rail will reconnect the region to Boston and it is expected to generate approximately half a billion dollars in economic development each year. The Selectmen's Office has information available, or you may contact the project team by emailing SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us.

Announcements were read by Tom Pires.

Old Business:

- Patrick Menges moves that Carol Bedard be appointed to the Historical Commission and Tom Pires seconded. Carol has been a resident since 1980. Originally from Providence, she always dreamed of living in the country. She stated that she likes History and wants to preserve as much of it as possible for future generations. She was part of the Tricentennial Parade Committee. Was involved in PTO and is currently tutoring within the Town. Motion carries.

New Business:

- Selectman Menges motions that Kenneth Rhines be appointed to the Community Preservation Committee. Motion seconded by Tom Pires.
Patrick added that the Board, as a ministerial act, informed Michael Rose that his seat would be deemed vacant because he was never sworn in.
Mr. Rhines added that he voted for the Preservation Act. Dighton is a 300 year old Town and has a lot worth preserving. Tom Pires thanked him for volunteering. Mr. Rhines appreciated the opportunity to learn. Motion carries.
- Salt Shed Bids. As discussed previously, the Board has accepted bids for the Salt Shed and Prime Time Roof Replacement. We have had seven bids come in for both projects. Because of General Procurement Law, any bid over \$25,000.00, must provide a 5% bid bond with their bid. There were four companies that did not supply a bond with their bid. Unfortunately, the two bidders that did supply bid bonds and qualify, their bids were well over the amount that the Town has approved for those projects. Around \$40,000.00 was appropriated, and the lowest qualifying bid was \$82,720.00 and next was \$108,000.00. Selectmen Menges made motion to reject bids. Seconded by Tom Pires. Motion carries.

- Solar Campaign Letter was read. It is from Environment Massachusetts, which is a grassroots environmental advocacy organization, is asking local officials to sign a letter to the Governor in support of Solar Energy. Since 2008, Massachusetts' Solar Energy has grown more than 150-fold, employed 6,400 Massachusetts residents. Without proper support from State government, this rapid growth could come to a halt. The letter asks the governor to make solar energy a key element of Massachusetts' energy future. Selectman Pires motions to endorse. Selectman Menges seconded. Motion carries.
- Resignation Letter of Steven Dumenigo from the Dighton Industrial Development Financing Authority is read. He states that this is due to health concerns and his absence during the winter months. Board feels that this is a great loss, but it is necessary. Selectman Menges motions to accept resignation, Tom Pires seconded. Motion carries.
Patrick added that Steven and the other members have pursued increased commerce in the Town and the benefits that come with it. Each member has brought an intelligent approach to the cause and each would be hard to replace. We are fortunate to have Steven's son David, who is a Remax realtor, serving as an alternate member.
- Appointment of six new members of Dighton Development and Industrial Commission. A little background on this new commission is as follows:
In the Economic portion of the Master Plan it is suggested that the Town create a Development Commission. This commission will expand the role of Development Commission to publish things on the web promoting Dighton's features. This committee can make recommendations to zoning board if necessary. The town needs some commercial activity to help defray the costs of Government and Schools which will increase over the next few years. The Route 138 corridor is destined for for mixed use zoning so that we may have commercial use. This committee will also help brainstorm ways to minimize the commercial tax to entice businesses.
Selectman Menges motions to table until next week so that the Board may organize the committee. Selectman Pires seconds and Chairman Cronin adds that maybe it should be done by 8:00pm so that they may be sworn in. Patrick mentions that Scott Dingas has volunteered to serve on this committee, and he will be an asset to the board. Motion to table by Tom Pires and seconded by Patrick Menges. Motion carries.
- Dighton 4th Grade Peer Leaders request permission to use Dighton Town Hall for a drop off location for their coat drive. Flyer read by Chairman Cronin. Motion to approve by Tom Pires and seconded by Patrick Menges. Motion carries. We will contact them and ask them to supply a large box to be put in the foyer and picked up on a weekly basis or as needed.

Reports: Report on the Dighton Regional School Committee by Chairman Cronin. The committee is taking apart the 15 page agreement from 1987, page by page, and making sure the new agreement is in compliance. Topics for discussion in coming months will explain criteria on which it is decided what the Town is responsible for. These meetings are open to the public, but to date we have not seen any residents come, except last night when one woman from Rehoboth attended. The next meetings are scheduled for December 2, 11th and 16th at 6:30 pm in the DR Media Center at the High School. Again, all are welcome. Thank you to Tony Roderick and Ed Swartz for their participation.

Acknowledgements:

- 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of WWI. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th Month the war came to an end. As we remember all who have served, the Board invites you to join them at the Veterans Memorial for a flag raising ceremony on November 11th at 10:00 am.
- Selectman Pires would like to recognize all who came out to vote. Dighton had about a 50% turnout or about 2000 voters. The national average is somewhere around 16%. Good job Dighton!

Public Input:

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Pires. Seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen

Dean V. Cronin-Chairman

Tom Pires – Selectman

Patrick Menges - Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On Veterans' Day, 11 November 2014, Boy Scouts of America Troop 45 will perform the Flag Raising on Veterans' Memorial Common. There will be a collation in the Town Hall, Main Floor Hearings Room, after the Ceremony.
- The Board of Health has sharps disposal containers for sale for Dighton residents only at the office (\$3.00qt/\$6.00gal). Once full, they can be brought back to the Board of Health for proper disposal at no additional cost. Board of Selectmen's office is now selling 2 gallon sharps containers for \$7.50/each. This is a savings of \$4.50 vs. \$12.00 for 2 gallon containers.
- Please attend the Holiday Lights On Ceremony to be held at Town Hall on Saturday, November 29, 2014, at 3:30 pm.
- National Grid will be performing selective side pruning and/or danger tree removal along as electric transmission right of way – the "Power Lines," in Dighton, now thru March 31, 2015. Call Mariclaire Rigby at 508 860 6282 or email mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com for any questions.
- On November 7, 2014, the Dighton Board of Selectmen will meet with the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen to exchange thoughts and ideas for moving forward.
- The Dighton Intertribal Council will be holding a Dighton Council Oak Tree Ceremony on Sunday, November 2, 2014. Everyone will meet at Council Hall and drop off a dish for the pot luck. The group will then drive to Council Oak Tree for the ceremony. After the ceremony, back to the hall for sharing of food, drum and dance social. Everyone in welcome.
- The Lions Club presents the 10th Annual Dighton Arts Festival, Sunday, November 2, 2014, 10:00am to 4:00pm at Araujo Farms in Dighton, MA. This event showcases local art and entertainment for all ages.
- The Dighton Rehoboth Regional Agreement Revising Committee will meet at the Media Center of Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School on Tuesday November 4th, 2014, 6:30pm. Public is welcome.
- Set your clocks back Saturday November 1, 2014. Fall back.