

**The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, 3 December, 2014, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

1. **Chairman Dean V. Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was then recited.
3. **Letter of Apology** read by Patrick Menges to Kerrie Easterday as follows:

"Dear Mrs. Easterday,

For having offended you during the time of our association as selectman and administrative assistant in Dighton Town Hall. I am sincerely sorry and do now humbly and solemnly apologize.

Very sincerely yours,

Patrick W. Menges"

Original to be communicated to Mrs. Easterday.

**[Let the record reflect that Mrs. Easterday, was present for the reading of this document].**

4. **Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the** minutes from Board of Selectmen's regular meeting of November 19, 2014 by Tom Pires and seconded by Patrick Menges. Unanimously carries.

**Warrants:** Motion to approve Warrants #22A-15 \$73,754.97; #22B-15 \$12,403.24; 22C-15 \$107,463.42 dated 11/26/14, made by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously carries.

Motion to approve warrants #23A-15 \$77, 710.42; #23B-15 \$33,673.23, dated 12/3/14 by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously carries.

**Correspondence:**

- a. Correspondence read by Chairman Cronin from Comcast to say they will continue to provide free high speed internet service to the schools and local library for the upcoming year. A value of \$4494.00 annually. He thanks Comcast for this.

- b. Correspondence from Brownstone Realty Group forwarded by Myrna Santos regarding the gift of the Bowen House to the Dighton Historical Commission. They had intended to give them the house, with the stipulation that it be moved from its location at 487 Main Street, however, because the house could not be salvaged in its entirety and had to be demolished, they have given the Commission parts of the house instead. These salvageable items were based on a “wish list” by the Historical Commission. They hope to salvage as many as possible. The stipulation states that the items may be used in two ways:
1. In conjunction with any needs of the Dighton Historical Society free of charge, or
  2. Any and all items not used are to be sold, and any profits to be kept in a separate Dighton account for use in future preservation activities by Dighton Town, Dighton Historical Commission, and/or Town Historian.
- Selectman Menges added, that the salvaged items are being stored temporarily at the Van Guyzen Hall.

**Announcements** were read by Selectman Pires (see attached) and he also added that the Town still has some of the 1962 Coins left for \$10.00 each.

Also read by Chairman Cronin was a list of current Elected Officials whose terms are expiring 2015.

They are as follows:

BOARD OF ASSESSORS	Joseph Silva, Jr.	1668 Pine Street, Dighton	2015
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	Thomas J. Pires	3223 Millers Lane, Dighton	2015
D-R SCHOOL DIST. COMM.	Christopher Andrade	1975 Milk Street, Dighton	2015
D-R SCHOOL DIST. COMM.	Susan M. Lorenz	1375 Center Street, Dighton	2015
HOUSING AUTHORITY	Alice E. Souza	1679 Elm Street, Dighton	2015
PARKS AND RECREATION	Timothy Rhines	316 Main Street, Dighton	2015
PLANNING BOARD	David J. Araujo, Sr.	790 Tremont Street, N.Dighton	2015
PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES	Alison A. Cembalisty	2544 Pleasant Street, Dighton	2015
SEWER COMMISSIONERS	William J. Mendoza	1721 Milk Street, Dighton	2015
TOWN MODERATOR	William E. McKeon Jr	2308 Pleasant Street, Dighton	2015
TREE WARDEN	Thomas C. Ferry	1070 Williams Street, N. Dighton	2015

On January 2, 2015, all elected officials will receive official notification that their term is expiring and that the nomination papers are available in the Town Clerks office.

There will also be a press release in January in the Gazette informing residents of the Annual Town Election and that papers are available at the Clerk’s office until Thursday February 19, 2015.

Chairman Cronin says that we will read this for the next couple of weeks to keep the public informed.

### **Old Business:**

We would like to discuss the reassignment of office space to facilitate the Town Administrator.

Per Chairman Cronin, we are placing on a Warrant for the next Town Meeting. Jim Aguiar is present and has a report. Jim goes on to say that he had spent some time looking around and speaking with people from the various departments in an effort to determine the best course of action.

It was previously mentioned that we make a move to assist our citizens with disabilities to get into the building. In the case of the Veteran's Office, this is a big issue for them.

Two different things could happen one being the least invasive and the other being more involved.

There are currently two offices downstairs – Sewer and Planning.

Board of Health, zoning and planning could move in together. The planning office wall would have to be moved out.

Building Department is currently 325 sq. feet. 525 sq. is needed for Sewer. Sewer department is just shy of that and then building and Veteran's Office could be moved down and sewer moved up.

That would mean the Sewer Department would be shy 200 sq. feet and may have a problem fitting in there.

The Clerk's Office currently has space issues also. At this time it may be prudent to do a more in depth investigation as to whether we are using these spaces effectively. We need to look at long term requirements for future. For instance, one thing discussed were the walls downstairs.

One scenario would be to relocate the hearings room, remove walls and make the whole left side of the building Planning, Building and Board of Health.

Everyone needs have to be taken into consideration, including putting departments that belong together, together.

Chairman Cronin thanks Jim for the time that he put in, but thinks that if he had to make a decision right now, he would not be able to. Jim agrees, and if Town Administrator position is approved then that person should have a say also.

Selectman Menges disagrees and says that we are now in the budget cycle for this, and it is imminent that the funds will be included in the 2016 budget.

He further states, that it is his firm recommendation that the wall of the original Town Administrator office be restored, the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health join Planning in the Sewer Department space, and Sewer be moved to Planning. We cannot be scratching our heads on the day the Administrator comes in. We must move forward with this.

Selectman Pires agrees with all 3, although at this time he is not sure that a full time Town Administrator is needed. He further agrees with Patrick that Zoning and Board of Health should be moved to Sewer Department.

Jim Aguiar added that with regard to the office swapping there are no cameras installed in the Sewer Department.

Selectman Pires goes on to say that his bottom line recommendation is for Zoning Board to move to Sewer (the least amount of transition) and the designated corner for the Administrator be restored.

Patrick also thinks that we need to price telecommunications system for the office as well, and also recommends a glass door with a venetian blind. In summary, smoke detectors, light switch and solid door w/blind.

Selectman Pires motions to move Zoning Board to Planning, and wall off spot for potential Town Administrator, seconded by Selectman Menges.

Selectman Menges adds that On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December the Town Administrator Study Committee will come back using comparative information from other Towns to create a budget for this position, and I agree that the final answer on how to best use the office space should include advice of the Town Administrator. Motion unanimously carries.

Tom Pires says that maybe we should consider Van Guyzen Hall as an annex for building, zoning, etc.

A question came from the audience as to the date when the administrator would start. It was answered by Selectman Menges, July 1, 2015.

#### **New Business:**

- Workers Compensation waiver from Roger Sisson Jr. for snow plow season 2014-2015, motioned for approval by Selectman Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carried.
- Sign Warrant for Special Town Election which is read by Chairman Cronin exactly as it is written

“BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the constables of the Town of Dighton, County of Bristol

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Dighton qualified to vote in elections, to meet at the Dighton Elementary School for both Precincts One and Two, on Tuesday, the Thirteenth day of January, 2015, at 9:00 A.M. then and there to vote on the following question:

Shall the Town of Dighton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to finance the design, construction, furnishings and equipping of a new Police Headquarters and Communications center, including all costs incidental and related thereto?

For this purpose the polls will be opened at 9:00am and shall close at 7:00 pm.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at each of the Post Offices, at the Town Hall and at the main Fire Station, all in said Dighton, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this third day of December, in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen.”

Selectman Menges motions to accept the warrant, Selectman Pires seconded. Motion unanimously carries.

**Reports:** Selectman Menges reports that the 911 Regionalization Committee is getting into the nuts and bolts of the process and will give updates at future meetings.

He adds that the Disaster Committee has an application pending for full certification. If received, it will be a grant for Emergency Response for the next 5 years.

**Acknowledgements:** Anonymous donation in the amount of \$240.00 to the council on aging. Selectman Tom Pires motions to accept and acknowledge donor, seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carries.

Selectman Menges wishes to acknowledge that over 200 coats were collected by the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Peer Leader, in their annual coat drive which took place for the month of November. A large commercial chain will dry clean all of the coats at their expense.

Chairman Cronin congratulates the DR Football Team. The Falcons ran away with a 27-0 win. And a special congratulations to the Seniors who were here a few weeks ago. We wish them the best.

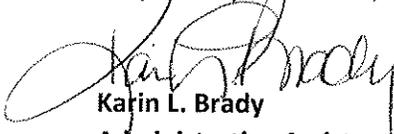
He also mentions the Tree Lighting. Selectman Pires says that the Lions did a wonderful job with the hot dogs and soup this year. This was a great time, and he is looking forward to next year. Selectman Menges also mentions Sue Medeiros and her fabulous group who met here one night with no power, and that over 1000 new lights new lights were added to our tree this year.

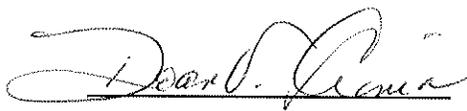
Chairman Cronin adds that the Lions did a great job, and also Senator Pacheco and Patricia Hadaad who sang Christmas carols with the children. It was a great turnout, with a nice "close feeling." Thank you to the parents who brought their kids out for this event. Don't forget Santa this weekend, and again, "Thank you, Jim."

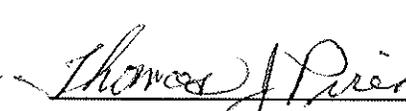
**Public Input: None**

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges, unanimously carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Karin L. Brady  
Administrative Assistant  
Board of Selectmen

  
Dean V. Cronin-Chairman

  
Tom Pires - Selectman

  
Patrick Menges - Clerk

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Board of Health has sharps disposal containers for sale for Dighton residents only at the office (\$3.00qt/\$6.00gal). We now have 2 gal size for \$7.50 (a savings of \$4.50). Once full, they can be brought back to the Board of Health for proper disposal at no additional cost.
- 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](mailto:mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com) for any questions.
- Veterans Services is accepting donation for a POW-MIA chair, flags and related hardware to be installed in the Dighton Town Hall lobby. This legal notice posted in the Gazette on 11/12, 11/13 and 11/14.
- In the first week of January, the Town Clerk’s office will mail out census forms; please check your mailboxes and return census forms as soon as possible
- Dog licenses for 2015 will be available on January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a special Town Election to vote on a debt exclusion authorization for a new police station and communications center, on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 9:00am to 7:00pm at Dighton Elementary School. Absentee ballots for the special election are now available.
- Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register to vote for the January 13, 2015, special election. New voters may register at Town Hall from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm, and from 1:00pm to 8:00 pm at the Police Station, 1551 Somerset Avenue.
- Nomination papers for town offices for the Annual Town Election will be available at the Town Clerk’s office beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- A Dighton Tri-Centennial Book would be a great Christmas gift. Available at the Town Clerks office for \$10.00/each.