

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, 11 February, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

1. **Selectman Menges acting as chairman called the meeting to order at 7:32pm**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was then recited.
3. **Moment of silence and extension of condolences in the passing of Ethel Bindon.**
4. **Chairman Cronin** welcomes everyone to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly meeting w/our colleagues from the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen. Present are: Michael Costello, Skip Vadnais, David Perry and Town Administrator Jeffrey Ritter.

Chairman Cronin opens by saying that these two towns do look forward to working with each other. The intent is to sit down and talk about some issues and throw out some ideas.

Mr. Costello thanks the Board for allowing Rehoboth to tap into services of your Veteran's Agent. He mentions that they had something on the table regarding police detail. We are asking for the town rate for detail at the high school. He adds that Rehoboth charges one rate for all of their officers, but they are getting different rates for Dighton's officers depending on their rank. Selectman Pires says we would be happy to give you that rate, but FLSA says they will be paid for over 40 hours, time and a half. Selectman Menges mentions that they are in the process of negotiating the new police contract. We have detail rates in the contract, so if we find that this interpretation is wrong, we will re-negotiate that point. Selectman Perry (Rehoboth) says that they are looking for a municipal rate. Selectman Menges reads from the contract which states "for all town details." It does not specify what town.

The two Boards go on to discuss the regional agreement between the towns, and funding options. Skip Vadnais says that whatever we decide, the results need to be favorable for both sides. He goes on to say that Rehoboth's ability to fund the school will be at the mandated minimum, where you pointed out that each needs to be equal. The reality is that we are not equal. The school committee would like the boards to look at de-regionalizing K-8. K-8 causes the problem. If we can't agree, then they would like to know the cost of continuing, or is it more beneficial to de-regionalize. We haven't the slightest idea what that would cost. If we are to get a handle on this, we will need a couple of citizens put on this.

Chairman Cronin says that they have come to a barrier. We need to get to the "Nitty Gritty" soon. Skip tells him, what will happen is that Rehoboth will be paying the minimum contribution, you can't give the K-8 education that you want, because we can't pay. We need to know the cost of the separation.

(Selectman Joe Tito has come in).

Selectman Costello says that if you include the money for the school, it should go to your K-8. It is hard for us to get any type of increase. Selectman Tito adds that it depends on who comes

to town meeting. We are still 10% away from override. The reality is that the facilities that we have are embarrassing for the wealth that we have in this community. He goes on to say that, he would think that we could regionalize the K-8 and get 99% of funds from State, and still Rehoboth would not vote for it.

Selectman Menges says, the point is that we are both struggling with our grammar school facilities and by regionalizing our grammar schools, we may be able to save a lot of money. Does the future lie in continuing on separate paths or do we take the bull by the horns.

Selectman Vadnais says that we need to find the true cost of building a school together or splitting apart and going our separate ways. I ask that you agree to that.

Selectman Pires suggest that maybe we can get a college to do that, there are resources out there if we can find individuals within the town to do this.

Selectman Vadnais say they can find three on their side. He adds that the original agreement stated that

1. There would be no busing back and forth
2. You could create your own curriculum

He says that another problem is that you have tenured teachers that are paid more than the teachers in Rehoboth.

Selectman Menges says that if we allow the School Board to draw their own budgets- that is not a region. We are depriving ourselves of regionalization, if we are talking separate budgets.

Selectman Costello says that we are not grasping all the benefits of regionalization-the central office should be split 50/50.

Selectman Menges mentions that we are all members of Bristol Aggie. They send out the assessments to each town and that's it. Selectman Pires adds that if he remembers correctly they had come up with a formula way back when.

Selectman Vadnais brings up another issue of the weighted vote. How do you fill a vacancy he asks? He adds these are the things that will prevent us from coming to an agreement.

Selectman Costello says that when the company came to speak at the meeting, they told us that if you do not leave the meeting agreeing on everything, it will not pass at town meeting. To which Selectman Vadnais adds, we are being outvoted on certain issues, there is no real unanimous.

Selectman Menges asks them if they will do a public forum, to which Selectman Vadnais replies that yes, they will put out what they have and ask for input from the public, and the he will put forward not necessarily what he believes, but what his people want. He adds that he appreciates Ed Swartz for putting all of his cards on the table. "At least I know what I am dealing with."

Selectman Menges says that we will definitely move forward with the costs of de-regionalization vs. regionalization. He adds that he thinks that the regional agreement should address whether the over and above contribution should continue.

Selectman Vadnais says the problem is if there is a 22 million dollar budget and Rehoboth is responsible for 60% and Dighton is responsible for 40%. Rehoboth is going to vote for the minimum. Dighton is going to vote historically for the number that they are handed.

Selectman Menges says, under the law, if either town does not vote for the higher number, the School Board will draw up an equal budget.

Glenn Jefferson who is in the audience mentions that the public does not understand.

Selectman Vadnais asks if they should set a time frame.

**Selectman Menges makes a motion to appoint an ad hoc committee of three to study the advantages of de-regionalizing K-8 vs. maximizing the benefits of regionalization through unitary budgets. Selectman Pires seconds. Selectman Vadnais says with 2 caveats:**

- 1. Committee to report to joint meeting of both boards.  
(Selectman Pires suggests a separate night for meeting).**
- 2. Alternate host communities.**

**Selectman Pires seconds with the additions, Selectman Vadnais repeats same motions on his side and Selectman Costello seconds. Unanimously carries.**

Selectman Costello says he believes that as time goes by, we will come up with a product that we can agree on.

Selectman Menges adds that there is one more thing that he would like to book, and that is the ALICE training. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Kevin Braga and Mr. Moura took it. Should there be a catastrophic event, they will know how to deal with it. They would like to begin implementing it at the High School. Sergeant Dutra indicated that he would like police presence from Rehoboth as well.

Selectman Costello says that this was brought up at the last meeting. It would be terrific to have a joint drill.

**Selectman Vadnais motions that Rehoboth provide an officer at rank. Selectman Costello adds to coordinate with Sgt. Dutra, and Selectman Tito says he does not think it has to be a man of rank, to which Selectman Vadnais says he thinks there should be equal weight at the table, such as a sergeant. Selectman Perry says "We want a man of rank." And he seconds the motion. Motion unanimously carries.**

(The Rehoboth selectman thank the Board and leave the meeting).

**5. Approval of minutes:**

- a. Minutes from February 4, 2015, regular meeting. Motion to approve by Selectman Menges. Selectman Pires seconds. Motion unanimously carries.

**6. Approval of Warrants: 33A-15 \$72,351.17; 33B-15 \$250,068.05; 33C-15, \$2,149,108.00.**

Motioned for approval by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectmen Pires. Unanimously carried.

**7. Correspondence:**

- a. Chairman Cronin reads correspondence from the ABCC regarding auction licenses for sales of wine, malt beverages and distilled spirits and its' requirements. This correspondence will be available at Town Hall for review if anyone should need to see it.

**8. Announcements:** Were read by Selectman Pires and finished by Chairman Cronin (See attached).

- a. Chairman Cronin reads 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

- b. Private solicitation from HomeServe Repair Management Group targeting area residents is read and explained by Selectman Menges. He adds that this has nothing to do with the Water District. This is an independent company which provides insurance for your water line. We were asked by Superintendent Olsen of Dighton Water District to let the public know.

**9. Old Business: None**

**10. New Business:**

- a. Approval by the Board to adopt the Procurement Approval Form for purchases from \$1000.00 to \$9999.99. Chairman Cronin adds that this is just another step in the checks and balances system. Selectman Pires motions to adopt and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries. Selectman Menges adds that any department head who has not received a copy can expect to receive one via email
- b. Re-appointment of Selectman Menges to serve as a representative of Dighton on the South Coast Rail Task Force. Selectman Pires motions to re-appoint and Chairman Cronin steps down to second. Unanimously carries.
- c. Re-appointment of Gene Nelson to Board of Registrars for one year. Selectman Pires motions to reappoint. Selectman Menges seconds and motions to amend that it become effective 2/28/15. Selectman Pires withdraws his first motion and motions to make effective on 2/28/15. Selectman Menges seconds and it unanimously carries.

**11. Report on the Town Administrator selection process by Selectman Menges.** Our

Administrative Assistant has made copies of incoming applications for all six of our committee members. The committee will meet to discuss the applicants and then two members will meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss their final top recommendations.

**12. Acknowledgements:** Letter written by Prime Time informing Board of Selectmen that they are in receipt of an anonymous donation in the amount of \$140.00. Selectman Pires reads the letter and motions to acknowledge and accept the donation. Selectman Menges seconds. Motion unanimously carries.

Chairman Cronin says that Selectman Menges has a couple of acknowledgement as well. Selectman Menges goes on to acknowledge all who have assisted the elderly during the last storm. He adds that they are commended for their efforts. Equally as important as shoveling the fire hydrants, are the steps and walkways, allowing first responders to get in and out. We thank you. To all the unsung heros, we thank you as well.

Regarding the request from the Knights of Columbus for the use of Van Gyzen Hall to store donated items, it has come to our attention that another organization has offered its' building to them. We thank you.

The Knights of Columbus has delivered to Sheila @ Prime Time over 500 items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. Another 2000 items will be forthcoming. Thank you.

Thank you to Almedia's Country Store for 100 helpings of kale soup. The Board supports your good intentions.

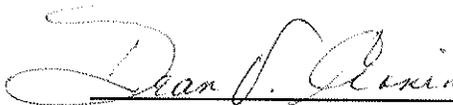
**13. Adjournment:**

Selectman Pires motions to adjourn and Selectman Menges steps down to second. Motion unanimously carries.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

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– the “Power Lines,” in Dighton, now thru March 31, 2015. Call Mariclaire Rigby at 508 860 6282 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. Contact Donald Hirschy at 508- 669 5027 for information.
- Please return census forms as soon as possible
- Dog licenses for 2015 are available. Female \$10.00, female (spayed) \$5.00; Male \$5.00, male (neutered) \$5.00.
- Nomination papers for town offices for the Annual Town Election will be available at the Town Clerk’s office until 5:00 pm on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015. Last day to submit to registrars for certification is February 23, 2015, and last day to withdraw or object to nomination papers is March 9, 2015 until 5:00pm
- Recycling Stickers –are on sale for \$1.00 at Town Hall. These are strictly for containers which do not have recycling symbols on them already.
- Burning season started January 15<sup>th</sup>. Get permits at Station #1, 300 Main Street for \$10.00. Check or money order only.
- A copy of the Master Plan is available at Town Hall and at [www.dighton-ma.gov](http://www.dighton-ma.gov) for review. Any questions or comments can be addressed to Heidi Swist at [hswist@townofdighton.com](mailto:hswist@townofdighton.com) or by calling 508 669 6636.