

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, 25 February, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY _____

2015 MAR 10 PM 12: 18

RECEIVED

1. **Meeting was called to order at 7:31pm**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was then recited.
3. **Approval of minutes:**
 - a. Minutes from February 18, 2015, regular meeting. Selectman Pires motions to approve and Selectman Menges seconds. Motion unanimously carries.
4. **Approval of Warrants:** **35A-15** \$81,707.19; **35B-15** \$16,031.14; **35C-15**, \$288,266.27. Motioned for approval by Selectmen Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carried.
5. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Chairman Cronin reads an email from Joshua Beagan regarding plowing concerns for Cameron Way in Dighton in its entirety

"Good afternoon,

My name is Joshua Beagan and I live at 280 Cameron Drive in Dighton. I have been a town resident for approximately 7 years. During this recent spate of snowstorms my street has become exceptionally unsafe due to a consistent lack of plowing.

The person who has been plowing (not a town truck or employee) has found it fit to plow one lane, down the middle of our street. On many occasions I have witnessed residents have to back up into other neighbors' driveway due to the newly "plowed" one lane road. Not only have I witnessed this I have been a part of it as well.

I have seen many residents unable to get out of their driveway because the plow driver has not cleared enough lane width to accommodate even the smallest of cars to exit their driveways - again, another safety concern.

I have watched the town trash truck become stuck on the low grade hill due to no salt or sand.

The "new" edge of the street is approximately four feet away from the curbing on one side and approximately two feet away from the curb on the other.

In short I am completely disgusted at the lack of services provided by this individual.

Now I completely understand that this is not the town's fault. However, *I feel that if the town is not providing me with the full services that I currently pay for in my taxes then why should I be paying for full services? Am I not entitled to an abatement and back taxes for not receiving full services? My recollection is that residents of North Dighton receive an abatement for not receiving water services.*

I also understand that the town has not "accepted" Cameron Drive and Hillcrest Drive due to the previous development owners' unwillingness to build a fence around the retaining "field" /pond at the end of our development. I also understand that the town holds a bond that could potentially pay for the fenced in area. Could they be compelled to forfeit the bond in order to build a fence?

My final question is simple - why does our (taxpayers of the Town of Dighton) safety need to be compromised due to another person's unwillingness to comply with development building responsibilities?

I eagerly await a reply from you or another person qualified to answer such questions.

Sincerely,
Joshua Beagan"

Before he reads the followup email from Joshua Beagan, he says that in the meantime, Selectman Menges had contacted the owners of the property and laid out their duties to them. He then reads the followup email from Mr. Beagan

"Good evening,

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all members of the town acted on the behalf of the residents of Cameron Drive and Hillcrest Drive ensuring that those two roads were properly plowed. The roads were being cleared throughout this afternoon and continues as this email is being written.

I appreciate that the concerns residents of this community were heard and safety concerns were remedied in a very timely manner.

I would also like to specifically thank Patrick Menges who personally called me soon after my concerns were brought to the attention of the town. Patrick assured me that the problem would be rectified and that legislation would be put forward to ensure issues like this can be dealt with in a more streamlined fashion. I am heartened to know that members of the town care enough about the residents of Dighton to make personal phone calls to allay any concerns that are brought before them.

Sincerely,
Joshua Beagan

Chairman Cronin says that he does not hesitate for a minute to read this correspondence into the minutes. If there is a way that the Board of Selectmen can legally help they will. He thanks Mr. Began for his correspondence.

Glen Jefferson comments from the audience with regard to Hillcrest. He says that Steve and Eric have done a good job in the past. This time it was not wide enough to begin with, and with the subsequent storms it has just complicated the problem.

Selectman Pires says that their 53G account has been exhausted, to which Glenn Jefferson replies that maybe this is something to keep in mind in the future. Maybe they should have a time limit. Selectman Menges adds that Heidi Swist had contacted the developer also, and we thank her for that. He adds that there is an ongoing issue with privately owned ways. The homeowners are paying taxes and have a right to expect that the road will be passable and that children can safely wait for the bus. In the meantime we have drafted a bylaw which the town is considering. Selectman Menges reads the article in the Town Warrant in its entirety.

6. Announcements: Were read by Selectman Pires. (See attached).

7. Old Business:

- a. Chairman Cronin says that the Board stated last week that Good Energy municipal aggregation documents were available to review. There is a hard copy here at Town Hall for your review. We now have a digital copy which we can email to you as well. To request a digital copy, email boardofselectmen@townofdighton.com.

8. New Business:

- a. Chairman Cronin goes over the reason for appointing the committee to study the cost effectiveness of regionalizing K-8. He says that this was posted on the website and within a couple of days, we had two volunteers. Ailish Welch, who is an accountant with a child starting Kindergarten, and Alicen Adams, who is current treasurer and supporter of the PTO, who has attended all meetings. He goes on to say that this is one of the best committees that we have put together. He would like Glenn Jefferson to say a word. Glenn says that he thinks that the board has summarized this through the comments from the meeting of last week. He asks the board if the committee will be doing both studies (regionalizing and de-regionalizing), and the idea behind the campus. Long story short capital investments are really needed, it would be ideal for us to get 80% of funding from the State. His concern would be that if we enter into a region with them, what would happen when budget time comes.

Chairman Cronin introduces the three members who each state their reasons for wanting to participate.

Selectman Menges makes motion to appoint and Selectman Pires seconds the motion. Unanimously carries.

Sue Medeiros does the swearing in of the appointees.

Glenn Jefferson adds that it will take people to get involved in this.

Selectman Menges hopes that people will get involved before it's too late.

- b. Chairman Cronin reads a letter from Building Commissioner Jim Aguiar, with regard to trench permit fees. This letter was in response to a letter to the building commissioner from the Dighton Water District superintendent, Gregory Olsen. Selectman Menges asks "Do we want to hear from the Building Commissioner?" Administrative assistant leaves the room to find him, and returns to say that he has left the building. Selectman Menges motions that the Dighton Water, Electric, North Dighton Fire District and the Regional School District all be exempt. Selectman Pires seconds the motion. Selectman Menges goes on to say that the current cost is \$65.00/permit. It is difficult to budget emergency trench work. Superintendent Olsen did say that he would be happy with a reduction. There is a mutuality here. Town Hall will have their meter replaced shortly. I think the fee should be waived. Selectman Pires says there are some costs incurred for the commissioner having to go out there. I would like to hear from the commissioner with regard to what the costs are. Selectman Menges adds that we could reduce the charge for unforeseen emergency to a nominal \$10.00 fee, to which Selectman Pires adds, "Just for an unforeseen emergency." Selectman Menges adds, that it would take care of administrative costs, and chances are the trench is not inspected in an emergency. Selectman Menges motions his original motion w/a friendly amendment. Selectman Pires seconds. It unanimously carries.
- c. The resignation of Nelson Demelo from the Community Preservation Committee is read by Chairman Cronin. Motion to accept by Selectman Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carries. Selectman Pires thanks Nelson for his time on the committee.
- d. Devin Richards steps up to explain why he needs a place to skateboard. He states that the park between School Street and Palmer is not used that much, and he was hoping that it could be used to build a skatepark. Chairman Cronin asks if he has considered any other locations, to which he replies yes, Spring Street, the old factory. Chairman Cronin goes on to say that there were a couple of individuals that looked into just that type of project. It's not out of the question. We will pass it on to Parks and Recreation for consideration. Selectman Pires says that he knows that they have talked about this in the past and funding was an issue. We will take your information, and pass it along to Parks and Recreation. Selectman Menges says that it definitely addresses a need. It concerns the police when they see it going on in places that there is a liability. Funding for the improvement necessary to complete it will be tough this year. Possibly a boy scout looking for an eagle scout project. Ist we will need to pass this on to Parks and Recreation. Robert Woods (in the audience) says that Parks and Recreation has no money in their budget, and that the only way to fund it would be the Community Preservation Committee. They have \$700,000.00 in their budget and are always looking for projects. He says to Devin Richards that he would encourage him to seek the Community Preservation Committee. Selectman Menges says it's possible the board could put the touch on a group of developers

Devin Richards says that when we find a place, Wesport has a decent sized park, maybe they could help you out.

Devin Richards
411 Main Street
Dighton, MA
Paula (Mom) 774-526-9811

Selectman Pires motions to approve and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.

9. Reports:

- a. Selectman Menges says that tomorrow night the Town Administrator Study Committee will meet to go over the approximately 18 resumes that they have received and make sure that they conform to the ad that was placed for the position. The committee will also be choosing two members to meet with the board to narrow it down to the finalists from those finalists the Board of Selectman will choose the final candidate. One of the details left to the board is the term (one year or three years). I will ask the committee to recommend, and the final decision will be made by the Board of Selectmen. Robert Woods asks what time the meeting is. Selectman Menges says 5:00pm.

10. Acknowledgements:

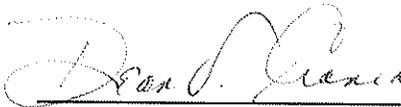
- a. Selectman Menges would like to acknowledge Andrew Howland, who has been coming to Town Hall each and every Wednesday and has helped with numerous tasks, such as putting minutes in order and into books. Putting town censuses in order. We want to thank him for his extraordinary help.

11. Adjournment: Chairman Cronin entertains a motion to adjourn. Selectman Pires moves, and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

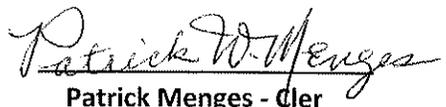
Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen



Dean V. Cronin-Chairman



Tom Pires - Selectman



Patrick Menges - Cler

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.
- 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 19th, 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 15th. 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 for review. Any questions or comments can be addressed to Heidi Swist at hswist@townofdighton.com or by calling 508 669 6636.
- The library has Massachusetts State Tax Forms (Form 1). They expect to receive Federal Income Tax Forms only. They will not be receiving the instruction booklets. You may order forms and instruction booklets to be delivered to your home by calling 1-800-829-3676, or online at irs.gov/orderforms.