

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, 4 March, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

1. **Meeting was called to order at 7:32pm**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was then recited.
3. **Approval of minutes:**
 - a. **Minutes from February 25, 2015**, Regular Meeting, motioned for approval by Selectman Menges and seconded by Tom Pires. Unanimously carries
 - b. **Minutes from February 17, 2015**, meeting with Selectmen and Plan B Construction. Motion to approve by Selectman Menges and seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously carries.
 - c. **Minutes from February 12, 2015**, meeting with SRPEDD and Skyline Group. Motioned for approval by Selectman Menges and seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously carries.
 - d. **Minutes from February 19, 2015**, Executive Session Meeting with Union Representative. Motioned for approval by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously approved.
 - e. **Mass Cop minutes from February 26, 2015**, prepared by the Clerk of the Board. Motioned for approval by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Pires. Selectman Pires adds that he and selectman Menges are the only two members of the board attending due to the chairman's relationship with one of the Police Officers.
4. **Approval of Warrants: #36A-15, \$71,263.79; #36B-15, \$83,387.21** dated March 4, 2015. Motioned for approval by Selectman Menges and seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously carries.
5. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Chairman Cronin reads correspondence from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust to the Dighton Department of Public Works regarding their completed review of 2016 Unrestricted General Grants Program Letters of Inquiry. The letter states that they have had 63 well-qualified letters of inquiry and that they are not able to fund each and every request, therefore we were not asked to submit a full proposal. Selectman Menges adds that this grant was essential for the contract for the groundwater testing being performed by Green seal Environmental. The testing could only continue with this grant. We will have to pursue other money.

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

- a. Selectman Pires says the library was closed after 2:00pm today for an issue with the facilities. We hope to have the problem corrected by tomorrow. He also adds that for those people that use the Broad Cove Nature Trail for walking, the property was involved in a dispute by a homeowner and we went to Superior Court to find out if we would still be able to use it. We received a judgment in favor of the landowner. A sign will be placed to inform the public. The Board has not yet decided what to do. Selectman Menges added that it is easy as a landowner to be wary of people crossing your land. It can be a constructive thing though. He encouraged people with easements for hunting, etc., it may be to your advantage to have people watching your land for you.
- b. One additional announcement is to remember to set your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight savings begins at 2:00am on Sunday.

7. Old Business:

- a. Chairman Cronin explains the approval of the Good Energy Documents. He says that at the Special Town Meeting the vote was unanimous to become part of this. The goal is to have an elected supplier by July. Good Energy will negotiate with the suppliers and try to lock in pricing for us. Chairman Cronin entertains a motion to approve. Selectman Menges motions to approve and Selectman Pires seconds. Unanimously carries. Selectman Pires explains SRPEDD and what they do for us. He says that they currently have 17 Cities and Towns on board for energy aggregation and it will result in a 12% reduction in electricity costs. Chairman Cronin adds that lately, if you look at your supplier invoice it is about \$.15/kl hour, and I know that the Cape has locked in at \$.09/kl hour. New Bedford and Acushnet are in and some of the towns are big, resulting in more substantial savings.
- b. Selectman Menges reads letter from Water District superintendent to Building Commissioner, Jim Aguiar, requesting a reduction in their trench permit fees. Selectman Menges then reads the response letter from Mr. Aguiar recapping the Water District's request. He added that this board voted last week to reduce the cost of an unforeseen emergency to \$10.00 until they had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Aguiar. Selectman Pires asks what the costs involved would be, to which Jim Aguiar replies that there are administrative costs involved. He goes on to say that he does not inspect every trench as he does not need to. There is although some involvement on his part. A trench is anything deeper than 15 feet and not wider than 15 feet. The water department is not exempt from trench permits, in fact they are required to have them. His thought was to shift some of the processing to the Water Department Office, but I will still need to be involved. (Jeff from the Water District is also present at the meeting). Mr. Aguiar asks if they routinely use the same contractors. Jeff replies "Yes." Mr. Aguiar says that if they had a folder with those contractor's information, they could just fax the permit in and eliminate some of the costs. Selectman Pires asks if they are just interested in emergency only or all, to which Jeff says it would be all. Jim Aguiar adds that there are project permits. This would be for the constant

repetitive opening permits. He says that he could shift some of the responsibilities to Tina, therefore eliminating some of the administrative costs. Jeff adds that he is willing to accept some of the responsibilities. Jim says that he could put a figure together if the board would like, and then we could discuss again. Ultimately we need to cover costs. Selectman Menges moves that the fee of \$10.00 be kept in effect until next meeting. Selectmen Pires seconds. Unanimously carries.

Jim Aguiar says that the Water Department also has trained individuals that could be on site for openings and closings. Selectman Menges adds that what the board is doing now for the Water District will set the precedent for North Dighton Fire District. He asks Jeff if some of their trenching is done with their own people with permanent credentials on file. Jeff answers yes. Jim adds finally that he will need to audit their office from time to time in case of a State Audit.

8. New Business:

- a. Transfer \$15,000.00 from reserve fund for insurance deductible. Selectman Pires motions to approve transfer request, and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.
- b. Final signing and approval of Liquor License for Taunton Yacht Club for an all liquor Club License. Selectman Menges asks if there is anything in the application stating that they would maintain the character and historical charm of the club, to which Chairman Cronin says, that it is in the file that they maintain the integrity of the building and keep up on inspections. Selectman Pires asks if we are talking about the exterior. Selectman Menges adds, yes and maintaining that it is, in fact, a yacht club and does not become a restaurant with a parking lot. Chairman Cronin says all of that was discussed at the meeting of January 7, 2015, and Selectman Pires adds that they want to keep it private. He motions to approve and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.
- c. Approval of one snow day for Highway Department. Selectman Menges motions to approve, and selectman Pires seconds. Unanimously carries.

9. Reports:

- a. Report by Selectman Menges on the Town Administrator Study Committee. The committee met last Thursday, and in a 3 ½ hour session, they reduced the number of applicants from 21 to 7. They also nominated Peter Roache and Scott Dingus to sit with the board to conduct interviews on March 10th. Each of the seven candidates will have ½ hour to meet with the board. At the end of which, we hope to have three finalists and one will be chosen.

10. Acknowledgements:

- a. Acknowledgement of a donation to Prime Time/Council on Aging in the amount of \$164.00 by Selectman Pires and seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carries.
- b. Selectman Menges wishes to acknowledge Reverend Robert Wilson for completing his Master's Degree in counseling. It will be awarded in May. He has informed us that he

will be offering courses to the Police Department in crisis counseling and crisis management. We will pass this information along to Police Department and Union.

11. Public Input:

- a. Selectman Menges states that under the open meeting law, the agenda is a reasonable facsimile of what is expected. We are, however, allowed to accept items that come to us. That being said, Pam Waller has resigned her seat on the Development and Industrial Commission and would like the board to appoint Mr. Figureido as a full member. Selectman Menges motions to accept the resignation of Pam Waller, and Selectman Pires seconds. Unanimously carries. Selectman Menges motions to appoint Joe Figueriedo to the seat vacated by Pam Waller, and Selectman Pires seconds. Unanimously carries. Selectman Menges motions to appoint Pam Waller as an alternate member of the committee. Selectman Pires seconds, and it unanimously carries.
- b. Selectman Menges says that there is a bronze marker on the Veteran's War memorial with the names of many who are not often thought of. On the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's 2nd Inauguration, we should stop to remember the commander in chief under which those men served. (He reads the last sentence of Lincoln's inaugural speech aloud).

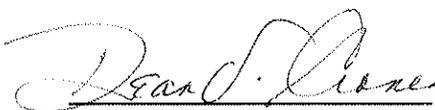
12. Adjournment:

- a. Selectman Pires motions to adjourn, and Selectman Menges seconds the motion. Unanimously carries.

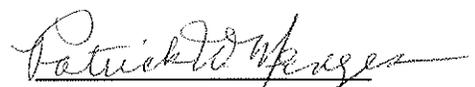
Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

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.
- 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.