The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

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1. **Meeting was called to order at 7:32pm**

2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was then recited.

3. **Approval of minutes:**

   a. **Special Meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2015.** Motioned for approval by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously carries.
   b. **Executive Session of Wednesday, March 4, 2015.** Motioned for approval by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Pires. Unanimously carries.
   c. **Minutes of Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 4, 2015.** Motioned for approval by Tom Pires, Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.
   d. **Minutes of Regular Meeting with Department Heads, Wednesday, March 4, 2015.** Motioned for approval by Selectman Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carries.

4. **Approval of Warrants: #37A-15,** $77,708.69**; #37B-15,** $83,547.54**.** Motioned for approval by Selectman Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carries.

5. **Correspondence:**

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

   a. Selectman Pires adds that on May 9th at 1:00pm the dedication of the POW MIA Chair will take place at Town Hall and will be hosted by Veteran's Agent, Donald Hirschy.
   b. That evening at 6:30pm on May 9th, there will be an Eagle Scout Court of Honor, which will be held at St. Nicholas of Myra. One of three, will be our own Kristoher Munroe, who installed the walkways at the Veteran's Memorial.
   c. Chairman Cronin added that the Annual Town Election is being held April 11th, from 8:00am to 6:00pm, at Dighton Elementary School. (The list of candidates is read by Chairman Cronin). He adds that we will read the list of candidates until April 11th.

7. **Old Business:**

   a. **Review/Discuss/Act:** The Energy Aggregation Program Outline is read by Chairman Cronin. He says that there will be a public input forum at the upcoming Board of

Selectmen's meeting on March 25, 2015. Requests for pricing from energy suppliers will be sent out by SRPEDD. He adds that if you have questions, please come out on March 25th. Selectman Menges says that this does not apply to TMLP customers, only to National Grid. Selectman Pires says to beware of scams where suppliers will contact you on the phone. If you sign up for this, you could be subject to fees, if you eventually try to cancel.

8. **New Business:**
    a. **Review/Discuss/Act:** Town Election Warrant is read in its' entirety by Chairman Cronin and is signed by the selectmen. Selectman Pires motions to approve and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.
    b. **Review/Discuss/Act:** Ambulance write-off request from Chief Antone Roderick is read by Chairman Cronin. Selectman Pires motions to approve and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.
    c. **Review/Discuss/Act:** Request by Town Accountant, Jennifer Luiz, to carry over 10 days of vacation time. Chairman Cronin explains that at this time of year it is common for employees to request to carry over time. Selectman Pires motions to approve. Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.
    d. **Review/Discuss/Act:** Request by Town Accountant to approve on snow day for March 1st, for the Highway Department is read by Chairman Cronin. Selectman Pires motions to approve, and Selectman Menges seconds. Selectman Menges reads the minutes of February 25th, where members of the board met with the Highway Department and issued citations to them for Exemplary Snow Removal. He reads the citation wording in its entirety. Unanimously carries.
    e. **Review/Discuss/Act:** Chairman Cronin reads paperwork for the Nomination of the Inspector of Animals. The nomination covers the period starting May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016. He states that at this time he will entertain a motion to nominate Stacey Ferry. Selectman Pires motions to nominate Stacey Ferry, and Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries. He mentions that the document will need to be notarized.
    f. **Review/Discuss/Act:** Deadline for submission of articles for Annual Town Meeting is discussed. Selectman Menges motions Wednesday the 25th of March at 4:30pm. Selectman Pires seconds that motion, but asks about the possibility of March 30th, due to the fact that the notices just went out today. Selectman Menges says that drafting began in mid-January. On the second week of February it went to the Town Accountant for figures to be plugged in. Two Articles were withdrawn today, and we know of one other article that will be removed. Notification of the new date of the 25th of March will go out. Selectman Menges also mentions that the meeting will be held at Dighton Middle School. If in favor – Aye, Aye, Aye. Motion carries.
    g. **Review/Discuss/Act:** Request by the Town Accountant to increase the stipend for those who are involved in the issuing of passports. The recommendation was to increase two employees, $100.00/each per year bringing the stipend amount to $850.00/year. Selectman Pires motions to approve and Selectman Menges seconds.

Unanimously carries. Selectman Pires mentions that the camera and equipment was purchased and we have recovered that money a few times over. It is very convenient for the public.

9. **Reports:**

   a. A report is given by Chairman Cronin regarding a meeting with SRPEDD on Monday, March 9, 2015 to update the draft on 911 Regionalization. He reiterates that we are still in draft mode. Selectman Menges says he thinks that we should read some of the responses that we have received. Chairman Cronin goes on to say that that on March 9th, SRPEDD, made an updated presentation on 911 regionalization with Dighton, Fall River and Rehoboth of just Dighton and Rehoboth. In past meetings, Fall River said that they would need more dispatchers, we needed more information on whether it would still be cost effective. The most recent meeting indicated that it should still be considered and we are waiting for Fall River's final numbers. Fall River initially wanted 10 new dispatchers. Maybe they would be comfortable with something less than that now. We are not sure.

   Selectman Menges discusses 911 regionalization and funding. In the beginning, he says, we sent letters to all surrounding communities. Present at the Seekonk meeting was Dighton, Rehoboth, Seekonk and Fall River, and it was decided to explore the advantages of 911 Regionalization. The initial study indicated cost savings to Dighton as a region of Fall River, Dighton and Rehoboth. There are cost savings in the form of grants which are also available. Selectman Menges goes on to explain how dispatching works within Dighton. He adds that the time is coming, when we will need 2 dispatchers and the cost of adding three to make that possible. If we go with Fall River, that cost goes away. Currently we have a cell antenna on the top of Elm Street Water Tank. We hear there are dead spaces in town. Sergeant Dutra has made great strides in improving this. The wave of the future is fiber optic communications with a microwave backup, 911 texting which will show your exact location, and photos transmitted from accident scenes before personnel arrive. The question was raised, "What becomes of a Dighton call in Fall River's dispatch." Fall River has six communicators on at all times. They are highly professional and pride themselves on response times, and there is either a sergeant or a lieutenant on site to supervise at all times. Our employees (some of twenty five years) deserve to have a mentor who can help them improve and provide support. In Dighton, right now, the Chief of Police serves as head of communications. The sergeant in Fall River answers to Captain Cabral who answers to Chief Racine.

One concern is that the "human touch" may be lost. Some of the concerns of the citizens are:

1. **When I call communications, I want someone who knows my name;**
   Answer: The dispatchers will know, it will automatically come up)
2. **Nicknames are often used to describe locations**
   Answer: Up to 5 nicknames can be stored in the database for one location

We have received two letters. One of which from the Dighton Police Officers MASSCOP, states that officers often rely on the tone of voice of the dispatcher. He then reads the letter from MASSCOP 306 in its entirety. He then also reads the letter from the Firefighters Association Local 4332 in its entirety. Selectmen Menges further states that he has asked all individuals involved to meet with him to discuss their letters. He also says, that this board has not disposed of the 911 question, and we will wait for the final information from Skyline Group as that is what we paid them for.

Chief Racine has indicated that he is not comfortable dispatching Dighton with the number of dispatchers that he has. Furthermore, if a person has worked for Dighton for 25 years, we will see to it that they are taken care of.

If we decide that it is cost effective, then we will go about an inter-governmental agreement that will address all of the concerns in the letters. Nothing is more essential than communication. We cannot ignore the fact that there will be 100 more families in town. Training requirements have increased to where dispatcher has become a profession. They will need to take from their personal time to meet these requirements. We cannot continue to hire part time dispatchers, and expect them to complete this level of training. In order to overcome training, support, logistical support, etc., we cannot continue to overlook the positive outcomes that may happen. If regionalization is the direction that we choose, it is not done with the lack of respect for employees, or without love for the quaintness of the town. We must find the most cost-effective, technological forward way to accomplish the tasks at hand. We appreciate the professional way that the Police and Firefighters have approached the Board.

Chairman Cronin states that this was the readers' digest version of the last 11 ½ months of meetings. In the 160 page report, there are 50 charts, reports, etc., grants, startup costs. We are basically back to square one in this process. If any decisions are made, it will be with the citizens and the employees at heart. We are not here to displace 25 year employees. We will keep you posted. Thank you for your patience.

Selectman Pires adds that this is more than one year out.

b. **Report on Progress of the Skate Park-I**n a previous meeting, Devin Richards approached the board about the possibility of building a Skate Park in Town. Planning Board Director, Heidi Swist, feels that the funding will be possible, and is confident that this could happen. It is a $67,000.00 estimate for the cost to complete. The town will have to act quickly, and we thank Heidi for taking this initiative.

10. Acknowledgments:

a. Two anonymous donations made to Prime Time in the amount of $130.00 (one in the amount of $30.00 and one in the amount of $100.00). Chairman Cronin says he will entertain a motion to acknowledge both. Selectman Pires so moves. Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.

11. Public Input:

a. Mr. Rhines asks if appointments are due soon. Chairman Cronin responds and says that usually the 2nd week of June. Mr. Rhines says in the past, there have been problems with the swearing in, and asks if letters will go out to see if they are

interested and if there is no reply by a certain time, will the appointment be rescinded? Mr. Rhines also asks if the board will set some parameters for this so that others will have a chance to serve that would like to.
Chairman Cronin says that we have to assume that Department Heads, commissioners and head of boards are up on this. He goes on to say, that he is not aware it there was a cutoff date last year, but this year there will be a date, say July 30th? We have addressed this and will continue to work on this
Mr. Rhines says that he has noticed changes to the website. He asks if a bulk mailing can be done, and Chairman Cronin replies that we are trying to get 100% of email addresses. It is important and we will get a handle on this.
Selectman Pires says it is a good idea to have a time limit and we will do that.
Mr Rhines asks if the board saw the news report regarding E911 – Dennis Rosser called it and it located him within 1500 yards. He goes on to say that if I call 911 from my cell phone it goes to the state police, but they don't know who I am, and I have called Dighton and they don't have caller ID. Dighton's median income is double what Fall River's is. Fall River has a better chance of getting funds first because of this. They will give to the ones who need it first.
Selectman Menges says that Dighton is the geographical center of Bristol County. Your point about the money going to poorer towns sooner is correct, but also goes to smaller communities first. To go it alone will be just as much of a challenge for Dighton to go it alone because of population as it would for Fall River as a poorer community. We had a public forum scheduled for March 4th, at which we fully expected to be able to present some information. After Chief Racine indicated that he would need more dispatchers we cancelled the forum. Once we can present concrete facts, we will reschedule. Still waiting for conclusive financial and technical information.
Chairman Cronin said that we had a grant to fund the study, so why not get the information.
Selectman Menges says that there are many initiatives that look good. If State is offering money, we owe it to the taxpayers to explore them. It is mountains of paperwork, meetings, etc. If it provides something at a cost that they can afford ....
Robert Woods concurs with the two letters and wants Mr. Menges to review the meeting, because you made it sound like the Chief does not do a good job.
Chairman Cronin says that he doesn't think it was meant that way. He goes on to say with all due respect, his job is Chief of Police, not dispatcher, he does a fine job.
Selectman Menges says that he was a dispatcher, he certainly knows dispatching, his focus is the police department.
Selectman Pires adds that it may have been perceived that he is not in control of dispatching. He spends the majority of his time doing police work. He does not have time to devote to that part – (no dedicated person). That is a fine department.

12. **Adjournment:** Chairman Cronin entertains a motion to adjourn. Selectman Pires motions. Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.

Adjourned at 9:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen

Dean V. Cronin-Chairman	**Tom Pires – Selectman**	**Patrick Menges -/Clerk**