

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Wednesday, April 1, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting April 1, 2015

Meeting called to order

Moment of silence is observed for Mary Francis, Thomas Pires' aunt.

Selectman Menges calls on John Jones and Robert Fredericks of Dighton Little League. They come forward to say they are looking forward to the season this year. They thank G. Lopes, Bay Coast Bank, etc., for their support. Chairman Cronin asks when they will start.

John Jones says hopefully April 15th. Knock on wood.

Selectman Menges asks if we can make your contact information available. Robert Fredericks says he will provide information to Karin. They thank the Board.

Chairman Cronin introduces members of SRPEDD and Skyline Group Ross Perry, Sheldon Cohen and the owner of Skyline Group.

Patrick gives some background on why Dighton has gotten involved in this study.

He tells the audience that they had a meeting in Seekonk a year ago. Fall River, Dighton and Rehoboth emerged as the two interested parties. Since then, we have been involved in many meetings. What you are about to hear is an executive summary of that study. We want to thank them for their thoroughness.

Ross Perry speaks about the study and the requirements to take part, and how it all began. He says that Skyline was rated the highest of five companies in the RFP phase.

Skyline has worked on many studies. Their expertise in staffing, communications, etc., and their plan of services was the most appropriate for the towns involved.

Their role was to review the current dispatch operations, and present a detailed study.

He asks how many dispatchers in the room (approx 8-10 raise their hands).

He turns table over to Sheldon who says, we will present the findings and at the end we will answer any questions that you may have

Sheldon Cohen

In each municipality we met with Police Chief, Fire Chief, Board of Selectmen and dispatch coordinator. In terms of consulting team, each of us has a specialty, and focused on different areas.

He reads from the Summary of Real, Practical, every day Benefits

Regarding better service: The thing that we heard most was Depth of Dispatchers. The feasibility recommends 4 at all times- Fall River has 35 dispatchers authorized - increasing to 4 more dispatchers - one on each tour - or 39 total. The fourth position would be focused on Dighton and Rehoboth calls.

The Tri Tech solution has the ability to designate one of the four positions as Dighton or Rehoboth. Not exclusive – If there is a major emergency in Fall River, dispatch could jump in.

Enhanced Mutual Aid Response. All dispatchers are able to see and immediately dispatch all units. A dispatcher will be able to dispatch Dighton or Rehoboth directly thereby saving time.

Having multiple dispatchers on at all times.

RECC (REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER) is the only way that the State provides up to 100% of startup costs.

One thing that comes up is that we also have police in the street, Google maps, etc. How can we empower police as well as dispatchers.

What happens when your move to a RECC, the management is off your shoulders. You will not have to deal with labor issues.

Backup computer systems – Fiber optic w/ microwave will be constructed and linked through all communities and will have backup for computer systems in Fall River.

Higher level of training - Fall River today provides 40 hours of training per year. There is a huge amount of training built in.

We have a training budget of five figures, we have an overtime budget for dispatchers.

Option 1 - Fall River, Dighton and Rehoboth

Option 2 - Dighton and Rehoboth

Option 3 – Dighton, Rehoboth and anyone else interested

In Option One, the State would cover nearly 100% of costs

Table 35

Take RECC annual cost and compare to current annual cost - What is the difference Dighton has 6.9% of the total population for the three municipalities Dighton saves \$89,318.00/per year - then the state pays all of the one-time costs the savings becomes greater.

There are other interesting things that happen

Dighton has about 4800 emergency calls per year, or an average of 13 calls per day.

One emergency call every one hour and forty five minutes.

Cost is over \$50.00 per call

The national average tends to run about \$25 - \$35 per call.

You are paying a lot of money for dispatch.

Onetime costs of over 1.5 million dollars only funded by State if you enter RECC

Dispatchers are doing other work also. When you go into the RECC you only have dispatchers – That's all they do, all the time.

Supervision - in Fall River there is a uniformed sergeant or lieutenant on duty supervising at all times.

Let me close with one final fact.

State 911 – hasn't even published their grant opportunities yet. Normally they are published January 1st, so they probably won't be due for a while, at least July 1<sup>st</sup>. So what this means for the town is that no decision is required just yet.

This is a starting point. This just gives the facts. We suggest that Dighton, Rehoboth and Fall River sit down and engage in some conversation with the other municipalities, and see where you would like to take this, such as how can we come to terms on how we will pay for it, how we will manage it, etc. If you look at the financial findings, clearly it makes sense. But ultimately everyone has to sit around the table and hammer out a deal.

Sheldon thanks the board, all the municipal employees for their cooperation and everyone for attending. We will now take questions.

Tom Medeiros-County Street, Dighton, asks "How many Cities and Towns in the State, out of 351 are regionalized?"

Ross Perry answers "Nine."

How many Cities and Towns

Several dozen was the answer.

Tom Medeiros says so "Each board, each town, each mayor has to decide."

Tom asks if they have given the presentation to Fall River yet.

Sheldon Cohen says they have had extensive discussions with the city administrator, but no date for presentation in Fall River as of yet.

Tom Medeiros says that he knows key people in Fall River are against this. They are telling the Chief to go through the motions. Even Police Chief doesn't want it.

Sheldon says that for tonight, we will try to keep the focus on Dighton.

Tom Medeiros says that in all fairness, the people of Dighton should know that some key people in Fall River are against it.

Melissa St. Laurent adds that three city councilors were not even aware of the 911 regionalization.

Neither was the Fire Chief. He was told there was a study going on, and he was asked for numbers. I thought I would touch base on that. I have a whole list of questions.

Sheldon says he has met with the Fire Chief at his office for an hour. We did not ask if he was for or against. Also, there have been several dozen emails over the last months.

Mike Peloquin, Milk Street, asks if they looked at how many times more than 3 calls happen in Fall River at once. Three calls in Fall River happens so much more than three calls in Dighton. I think Dighton can handle more than one call at a time.

Sheldon Cohen answers that the scenario happens if an emergency medical dispatch call comes in - they cannot hang up. Two things will happen at the same time at some point inevitably in the real world.

Mike goes on to say that Fall River does over 100,000 calls per year with 3 dispatchers. It's gonna happen no matter where you are.

Mike states the he talks to Fall River on the radio, by ambulance - and half the time he can't even get them. They can't even get to us with three dispatchers.

They deal with police issues, and fire. They are very busy.

Theresa says "we can't get a word in edgewise on that radio when they have a fire."

Sheldon says that if you look at the second bullet, near the top, we had this discussion in Fall River. One of the things that would happen - is that the new, fourth position would be the automatic priority position for Dighton and Rehoboth.

Theresa says, But if that person is already on a call, you stated that call would be taken by Fall River. You also stated it would be funneled and not specifically for that dispatcher, so there will not be one dispatcher promised to Dighton.

Sheldon says Fall River now has three call takers, and three dispatchers. Three call takers stay. We add a fourth dispatcher. One of those four dispatchers, between the technology, it knows to funnel calls from Dighton and Rehoboth to that fourth position.

Theresa says that's the problem. Tiverton and Somerset is also getting involved – It is crazy – That one dispatcher will not make a difference.

Ross Perry adds that we are talking call takers and dispatchers- two separate things. He says the call taking piece takes less time than the dispatching piece.

Paul Reed, Washington Street, Taunton, 911 Director for town – says the 1<sup>st</sup> study showed it would cost the communities \$120,000.00 more - second study (adding four dispatchers) showed savings of 90,000.00. He asks how this is possible when the State never gave you any figures, and when you are adding people.

Sheldon responds that we asked the State 911 department, going back to the beginning to give us the best estimate that they could for the increase in annual support. Ross has been very persistent, but we don't have a number. So then your question is fair. Where did that number come from? The figure came from the City of Lynn and the Town of Swampscott, who are involved in a two community RECC and are comparable to you guys. This year in terms of supplemental assistance are getting an additional \$292,000.00 as a two community RECC. The way the formula works is that when you go into a three community RECC – your percentage so theoretically it was \$584,000.00, but we went with a conservative amount of \$500,000.00.

The first one we used \$250,000.00, but then we did some more research, and went to the groups that were at the meetings.

I can't talk about the first report. We read it, but were asking you to take the facts that are here, which may be different, but this report is very specific to these three communities.

Paul Reed also adds that we are allowed to put people on hold. We are allowed, but we must take a 911 call if it comes in, that is priority. Theresa Costa says they do have a backup (Freetown) which will take emergency calls when we can't. I think they have answered, in the past fifteen years, a total of three that we haven't been able to answer.

Theresa says, I had a question

. I spoke with Christine Wingfield and she said Fall River is lacking right now.

Sheldon confirms that out of 35, they have one dispatcher who is on long term medical leave. They have 34 of 35 right now.

Please understand Chief Racine has requested dispatchers in previous years, and the council has not approved that request.

In the feasibility study we used a standard nationally accepted standard methodology APCO. APCO, working with the dispatch community, undertook a project called project 40 about 15 years ago, which basically says how many dispatchers or call takers are needed. We ran those calculations. Originally it came out to 34. We sat down with everyone and asked how many would work. APCO40 said 34, but the Chief he had 35, but said he needed more. We said it would be very hard, based on the APCO numbers to go beyond 39. He has asked for, last we heard, was 8 more. During the negotiation phase over the next three month period, this is clearly a core issue, because for each additional dispatcher there is additional cost for wages and benefits. So let's say w/no one time assistance from the Commonwealth,

the cost per year for Dighton would be reduced by \$89,000.00. For each additional dispatcher you add that \$89,000.00 goes down. So, if you add four additional dispatchers @ \$50,000.00/each it would cost upward of 200,000.00 per year. Dighton would have 6% of \$200,000.00. At some point Dighton, Rehoboth and Fall River would have to sit down and decide if they are saving enough money to make it worth doing this. We certainly respect the fact that we would all like to have more personnel, but we also understand that in government have fiscal restraints.

Theresa Costa says, so, two years from now, as we grow, if Fall River decides it needs 5 more, it will cost Dighton more, to which Ross Perry replies maybe you get that dispatcher at 8% of cost rather than having to outright hire a dispatcher in Dighton. That also goes for equipment upgrades and such. Ross Perry says, Chief Racine says he can handle the day to day volume with what he has (34- 35), but when a major event happens in Fall River and also in Dighton, he would need extra personnel to handle the surge.

How do you handle the surge? We think that one dispatcher on duty in Dighton/Rehoboth is not enough to cover the surge, but there is also not enough, on the average, work to justify two dispatchers on duty

Sheldon says dispatchers work a 4 and 2, just like police. If we talk about adding 8 personnel, you are adding about 1.6 per tour, because it takes 5 people to cover a position in a police department or working a 4 and 2 as the dispatchers were, to cover a single position 7 X 24, so if Chief Racine says he wants 8 people, he knows that the net impact is that he basically picks up 1.6 dispatchers 7 X24. Someone in the audience asks the question, but we're only giving him four, so what does that amount to..... Sheldon says close to a full time.

Which is what we have now says Melissa.

He goes on to say, if you look at the call volume for Dighton and Rehoboth combined using the APCO40 methodology, for both towns together, you would only occupy a dispatcher about 20 minutes of every hour. By occupy I mean handling a call. We said to the chief, if the fourth position gets added he's picking up a half a dispatcher plus or minus for Fall River

Theresa says it is not a 100% Exclusive dispatcher correct?

Sheldon answers yes, whoever is available will pick up the call Fall River calls. Theresa asks if we will be fielding those also.

Theresa asks with the enhanced mutual aid, one red one green, we would be able to dispatch Rehoboth right away, we never use them. The most we use is AMR or Somerset, will they be available, where they are not in the RECC.

Sheldon Cohen says that long before the RECC ever begins the Chiefs need to sit down and handle protocol, and how these things will get handled.

Theresa says that we never call Rehoboth for mutual aid, because they would have to call someone in.

Sheldon Cohen tells them that your leadership will need to make that call on protocol

Theresa says regarding the statement about training for dispatchers, she takes it personally, because she is a dispatcher. She asks if their dispatchers are better trained, because she also does 40 hours of training each year. She asks if she will be better trained in Fall River.

Sheldon responds by saying you're a small agency. When you are in a larger environment, there is a chain of command. They have a deputy police chief that oversees dispatching, under him is a Captain, under him the six sergeants. You have a depth of oversight that a small town simply can't provide. In

terms of what is needed for training and monitoring State standards, how things are evolving in the profession. There are superior officers that can concentrate on those aspects.

There is no one in Dighton who has the time or focus to look at dispatching the same way as the chain of command in Fall River.

Melissa St Laurent, 366 School Lane, tells everyone that she has spoken with everyone involved. She has family in both towns so she knows how the police departments and dispatch work in both towns. She asks have there been any studies done in any towns that currently have this in place to prove that it will improve public safety like you're saying.

Sheldon Cohen says that the dominant way that dispatching occurs throughout the United States is on a county or regional basis. Does regional dispatching work satisfactorily, the proof in the pudding is that it has been out there for fifty years.

Melissa asks "Is it that it works, or is it too expensive to de-regionalize."

Because Hingham right now, the fire captains from all four towns wrote letters to the board of selectmen from all four towns say that it is compromising public safety, by sending emergency vehicles to wrong addresses. It's messing up.

Steve Ciesielski, 2685 Maple Swamp Road - Asks about how the bid to do the study was awarded. How did Skyline get involved. Was it low bidder?

Ross Perry clarifies that they were selected on their technical proposal first and then qualifications.

Steve Ciesielski says he is being told that we will have cost savings, but we will have less than one dispatcher covering both towns, so less service. The authorities running the dispatch center owe their allegiance to Fall River. That is the Town that they represent. That is a fact. So, since you are low bidder, these numbers that you put down, you have something to gain?

Sheldon says no. His part ends with delivery of the final report.

Steve asks have these numbers been reviewed by an independent party.

The response was that they have been reviewed by the municipalities, and skyline who is the independent party.

Steve says so Fall River would be running this, and you're the independent reviewer and you have nothing to gain from this?

Sheldon Cohen says regarding allegiances let me clarify - One of the critical elements in any regional center, is what we call an inter-municipal agreement. This agreement would address such things as how the cost of the center would be assessed every year, on population, on call volume, or some combination, etc., what would the staffing be. It would also say how the standard operating procedure gets established. How decisions get made and what input Dighton would have in this decision making process. This is a professional undertaking. No one has their fingers in the cookie jar. Board of Selectmen is the voting authority for the Town of Dighton.

Steve - but you asking the citizens of this town to give up some of the town's sovereignty to another entity for control of the logistics of the emergency system.

Sheldon We just present the facts.

Ashley Tanis of Tremont Street asks if one of the towns drops out, will this go forward with the remaining towns.

Sheldon Cohen says that in the inter-municipal agreement the two things would be specified. If some part of the inter-municipal agreement would specify a minimum term of membership. We recommend ten years. The other part of the inter-municipal agreement would also specify what would happen if one of the municipalities drops out at some point. It could be this could go forward with two municipalities and not all three. It could happen that your board could negotiate with Fall River if, for whatever reason, Rehoboth should decide not to proceed. Or it could happen that one of the neighboring communities sees that this is working out well, and want to join the group.

Nashoba Valley now, after two years, has a fifth municipality signing with them. It is possible that the RECC could proceed with two communities. As you can see here, the numbers for Rehoboth are not nearly as favorable as Dighton. It is up to the board to consider.

Ashley Tanis asks if it is up to the municipalities to agree on how dispatchers are hired? Does everyone have to agree on how things are run? Do we have any say if we don't like how the dispatching is going. Sheldon Cohen reiterates that this is where the inter-municipal agreement becomes so important. That is beyond the study.

Rachel Rose, Bailey Street, says Fall River is very different community, if there call volume was to increase exponentially greater than ours over the next several years, how would that affect our savings, I'm assuming that total savings for the Town of Dighton would be drastically reduced as their needs increased

Sheldon Cohen responds - At the very beginning of the study we went to SRPEDD, and asked them to give us what is called your build out population. It turns out that none of the three town anticipate a growth of more than 10-15% increase in population. So you are not in that situation.

Sheldon Cohen says this is all speculative. The numbers for buildout from SRPEDD, until the year 2030 do not anticipate more than 10-15% in any of the communities.

Rachel asks, will all the communities grow equally or differently

Ross Perry tells her "we cannot tell you exact numbers."

Selectman Menges says in the near term, we are projected to have the highest growth rate in Bristol County next year. In the near term our growth rate will be higher than Fall River. He is talking over 15 years.

Matt Tanis - Tremont Street - in your initial one year costs, was it calculated for separation of employment for your current dispatchers in Dighton,

2nd part is that current dispatchers do more than just answer the phones, some people come in with emergencies, some for directions. Also, some call on business line. We answer that regularly. Who will be in station to serve the public? I would like to know.

Also, Dighton is expected to grow from 7200 – 8000 by 2030. We have one dispatcher now, Rehoboth with 12,000 residents also Rehoboth also has one dispatcher. So with that 1200 resident growth over the next fifteen years, technically we are still good with one dispatcher.

Sheldon Cohen says, in terms of both of your questions, in the concluding chapter of the study, those were both addressed. Each Town has a different situation in terms of how they handle those things. We have discussed this with Fall River is the possibility of migrating at least some of the Dighton dispatchers to Fall River. In a feasibility study there is not a final answer to everything.

We are aware of the unemployment costs and in the final chapter we deal with some of those issues. There is money in the budget for labor counsel.

Matt Tanis asks about his second question about who will be in the station now.

Gentleman from Summer St says, we will save 89,000.00/year that is great. But now we have to man the police station, 24 hours a day with a reserve. "Where is the money savings - even if we have a reserve

in the station, and even with 2 shift, and not three, because the chief or the secretary is there during the day. I don't know what the saving would be?" An extra person to sit in station is going to cost us, even if it's just one person.

Ross Perry says, "I don't know if you need a person to sit in station."

Melissa asks "What if you are being chased?"

Ross Perry says that to Melissa's point – there are stations that have a front door that locks as a panic room. I don't think that the dispatcher is going to come out to protect someone, because they don't carry a firearm.

Tom Medeiros says that someone picks up the phone in the station, it goes to Fall River and then gets dispatched all the way back here. Ridiculous.

Margaret Dyson, 859 Somerset Avenue, asks if you are basing off population - why are we not going off crime rates. What is the crime rates and accident rates for Fall River, what are they?

Sheldon Cohen says we use population for the initial analysis, because it is the only solid number available. In the IMA one of the predictions it includes, is exactly what you're saying which is that three municipalities can agree to amend your formula at any time to include.....

Melissa asks What happens when the other towns don't agree with us. What happens when Chief MacDonald has a problem with a dispatcher.

What happens when the building needs repair.

Margaret says Fall River doesn't compare to Lynn. Population doesn't matter, crime rates matter.

When was the last time Dighton had a fatal shooting? Fall River has many more emergencies than we do.

Paul Reed apologizes for his outburst, but the thought of losing his job after a twenty five year commitment is upsetting. I spoke to the State, once you move to RECC center, once the 911 equipment is moved out of this town, you can't get it back. They will not give it back.

Chairman Cronin says a couple more questions.

If Rehoboth/Dighton enter into this will you enact this and put this in place before the municipal agreement is signed?

Chairman Cronin says that we can't, this is mandated. Agreement must be in place

Chairman Cronin says one more question

Robert Woods 159 Chase Street, thanks the gentlemen from SRPEDD and Skyline for putting on this presentation. We are not here to give you a hard time. Our elected officials are who we need to be talking to. All these RECC centers are in Western Mass. This is a lot of smoke and mirrors.

Our problem is with the Board of Selectmen. This is a small town, we really don't want any services in Fall River.

Connor Fagundes, 405 Main Street, has a question. He says, it seems like we will still have some sort of mutual aid where the towns help each other, which we already have. Seems like we are going to have savings, but we may not actually have savings. We way going to lose the exclusivity an solidity and effectiveness of our own system for urgency. It doesn't sound like a good idea.

Mansfield firefighter says you said something that does make sense about the county System that works but it was set up fifty years ago. But to come in now and with these small towns being lumped together with a big city like Fall River. Who is going to answer those weird calls. These dispatchers do a great job.

It's tough to put a monetary figure on this.

Chairman Cronin says thank you to SRPEDD and Skyline. He says most of the points that were brought up tonight are very valuable. The figures are part of the equation, but not all of it. Are they worth it, who knows. Please, just let us finish what we started. Our next step is to sit down with the parties I cannot make a decision until I know all the facts 100%. We plan to sit down with other towns to get straightforward facts and information. Figures don't lie, but can also be manipulated in the wrong hands.

Motion to take completed feasibility study under advisement and seek an appointment with Chief Racine by Selectman Menges. Tom Pires seconds. Unanimously carries.

Quick question – from someone in the audience, before we make this decision, will the townspeople have any say in it.

Melissa brings a list of questions that she would like to leave for answers.  
Some got answered and some didn't  
Patrick asks her to eliminate the ones that have been answered.  
She says OK.

Chairman Cronin thanks everyone for attending, it was not in vain. There was some valuable information as well as input.  
We will take a five minute recess.

Upon return from recess Chairman welcome everyone back.

#### **Minutes**

Selectman Pires motions to approve minutes from March 26, 2015. Executive Session, Police Negotiations. Selectmen Menges seconds. Unanimously carries. Selectman Cronin makes note that he was not involved in those negotiations nor those minutes. Unanimously carries.

#### **Warrants.**

Selectman Pires motions to approve the warrant #40A-15 \$70,012.89 #40B-15 \$38,129.16. Selectman Menges seconds - Unanimously carries.

#### **Correspondence**

No correspondence.

#### **Announcements**

Selectman Pires begins the announcements and Chairman Cronin finishes them.  
Selectman Menges adds the dedication of the POW -MIA chair on May 9<sup>th</sup>, at Town Hall, at 1:00pm, and an Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be held later on the same day and the Board of Selectmen will be attending

Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> in Rehoboth this year. Contact Donald Hirschy, veteran's agent for more information.

Special Town meeting is Monday, June 1st 7:00 pm and Annual Town Meeting immediately following.

Chairman Cronin reads the list of candidates for the upcoming election.

## **New Business**

- a. Letter from North Dighton Waster District to waive the \$150.00 permit fee for a shed to be built at 340 Forest Street, Dighton, MA. Selectman Pires motions to waive fee, Selectman Menges Seconds the motion. Unanimously carries.
- b. Notice to proceed to be approved and signed for the Dighton Police Station Project. Chairman Cronin explains this is a formality once bond council has solidified the loan. This is given to the architect and engineers involved in the Dighton Police Station Project. It was previously voted on at Town Meeting. Chairman will accept a motion. Selectman Pires motions to approve Notice to proceed. Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.

## **Reports:**

Report of Selectman Menges on the Candidates for Town Administrator. Selectman Menges tells everyone that the field has been narrowed to three - Tomorrow night the Board of Selectmen will interview the three finalists. At the end of that meeting we will have chosen the Town Administrator and then we will go into an executive session to negotiate salary.

Chairman Cronin says all are invited. It is an open meeting. All are welcome to sit in and listen to the answers.

## **Acknowledgements:**

Selectmen Menges says thank you to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a wonderful Easter egg hunt held on Sunday. Especially to Heidi Swist, Timothy Rhines and all the donors who helped out. Congratulations to the confirmants at St Nicholas of Myra who were confirmed on Monday night. Finally, Happy Easter to all!

## **Public Input:**

Robert Woods has input regarding Finance Committee meeting last week with the Harbor Master regarding his request for a rather large stipend for being a member of stewardship council. I served on this council. This has nothing to do with the Harbor Master. It is an honorary position. He should be willing to do this for free. The river is something to be enjoyed and Mr. Marino has made it difficult for some people to enjoy the resources. I don't think it should be a stipend position. He finds Mr. Marino to be difficult to deal with. He should be honored to be a part of this.

I think that our selectmen think that we can just keep paying for things. I hear you say things about Rehoboth Selectman not willing to pay for things.

He says he thinks that Rehoboth selectmen are more fiscally responsible than ours.

He also says he thinks the Board and the Finance Committee should review these things and it is our Board of Selectmen's responsibility to keep the budgets under control. I see some big increases in some of the budgets I hope you will.

That's all.

Selectman Menges adds Justin Cadima's Eagle Scout project was to revitalize the landscape around the Dighton Community Church. He also cleaned up the area around the church by refurbishing the current signs and incorporate them within the trees and created two large mulch beds. Also extended and created gardens.

Kristopher Munroe successfully completed the walkway to the Dighton Veteran's memorial. He installed a walkway to the memorial and cleaned all the moss from the benches. Once complete grass was planted. The walkway serves as a guide and preserves the landscape and allows people who are unstable on their feet or in a wheelchair to visit the memorial.

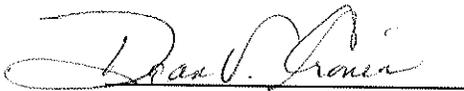
Thomas Munroe had the project at the animal shelter. He and volunteers cleaned, organizing, and construction of a loft and a feline area within the existing animal shelter. The animal shelter is in an old town garage, and did not have a feline area. The loft allows for storage of food and items

Congratulations to these three Eagle Scout members

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carried  
Adjourned at 9:43pm

Respectfully Submitted,

**Karin L. Brady**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Board of Selectmen**



**Dean V. Cronin-Chairman**

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**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/\$7.50/2 gal). 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.
- URGENT - Please return your census forms. You may use drop box outside of Town Hall for your convenience.
- Dog licenses for 2015 are still available at the Town Clerks Office..
- Recycling Stickers are on sale for \$1.00 at Town Hall, for your own containers.
- 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 final draft 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@townofidighton.com](mailto:Hswist@townofidighton.com) or call 508 669 6636.
- The Library has Massachusetts State Tax Form 1. They do not currently have Federal Income Tax Forms, or instruction booklets but can print them for you if needed. Fee charged for the instruction booklet.
- For seniors that need help with tax preparation please visit: [www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp](http://www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp) or call 1-888-227-7669. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS.
- 2015-2016 Kindergarten Registration and Screening is being held Monday, April 6 – Friday, April 10, 2015. Mailings to parents have been sent. New residents should call the school to be added to the mailing list. Call 508 669 4245 X1100, for more information. On March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> registration paperwork can be returned in Dighton Elementary School foyer. No appointments needed for that portion of the registration.