

*Approved, 22 April 2015
P. W.M., Clerk.*

The following meeting was videorecorded for cable telecast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Weekly Meeting

Wednesday, 15 April 2015, 7:30 P.M.

**Town Hall Hearings Room, 979 Somerset Avenue, Dighton,
Massachusetts**

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DIGHTON, MA
BY

Chairman Dean V. Cronin convened at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, 15 April 2015, in the hearings room of town hall, 979 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, the regular weekly meeting of the board of selectmen. He invited all persons present to rise and join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Cronin announced the election to the board of a new selectman, Matthew Tanis, and congratulated him on a clean election. He then proceeded to reorganization of the board of selectmen and declared all positions in the organization of the board to be vacant. On a motion of Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Tanis, the board voted to reelect Selectman Cronin as chairman, for the year 2015-2016. On a motion of Selectman Tanis which Chairman Cronin stepped down and seconded, the board reelected Selectman Menges as clerk, for the year 2015-2016.

On motions of Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Tanis, the board without discussion except for Selectman Menges' comment that signature of approved minutes would await final printing without the extant "DRAFT" watermark, voted to approve as prepared by the administrative assistant, the minutes of the regular meeting of the board of 1 April 2015 and 8 April 2015, and as prepare by the clerk of the board minutes of the Town Administrator Semifinalists Selection Panel meetings of 23 March 2015 and 31 March 2015, minutes of the meeting

of the board of selectmen to appoint and fix the salary of a town administrator subject to town meeting approval, of 2 April 2015, and minutes of a special meeting of the board of selectmen with Chief Daniel Racine of the Fall River Police Department concerning 911 Regionalization of Tuesday, 14 April 2015.

On a motion of Selectman Tanis seconded by Selectman Menges the board unanimously voted to approve as prepared by the town accountant spending warrants #42A-15 in the amount of \$75,368.31, #42B-15 in the amount of \$78,567.83, and #42C-15 in the amount of \$2,321.38.

Chairman Cronin read correspondence, viz:

a. A letter from Jeffrey D. Wagner announcing that he is stepping down as Dighton correspondent for the *Taunton Daily Gazette* except as to human interest stories such as the forthcoming [9 May] POW-MIA Chair dedication at Town Hall. Selectmen Cronin and Menges offered laudatory comments regretting Mr. Wagner's departure.

b. COMCAST's announcement of an appointment for this area of a new Senior Government Affairs Manager.

c. Governor Baker's announcement that Dighton's share of Chapter 90 highway funds for 2015-2016 will be \$285,110.00. Selectman Cronin asked Selectman Menges if he remembered Dighton's current year (2014-2015) Chapter 90 share amount; Selectman Menges said that he did not, but that he could research it and post it.

d. A letter of construction activity notification from National Grid; Selectman Menges stated that this work would occur in the western part of town, on the western power line right of way, vic. Maple Swamp Road, near the Rehoboth town line.

e. A letter from Council on Aging Director Alice E. Souza announcing the hiring for ten hours a week work as kitchen help at Prime Time elderly day care of Brittany Reid, as of 13 April 2015.

[Copies of all correspondence read are appended to and a part of these minutes.]

Selectman Tanis read the following announcements as they appeared in the published meeting agenda:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Board of Health has sharps disposal containers for sale for Dighton residents only at the office (\$3.00/qt/\$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.
- 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.
- Saturday April 25, 2015, there will be a rabies clinic at North Dighton Fire Station, 132 Chase Street, from 2-3 pm. Rabies shots are \$12.00, microchipping will also be available at \$20.00. Dog licenses will also be available at the event. Checks only. If you have any pet food that you would like to donate, we will make sure it is used at the Town shelter or distributed to those in need.
- The unveiling of the POW-MIA Chair will be held on May 9, 2015, at 1:00pm, at the Town Hall Pavilion. Please RSVP to Donald Hirschy at 508 669 5027. Our thanks to the donors and the Taunton Area Vietnam Veterans' Association for making Dighton's POW-MIA chair possible.
- Memorial Day Parade will be held in Rehoboth this year on May 25th at 10:30 am – beginning at the Council on Aging and ending at the Veteran's Memorial Gazebo.
- The library has events planned for upcoming school vacation week. Go to: dightonlibrary.org.
- Prime Time/ Council on Aging also has many events planned for April – For a complete list go to www.dighton-ma.gov
- Dighton Lions Club Auction will be on April 18, at the Highway Garage.
- The Annual Town Meeting will be on Monday, June 1, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Dighton Middle School.

Selectman Menges added to the printed announcements (1) that the board of health had reorganized for 2015-2016 at a 7:P.M. meeting and had elected Mr. Tanis as its chairman and Mr. Menges as its clerk, and (2) that the annual projects prioritization public hearing of the community preservation committee would occur in the town hall hearings room at 8:00 p.m. tomorrow night (Thursday, 16 April 2015) following the finance committee meeting [This was an error; the public hearing was scheduled for 7 P.M. 16 April 2015, followed by a regular meeting of community preservation committee at 8:00 P.M.]

The board transacted no "Old Business".

On a motion of Selectman Menges which Chairman Cronin stepped down to second, the board voted to appoint Selectman Tanis to the Disaster Committee for the unexpired remainder of the term ending June 30, 2015.

On a motion of Selectman Menges which Chairman Cronin stepped down to second, the board voted to appoint Selectman Tanis to the Soils Conservation Commission for the unexpired remainder of the term ending June30, 2015.

On a motion of Selectman Tanis seconded by Selectman Menges, the board approved a request to carry over forty fours of vacation time from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2015⁶by highway department employee Raymond Rose.

On a motion of Selectman Menges seconded by Selectman Tanis, the board voted to accept the resignation from the study committee studying deregionalization of the school district, of newly elected Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District Committee member Glen Jefferson.

On a motion of Selectman Menges seconded by Selectman Tanis, the board tabled action on appointment of Melissa St. Laurent to the study committee studying deregionalization of the school district.

Chairman Cronin then opened the hearing on an application for a Class II Used Auto Dealer's License for 508 Customs and Collision (President, Derek Hannoud of Berkley), for 1940 County Street, Dighton, former location of grantor Antone P. Roderick (Sr.)'s "V & R Servicecenter".

Selectman Menges asked that the hearing be suspended to permit Town Clerk Susana Medeiros to swear in Selectman Tanis as Disaster Committeeman and Soils Conservation Commissioner (*See ante.*) This was done, and the Class II license application hearing resumed.

Chairman Cronin ascertained that there were in the audience, abutters to 1940 County Street interested in the 508 Customs and Collision application hearing. First of these to speak was Jeffrey Allie who said that after many trouble-free years with Mr. Roderick as proprietor operator of V & R Servicecenter, a recent tenant operator in the last 2 ½ years had allowed a spray paint smell to carry into Mr. Allie's back yard. Mrs. Allie said that she also wanted to know what work is planned by the applicant, and hours of operation, &c.

Applicant Dennis Hannoud responded that he would be making collision repairs and doing customizing. He assured abutters that he knows how to make repairs and knows how to use equipment without creating a nuisance. He said that his hours of operation will be 8:A.M. to 6:P.M. Monday through Friday, and 8:A.M. to 12:NOON on Saturday. He is applying, he said, for permission for fifty (50) automobiles to be stored in front and down the side of the building, and he added that he has "put in an option" to buy the vacant lot on the south side of the building. Owner of a nearby business property (for which a Class II application has also been filed) Mr. Jon Hollingsworth of Wellsley said that he favored granting of the application.

Mr. Antone P. Roderick (Sr.) said that Mr. Allie with whom he had spoken about the Hannoud application as recently as today, had never mentioned any paint smell emanating from the premises, but that if there

had been such a problem, it was the result of mismanagement, since he had operated a similar business there for forty years with in excess of three hundred (300) cars on the lot without complaint of contamination. When selectmen had attempted to limit Mr. Roderick's number of autos on the lot, he had replied that it would not be beneficial to the town to thus limit a business doing no harm. There were no problems, because of good management, he said.

Selectman Cronin agreed that the business had seemed "O.K." in the past. Recent problems involved only the last operators.

Selectman Menges asked the status of Mr. Hannoud's acquisition of ownership of 1940 County Street, and he stated that he would have a closing at the end of this month if he is assured of receiving a Class II license. Selectman Cronin said that he could be given a notarized statement for his lender that the license will be forthcoming once the board has voted on it, but that the license will be withheld until he owns the property as required by law, and until payment in full of \$283.78 included in which is the cost of advertising this hearing. With the conditions that (1) the building commissioner must complete a required inspection and (2) that Mr. Hannoud must own the property, on a motion of Selectman Tanis, seconded by Selectman Menges, the board unanimously voted to grant a Class II Used Auto Dealer's License to 508 Customs and Collision for 1940 County Street, Dighton.

Selectman Cronin introduced a progress report on 911 Emergency Dispatch Regionalization, by saying, "This is only a study, ladies and gentlemen," and other prefatory comments suggesting that regionalization may not occur. He then called upon Selectman Menges, who read an extract from the minutes approved earlier in the evening (*See, ante.*) of a meeting of the Selectmen with Fall River Police Chief Daniel Racine at town hall on Tuesday, 14 April, at 1:20 P.M. Selectman Tanis stated following the report that being an emergency communications

dispatcher himself, he does not participate nor vote in matters concerning the 911 emergency dispatch regionalization initiative.

On motions of Selectman Tanis, each seconded by Selectman Menges, the board accepted for the Town anonymous donations to the Council on Aging's Prime Time elderly day care reported by Sheila D. Neu, assistant program manager, in the amounts of \$30.00 and \$100.00.

After laudatory remarks for the donor whose name was not disclosed, generous former owner of a recently unfortunately deceased collie, Selectman Menges moved that the board accept for the town's animal shelter a donation of exercise steps, bedding, and dog food. The motion was seconded by Selectman Tanis and passed on a voice vote. During his remarks Mr. Menges noted that we more frequently hear of areas for improvement of the animal shelter than we see action to help. He alluded to Eagle Scout candidate Thomas Munroe's carpentry work in the shelter as his Eagle Scout project, and commended the gentleman who yesterday had brought into the hearings room his late canine companion's belongings for the use of shelter dogs; he and his expectant wife had but recently moved to a home in Dighton from an apartment in the city when their collie, which a rescue league in Rhode Island had rescued from adversity in Tennessee, had died; and yet in their new town this couple had chosen to be selfless, setting an example from which we all can take a lesson. Mr. Menges said that there are currently no dogs in the Dighton animal shelter because of the diligence of Animal Control Officer Stacy Ferry in moving shelter dogs quickly to foster homes until they can have permanent homes.

During public input, Mr. Ed Jacobson of the Taunton Yacht Club told the board that he had been informed that the board had denied the Club permission to store gasoline and diesel fuel at the club's premises on Water Street. Chairman Cronin said that this was not the case, but that the board of selectmen had received paperwork from the fire chief regarding the club's fueling operations and had not acted upon it until the

board has more information. Selectman Menges said that an application for permission for underground storage at the Yacht Club of 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 4,000 gallons of gasoline had come to his desk, and that he did not know why, since such things had been handled in the past by the Fire Chief and the Department of Environmental Protection. He said that he emphatically told the Fire Chief that he would neither vote for nor sign any permit for underground storage of petroleum at the waterfront without first being assured that the applicant had a double-walled storage tank encased in a containment barrier to prevent leakage of fuel into the harbor. He said, "Signing of a license for fuel storage at the waterfront is not a perfunctory act." Mr. Menges also stated that when he was younger, underground fuel storage occurred in the flood plain at other sites, also, and that these tanks have now been removed. He said that he has been informed that the Department of Environmental Protection now actually licenses underground fuel storage at the waterfront for up to three years and also conducts an interim inspection of licensed tanks during that period – this year the Department will be inspecting marina and wharfside fuel storage inspections but has not yet begun.

Mr. Jacobson said that the Club's code compliant fuel storage tank had been installed in 1998.

Fire Chief Roderick said that the Fire Department had only the paperwork concerning the Yacht Club's fuel storage installation that the Club had submitted with its initial application for a license, but that he (Chief Roderick) has contacted the Department of Environmental Protection and obtained details [which he stated] of code compliant safety features of the Club's tank, a divided tank with an interior wall separating diesel fuel from gasoline, protective valving, &c. He said that the Fire Department has issued the "permit" for underground fuel storage, but that the selectmen issue the "license", although the law seems to indicate that once the selectmen have issued a "license", unless it was only for a stated term of years, it continues in effect until revoked.

Mr. Jacobson accepted a vague assurance that the Fire Chief will shepherd the Taunton Yacht Club's underground fuel storage application, and withdrew.

Mr. David Marvill of Forest Street asked, (1) how long will (eyesore) derelict materials continue to disgrace the former Tremont Street landfill? [Selectman Cronin explained that during winter operations they had been moved there to create needed operational space at the highway garage, that the annual town meeting will be asked to fund container repairs and a new container, and that the situation will be addressed.]; (2) what will become of the old post office building (on Spring Street/Steven's Island)? [The Building Commissioner, James Aguiar, addressed the meeting to say that that building should have been demolished before it was transferred but that it now has a private owner who started to renovate it; the new owner hired a structural engineer to sound the building several months ago. Since repeated calls to the owner now go unanswered, Mr. Aguiar feels that the owner has now learned what renovation of the structure – which the commissioner said is in very bad shape – will involve. The commissioner concluded this summation by opining that the building will be demolished, though the Town only appropriates enough money to demolish one condemned structure per year and right now his priority demolition is the “notorious Tyvek house” on (the south end of) Somerset Avenue.]; and (3) Can the Town encourage the owners of the 620 Spring Street millsite to relieve the eyesore created by demolition of the west end of the (former Mt. Hope Finishing Company) building? [Point taken.].

Chairman Cronin prefaced adjournment formalities with laudatory and encouraging remarks for the board's new member, Selectman Matthew Tanis, in which remarks Selectman Menges concurred. Selectman Tanis then thanked/addressed the board and the town, saying simply and directly that he will do his best for the town.

On a motion of Selectman Menges, seconded by Seletman Tanis, the board voted to dedicate tonight's adjournment to the memory of victims of the Boston Marathon bombing of April 15, 2015, on this ~~this~~ ~~this~~ occasion of its second anniversary, and thus adjourned without day, at 8:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick W. Menges". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

PATRICK W. MENGES

Clerk of the Board of Selectmen