

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

Called to order at 7:32 pm

Pledge of allegiance is recited.

Minutes

Selectman Patrick Menges motions to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2015, and Selectman Matthew Tanis seconds the motion. Unanimously carries

Warrants

Selectman Tanis motions to approve warrant #43A-15 in the amount of \$69,787.88 and warrant #43B-15 in the amount of \$139,762.80. Selectman Menges seconds the motion. Unanimously carries.

Correspondence

Dean Cronin reads the letter in its entirety from Columbia Gas with regard to their request to the Department of Public Utilities for a 7.5% rate adjustment.

Selectman Menges adds that it doesn't really say when that price will take effect or when it will appear on the bill. They are asking for a 9.8% increase in industrial rate. So that must mean that their industrial rates will go up even further.

Dean Cronin reads an email sent by Ross Perry of SRPEDD with regard to public outreach concerning the recent phone calls being made with offers of reduced prices on electricity. Some of these offers are questionable and may result in hidden fees for withdrawal. He asks that the public be patient and disregard these phone calls, and wait for the results of the energy aggregation that the town is going through right now, there will be a radio outreach program by New Bedford on WBSM and FM 107. There will be a weekly broadcast regarding the aggregation.

Announcements are read by Selectman Matthew Tanis.

Old Business

Chairman Cronin says that Melissa St. Laurent declines the appointment to the de-regionalization study committee, due to the fact that she has already formed an opinion on this matter.

New Business

Chairman Cronin reads letter from Fire Chief Antone Roderick requesting to carry over ten vacation days from 2015 to FY 2016. Selectman Tanis motions to allow Fire Chief Antone Roderick to carry over the ten days of vacation time. (There is a moment of private discussion between Selectman Menges and Selectman Tanis). Selectman Menges seconds that motion. Aye Aye - Motion carries.

Chairman Cronin addresses trash pickup procedures. This was a result of an audit that the Town goes through each year. Each year the auditing company chooses one or two Town Departments. The department this year was Board of Health. It seems that for the past three years, the amount of trash disposed of at the landfill has increased, while the purchase of town trash bags has decreased. This has resulted in greater expenses to dispose of the trash. He states the figures don't lie. We will repeat the policies and procedures for trash pickup. If your trash is not in a Dighton trash bag, it will be left there. It will not be picked up. The bags must be tied. Any trash that is put on top of the bag, and not in a Dighton bag will be left. The other thing, I want to mention is that some people are compacting their trash so much that the bags are too heavy to lift. That policy will no longer be in effect. If you, as a homeowner, cannot carry your back to the curbside, do not even consider putting it out. It will not be picked up. Please adhere to the rules. This has been going on, and cannot continue.

Chairman Cronin introduces Frank McMahon, of Southern Sky Renewable Energy, LLC. He is here to give a brief overview of a proposed project at Zeneca landfill. Mr. McMahon introduces himself, and says that they have recently acquired control of the land formerly known as Zeneca Landfill, located on Elm Street for purposes of constructing a solar facility on that property. They have a pre-application report in to National Grid to let them give us an idea in terms of what will be the size of the facility. Hoping that it will 3-4 big lots. If you are not familiar with the site specifically I have brought a Google Map for your review - It is directly across from your water tower in town. (They review the map briefly). If we were to embark on this project, one of our first tasks will be to meet with your planning department. If you are interested in hearing about recent projects, we have built one in Berkley, another in Carver. Recently awarded a project in South Carver Landfill We have an agreement with Waste Management to lease three of four of their landfills.

Chairman Cronin asks if Zeneca owns the property and Mr. McMahon answers "yes". Chairman Cronin then asks why are there so many of these projects going on. Mr. McMahon says his business plan is to develop town landfills that are of no use to the town. Governor Patrick began it as his vision for more renewable energy, and it has grown by leaps and bounds. We will always hire local firms to complete the work. We will be in touch at the appropriate time, once we have a sense of how large it will be. We want to come in with a project that will satisfy everyone. We are happy to meet with the folks out there onsite and tell them what we do and what they can expect. Some of the questions people will ask are about reflections from the panels, and questions about lighting at night. We are more than happy to educate the people. My purpose for being here is to introduce the potential project. I say potential, because we are in no way ready for any kind of presentation or to announce anything.

Selectman Tanis asks if there is any disturbance of the soils, to which Mr. McMahon replies "No, we lay down a geo-tech mat down with three to four inches of crushed stone on top or use build in place blocks, but in no way will the soil be disturbed."

Selectman Menges thanks Mr. McMahon for attending the meeting on such short notice.

Chairman Cronin says most of these will go right to the planning board in the past. We would have no idea of what was going on. We appreciate you coming out to explain this to us on such short notice.

Mr. McMahon says we work well with the towns. I encourage you to check with Carver, Berkley and such. Mr. McMahon thanks the Board.

Chairman Cronin reads a letter from Thomas Ferry, Highway superintendent for one snow day earned on Thursday, March 5th, 2015. He asks the board to vote to approve. Selectman Cronin entertains a

motion to grant one snow day. Selectman Menges motions to approve. Selectman Matthew Tanis seconds. Motion carries.

Reports.

Selectman Menges gives a report on the status of improvements of canoe access improvements at Water and Pleasant Streets. He reads an email from Heidi Swist, to a Mr. Cameron of the public access board. He responds and says they will need to do a topographic survey, the weather has put them behind schedule. After that they will develop a preliminary plan for the towns' review. Selectman Menges adds that this is an assurance that we are still in line for consideration for improved fishing and boating access at Pleasant and Water Streets and also at the boat ramp. We are looking forward to State participation.

When the improvements have been made, we will end up with a wider boat access ramp with car top access where boats can be walked right out to the water, and then a fishing pier that will not disturb the marsh grass at the East end of the boat ramp.. The State will make the improvements, but we have to agree that we will participate and maintain these improvements.

Selectman Menges then addresses David Marvill's requests for Quality of Life improvements. Selectman Menges says David Marvill mentioned three different eyesores within the town. We have approached the property manager of 620 Spring Street, the old Mount Hope finishing company. Mr. Marvill specifically referred to was the trash that is accumulating. Mr. Merrigan assured us that a team will go out and assess and then weather permitting, they will clean the area within the next two days. While we were talking to the manager, we mentioned that the development committee has an interest in the property. One week from Monday the chairman of the Development and Industrial Commission will take a tour to see the improvements being made, to attract some entrepreneurs to the mill. Also being talked about is creating a museum at the location. If such a museum were established, it is possible, the Mass Cultural council may participate. This may result in some tax relief to the business contained within the building. The idea has been floated to the Historical Commission. We will also, of course, be talking with Mr. Merrigan. We want Mr. Marvill to know that we heard his concerns and will be addressing his other concerns as well.

Acknowledgements

Diane Brown Couture has retired. April 21st was her last meeting. Matthew Tanis says she was very influential. She was instrumental in establishing emergency dispensing sites. She has for the most part been overseeing and coordinating the coalitions. She will be missed.

We wish Diane Brown Couture a happy and healthy retirement.

Patrick would like to say a word about poverty in Dighton. The subject has come up as recently as today. An elderly resident is concerned with the rising tax rates. Also, there are people in town who have children in college, single mothers trying to hold on to their homes. In speaking with the Principal of the High School, collections are being taken to relieve hunger. The town has voted to have check off donations on their real estate tax bills. It did appear on the first tax bill. Unfortunately, the bills did not reflect that on the subsequent bills. We encourage the public to contribute a small amount. We will meet with the 3 member board and the collector to review and consider cases of need.

We also want to say a word about the food bank . Donations are taken at a variety of events The food bank is under the wing of the lions, Gerry Ferris and his group, Al Enos, etc., have done a great job. The most important thing that this town can do, is to be welcoming to business. We no longer have

industrial taxes. At the town meeting there will be articles for mixed use zoning for Rte 44 and 138 for residents to conduct small businesses. All of this is very important for uplifting the revenue and the plight of those who are struggling to make ends meet.

In the meantime, we thank the churches (10) and the charitable organizations that are carrying on the work and making possible for survival in the town. We encourage all who are able to do something for those in need.

Go to the town meeting and support the articles for mixed use zoning. We will take the appropriate steps to make sure that Dighton is welcoming to the businesses that want to be located here.

Chairman Cronin says again, please let's get the trash procedure back on track.

Chairman Cronin entertains a motion to adjourn.
Selectman Matthew Tanis motions to adjourn.
Selectman Menges seconds the motion.
Motion carries.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

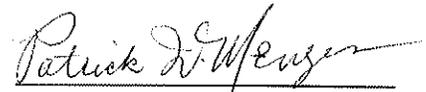
Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant



Dean V. Cronin-Chairman
Clerk



Matthew W. Tanis-Member



Patrick W. Menges-