

The following meeting was neither audiotaped nor video recorded.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Wednesday, 1 July, 2015, 10 o'clock a.m.

Town Hall Hearings Room

TOWN CLERK  
BY  
DIGHTON, MA

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Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Cronin

In attendance were, Chairman Cronin, Selectman Menges, Don Hirschy, James Aguiar, Greg Olsen, Cathal Obrien, Alice Souza, Tom Ferry and Administrative Assistant Karin Brady.

**Don Hirschy**

Bunting is up on the gazebo for the Fourth of July. Provided transportation to Jamaica Plain VA, and visitations at Brockton VA Hospital. Interviewed two new applicants for Chapter 115. Everything is going well. The veteran's agent in Rehoboth has given his notice. End of July he will be vacating that position. He was also helping out in Seekonk there is also a vacancy there, but I understand that they have already hired someone for that position. The Rehoboth position will be open and I will meet that person when the time comes.

Selectman Menges asks if Rehoboth has asked you to fill in

Don says no - but intends to decline because he has too much to do. He says they have a month to prepare for this.

**Jim Aguiar** says, first thing, thanks to Greg Olsen, the building department has acquired some file cabinets for a small amount of money. Today we will start swapping files over to them. I think these cabinets are something that we can use throughout Town Hall. Next time we will need additional help to get them. We will have a lot more storage upstairs.

Jim Aguiar adds that if his plan for archiving comes to fruition I will need 6 - 8 of these cabinets, I now have two.

Chairman Cronin says is it hit or miss, and Jim agrees.

Nancy has the link - and if she can find them, then she can more than likely secure them

We will need to get them keyed - but I have someone to do that.

There will be some disruption during the next couple of days, moving cabinets and office.

Greg Olsen says it is surplus equipment - you would not believe the array of equipment - it is hit or miss. If anyone needed desk chairs, furniture - I've gotten laptops for \$15.00/piece. That was the first thing. It is unbelievable what the State has out there. It's used, but some of it gently.

Greg Olsen says we are looking into in conjunction with the Highway Department, replacing ten services between Elm and the bridge for the damn on Main Street - hopefully within a couple of weeks. Not a guarantee, but we are trying for it. Cathal is aware that we will need to continue all the way up Main eventually.

Meter replacements are being done. We are up to 250 of them.

**Cathal O'Brien** says the board meets next Monday, the 9th. They will discuss capital improvement plans, service replacements and minimize expenses. They are looking to make a ten year plan and then we will present it to the board. We have new chemical and service contract in place as of today. Getting ready for summer. We have been lucky. That's it for now. Hopefully weather will be level until fall.

Selectman Menges asks if the capital outlay committee still in existence. Mr. Emond came to town hall last Thursday. Selectman Menges asks him to tell me about the capital outlay committee. He said they have not met since October. Selectman Menges asks who is the other member. Greg Olsen says, Jeff Cloonan.

Selectman Menges says good luck to Cathal.

Greg Olsen says part of the capital outlay was to purchase a generator. We can now after 50 years run the wells on Sea Street when there is an outage.

**Alice Souza**

Says she saw another leak between the building and the overlap. Jim Aguiar says he has spoken to the contractor, and there should have been a more invasive flashing in that area. It should have been taken out and redone. Unfortunately it was not part of the original scope, but the contractor and I have discussed options. Whether or not we will try to re-flash what is there, or reconfigure the roof line is up in the air.

Selectman Menges asks what is the finish on the roof.

Jim Aguiar says the way it was installed - it is a point where the water will always enter. One fix is to re flash it - or the long term fix would be to take the roof out and replace it with a roof that is on the same plane that the other roof is on (my suggestion).

Chairman Cronin says get an estimate.

Jim Aguiar says he hasn't forgotten, but he has been busy.

Alice says she understands and I just noticed it again today.

Jim Aguiar says I take it you would like the long term fix?

Chairman Cronin says yes. We are trying to go that route with everything.

Alice says everything else is fine.

**Tom Ferry**

Says that he is very busy with spring stuff. They will clean basins next week, hopefully. Things are moving along. The winter recovery program is in. Out of \$43,000.00 and change that we are allocated we will get all but \$.30. We spent it well. We will try to get some other projects lined up shortly to include funds. Hopefully within two weeks you will see that.

Chairman Cronin asks where the crushed asphalt came from - Tom Ferry says Pine Street. That is the Gas Company is doing that. We will utilize that on Hart Street.

I spoke with Mr. Menges yesterday about the judgement on the Broad Cove nature trail. If we can let everyone know what is going on so that we may address the public.

Selectman Menges says we have been speaking with residents - At the end of Lot #82, we need to indicate that the nature trail ends here. The thing that we want to avoid is posting the farmer's land. This is not our responsibility. We can incur just as much trouble if we keep people that he wants off his property. However, we did encourage those who have inquired, to write to the Clancy Mello owners to ask their permission. There are other options that we could take to regain control, but they are harsh, and we are probably better off to get them to understand that their land is being protected by the people that walk there. Attorney Gay asked that we put a sign there to indicate the end of our property.

Tom Ferry has a map GIS showing the property. If we fenced off our property he would not be able to access his land without entering through his sisters' property, but that is not our problem.

Selectman Menges says that is in the decision. As long as we do not infringe his ability to enter and exit his property.

Tom Ferry says so either the highway department or park and rec can acquire the signs. He asks where to place the sign.

Chairman says before they get there give them a warning.

Tom Ferry says I have created a turnaround for our equipment. He points out an appropriate location for the sign at the end of the tree line.

Selectman Menges says only thing is - we need to assert our ownership. Therefore, I think the sign should be at the end of the Town Property. The judge said we could continue to use our land for nature trail, but the town cannot obstruct access to the farm. I would say at the far end of the town property, the sign should say "End of Nature Trail." If we give up one inch of town land, we will lose it to adverse possession.

Tom Ferry says there are some good granite markers out there - Would you be comfortable with us measuring from those to find that location. Selectman Menges says yes. Tom says he has ATV signs - he will move them.

Selectman Menges says the nature trails would be under parks and Rec is that right. Would you speak with Heidi and let her know what we have talked about.

Tom Ferry says the weather service that I enjoyed. Are you interested in the statistics? It goes in line with the predications about global warming.

Winters are more fierce, storms more powerful than ever before. (He goes on to read aloud the statistics for last winter in our area).

He states that we are in hurricane season now. Fuel tanks are depleted now, so that we can have fresh fuel in them. Unless I see something in the weather I will wait until August to fill them

Selectman Menges explains a little bit about the draft of a policy manual for town government. Over the next three months we will be taking any additions, changes, anything that you have with regard to it. It is a work in progress for the next three months. If you see something wrong, or something missing, please write it on the change form and our intern Lucas will make the changes as they come in.

A few things that are missing.

Culture and Recreation section for the Library and the Playgrounds. We did address some, but are still waiting for some input.

We need any input that the Water district is willing to provide concerning any way that we interface with you concerning trench permits or police details or any information on how we interact with you. Any information that you can supply. Please look at it and see what we haven't covered.

The Town Accountant has written a separate manual concerning procurements. You will find a section in the manual on procurements, although we will probably merge the Town Accountant's version with what is in here already.

We wanted to get this into the hands of the department heads. If anything you see needs to be changed just fill out the form. Feel free to make copies of the change form if necessary. Beginning of October we will begin working on the final book, and then by December we will have the final manual and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016, at the latest, it will be cast in stone and put into effect. If there is anything in your department that you think the manual should cover, please submit. This will be interesting

Chairman Cronin says this is the first time that the Town has had a policy handbook where anybody can go to see what is the policy. This town is run on memos - Every time a change is made there is a new memo created. This will be up to date. There are general polices in there that cover all employees of the Town of Dighton. There are also specific items related to your department. It is just like going to a directory. Anytime you have a question, you will be able to go there as well for operation of your department.

Chairman Cronin asks for questions or anything to add.

Alice says the lights on the Pavilion have been on for several days.

Tom Ferry says he will shut them off. The switches are on the opposite corners. Facing the pavilion just inside the door on the right. I think the officers are turning them on.

Chairman Cronin says there has been a lot of kids over there.

Tom Ferry says those lights should be changed to LEDs or something. It wouldn't take much to put a light sensor on them. It is very dark over there.

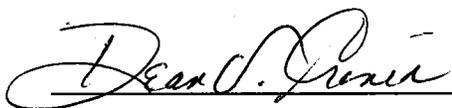
Chairman Cronin says thank you for taking the time.

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Menges – Chairman Cronin steps down to second – Motion unanimously carries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.

Respectfully submitted

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



**DEAN V. CRONIN**  
**Chairman**  
**Board of Selectmen**



**PATRICK W. MENGES**  
**Clerk**  
**Board of Selectmen**



**MATTHEW W. TANIS**  
**Member**  
**Board of Selectmen**