

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall –Selectmen's Meeting Room

Called to order at 7:32pm by Chairman Cronin

Pledge of allegiance is recited.

Minutes

Selectman Menges motions that the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting of June 30, 2015, as prepared by the administrative assistant, stand approved. Selectman Tanis seconds. Unanimously carries.

Warrants

Matthew Tanis motions for the following warrants to be approved and reads them aloud:

- Warrant #53A-15 in the amount of \$68,028.10 dated June 30, 2015.
- Warrant #53B-15 in the amount of \$78,716.97 dated June 30, 2015.
- Warrant #53C-15 in the amount of \$ 1,212.68 dated June 30, 2015.
- Warrant #1A-16 in the amount of \$5,074.00 dated July 3, 2015.
- Warrant #1B-16 in the amount of \$878,468.61 dated July 3, 2015.
- Warrant #54A-15 in the amount of \$35,121.67 dated June 30, 2015.
- Warrant #54B-15 in the amount of \$68,040.65 dated June 30, 2015.
- Warrant #2A-16 in the amount of \$40,944.60 dated July 8, 2015.
- Warrant #2B-16 in the amount of \$21,275.00 dated July 8, 2015.
- Warrant #2C-16 in the amount of \$62,340.88 dated July 8, 2015.
- Warrant #2D-16 in the amount of \$441,864.46 dated July 8, 2015.

Selectman Menges seconds the motion.

Chairman adds that because there are 11 warrants the motion is to approve all at once.

Unanimously carries

Correspondence

Dighton Cultural Council is looking for new members. A few members are present. Fran Linden comes forward to explain what they do and their need for new members.

A letter of thanks to former chairwoman Alison Makuch is read, and then Kristen Kearns (returning member) then comes forward to outline some of the projects that they have funded, which included

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA

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family passes for the Boston Science Museum for residents of Dighton, the music for the Cow Chip festival, and the "Little Folks Theater" in town. They also speak of some upcoming events planned. They give all contact information for anyone wishing to join.

Chairman Cronin asks how many members – Fran says we are supposed to have at minimum six members. Currently we have four committed members.

Fran Linden thanks the board for their time

Announcements are read in their entirety by Selectman Tanis.

Old Business

Request for vacation carryover of an additional 16 hours by the Building Commissioner to FY16. Chairman explains that this was original presented at the last meeting, but additional research was needed in order to approve the request. Selectman Menges motions to approve. Selectman Tanis seconds. Unanimously carries.

New Business

Ed Swartz requests that town counsel be involved with the recent approval of the apartments at Somerset Woods.

Mr. Swartz says that our conservation commissioner had denied the project, and they appealed to DEP. DEP gave a superseding order of conditions the overrides conservation. They are allowed to appeal, but the 10 day limit to do so poses a problem due to summer schedules. I am requesting that the Board of Selectmen, if they would be willing to request that Town Counsel get involved in filing that appeal and keep the ball rolling. I am asking for assistance until conservation has the opportunity to get back in session.

Selectman Menges asks what day the appeal is up. Mr. Swartz says next Wednesday. 10 business days from July 1st. He says all that would be required is for the town to submit an appeal with a check for \$100.00 and that would continue the process. It is his opinion that conservation does intend to fight the DEP's decision. He adds that he would appreciate any help that the town could provide.

Selectman Menges says he doesn't think the Conservation Commissioner should try to defend this unarmed. The Town has an interest in the enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act. I think that we should get town counsel involved and pay the fee to carry the appeal process forward. He motions to do that. Selectman Tanis seconds. Unanimously carries.

Chairman Cronin says next Wednesday is the 15th. Mr. Swartz he will be available if anyone has any questions.

Appointment of Nancy Goulart as the Liaison for the Dighton – Berkley Bridge. This is a continuation. From the onset she has been the liaison, and we would like to have her continue. Selectman Menges says this appointment was overlooked when we did our appointments. There is also a MMA appointment. In the past the MMA appointed her, but we have been informed now that she cannot be reimbursed for travel without our appointment. We will have to learn more about this.

Selectman Menges motions to appoint Nancy Goulart as the Berkley Dighton Bridge Liaison for the Town of Dighton for a one year term ending June 30, 2016. Selectman Tanis seconds. Unanimously carries.

Road Cut Permit for the Dighton Water District for 2090 Chestnut St, Dighton, MA. Chairman Cronin reads the request. Selectman Tanis motions to approve and Selectman Menges seconds the motion. Unanimously carries.

Road Cut Permit for Columbia Gas at 641 School Street, N. Dighton, MA. Chairman Cronin reads the request. Selectman Menges motions to approve. Selectman Tanis seconds. Unanimously carries.

Road Cut Permit for Columbia Gas at 480 Center Street, Dighton, MA. Selectman Menges say he believes it is for a power line. Motion to approve by Selectman Tanis. Seconded by Selectman Menges. Unanimously carries.

Road Cut Permit for Columbia Gas at 1314 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA. The selectmen review the map. Selectman Menges says it is on the West side of Somerset Ave. Selectman Tanis motions to approve. Selectman Menges seconds. Unanimously carries.

End of Year Budget Transfer Request from the Treasurer. Chairman Cronin reads the request in the amount \$3500.00. Treasurer is requesting that \$3500.00 be transferred from Bristol County Retirement Fund to Benefits and Medicare fund. Selectman Menges motions to approve. Selectman Tanis seconds. Unanimously carries.

Address the Questions on the Highway Bid Opening Results. Chairman Cronin explains that there was a question on a couple of the bid results. The bid for 3/8" stone to be picked up will be awarded to G. Lopes at \$12.50/ton. They were the lowest bidder. Selectman Menges motions that the board accepts recommendation of the highway superintendent for awarding of the contract for 3/8" stone picked up to G. Lopes Construction. Selectman Tanis seconds the motion. Unanimously carries.

Chairman Cronin explains the next bid for bituminous concrete (picked up by the highway department) was a tie, and the board wanted to get clarification of the results from the highway superintendent. The superintendent indicated that due to the location of the two companies, Aggregate Industries was closer for pickup. Selectman Tanis motions to accept the recommendation and Selectman Menges seconds. Motion carries.

A vehicle for Veteran's Agent is discussed. It was explained that the number of miles being put on his own vehicle, is putting substantial wear and tear on it. He often makes house visits to shut in's and ferries veterans to doctor's appointment. It was suggested by the town accountant that the town should provide him a vehicle. The town has one high mileage vehicle that could be converted for use by the veteran's agent. It's a sedan, and the department in question would want it replaced by a new vehicle. Also, there is a surplus vehicle available that the town may be able to obtain at a savings to the taxpayers. It is a van and would be more suitable for his needs. We will know by the time of our next meeting and at that time if it can be obtained we should be prepared to indicate whether we want to proceed. Chairman Cronin says that there should be some kind of motion on the table in case this happens. I will accept a tentative motion that if it becomes available and it checks out, that we be in the

position to go pick it up. Selectman Tanis asks if it is stipulated by the owner, that it just be for veteran's use. Selectman Menges says no it is Government surplus.

(Mr. Woods asks if he can ask a question-Chairman asks him to wait until he is acknowledged)

Selectman Tanis asks if it would be available for others in town hall to use as well. Selectman Menges says we used to have a vehicle available for use within town hall, but is unsure why this practice was discontinued. It is within the discretion of the board to do that though.

Mr. Woods is acknowledged, and says that he used to be the Veteran's Agent, and says he does not see the need for the town to acquire another vehicle and expense to the town. And adds that it is probably in disrepair. He says he always managed to find rides on his own for the veterans. The primary purpose of the agent is to administer Chapter 115 funds. Not ferrying people around.

Selectman Menges says that the caseload of the veteran's agent has increased and this was recommended by the town accountant.

Selectman Menges says if the vehicle can be obtained, he thinks that the board should have the standby authority to accept it, with the proviso that it be made available to other town departments when not in use. Chairman Cronin says that condition is acceptable. Selectman Tanis adds that the insurance should be checked to be sure that transporting residents is OK. Selectman Tanis seconds the motion. Selectman Menges adds that we will have the vehicle checked by a mechanic before putting it into service. Motion unanimously carries.

Open Warrant for Special Town Meeting. Selectman Menges motions that the Autumn Town Meeting Warrant be declared open to receive articles. Chairman Cronin asks if it is open for department heads. Selectman Menges says it is open to everyone, by petition or department heads. Selectman Tanis seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Selectman Menges also moves that the board appoint Matthew Tanis, Shawn Urban and Jack Taylor, subject to their acceptance, to a town meeting communication team, and that team be charged with communicating the date, time and place of the town meeting by whatever means possible to the townspeople. And providing a microphone to the town moderator. Chairman Cronin steps down to second. Unanimously carries.

Elaine Barrow has declined a re-appointment to the Capital Outlay Committee. Selectman Menges reads a thank you letter to Ms. Elaine Barrow for her service. Chairman Cronin asks if there is anyone interested in the vacancy. Selectman Menges says we have not received a response. Chairman Cronin says if anyone is interested to please call the selectman's office.

Set date for quarterly meeting with the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen. Selectman Menges moves that the Board notify the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen that this board wishes to schedule our quarterly meeting with them on the first available meeting date that they have available in August on Wednesday. Selectman Tanis seconds. Motion carries.

Dighton Berkley Bridge Construction project regarding Mr. Ursini's property restoration request.

Selectman Menges states that he has met with both the chief of the construction company that is doing the work, as well as MASS DOT's representative, regarding the parking space that Mr. Ursini requested be finished with concrete pavers rather than stone. They have informed us that because he agreed to stone five years ago when the project started, it stands. The DOT and the construction company take the position that the town would have to bear the cost of any changes. At this point I think that we should just advise Mr. Ursini of their decision. He agreed that either asphalt or pea stone be used. I think that we should inform him of what we have found out, and then await his response. They will do the work the way he wants, but someone will have to pay for it. We have a short window of time to deal with this. Chairman Cronin will entertain a motion that we inform him of the decision. Selectman Tanis seconds. Motion carries.

Schedule July 22nd Selectmen's Meeting to be held at Charles E French Community Center. Selectman Menges motions that it be scheduled. Selectman Tanis seconds. Motion carries. Selectman Menges adds that the cable committee may not be able to be there if they have a number of other meetings going on a town hall, but we will contact John Meager to cover it and then it will be broadcast.

Reports

Follow up by the Selectmen regarding the Broad Cove Nature Trail. Chairman Cronin says this has been going on. Selectman Menges says a fence has been placed across lot 82, which no way impeded the owners from using their right of way. It's estimated this fence is about 540 feet shy of the end of our property. We now need to ascertain who put the fence there and ask them to remove it. If we are not able ascertain who put it there, then we will have to instruct the highway department to remove it and store it until they come to claim it. Then, as voted at the department heads meeting, we will place a sign at the end of our property, lot #82 as recommended by town council, saying end of nature trail. Chairman Cronin says that we sent a letter trying to determine.

Robert Woods states that he was on Park and Rec years ago, and the Mello's were present and adamantly claimed that this was their property. The railroad took it away. The railroad then abandoned the land. The almighty board of selectmen took it upon themselves to give an Eagle Scout permission to build this nature trail. Of course the Mello's took them to court and won. This is the kind of thing that you have to watch for Mr. Tanis, being new to this.

Selectman Menges says, the piece that you're talking about is lot #83, we are speaking of lot #82, which is north of lot #83, which the town definitely owns.

Progress on the architects proposed renovations at Lance Corporal John J. Van Gyzen Hall. Selectman Menges says the final interpretation will include better egress for pickup and drop off near the handicap ramp. There are also color changes and a new floor plan that will include a new floor plan. Selectman Menges holds up the drawing for the cable to see, and explains some of the improvements shown. He then shows the present floor plan as it is now. Selectman Tanis asks if it will be made larger and Selectman Menges says yes, and it will also be in color.

Robert Woods asks what will be the future use, and where will money for the improvements come from. Selectman Menges says that the people of Dighton will decide how to use the building, our mission is to

save the building. Mr. Woods says he knows the building well, and that it will cost a substantial amount of money to fix it. He adds if it comes to the point that we will have to spend money will it be a 2/3 vote? Selectman Menges says no, not unless we have to borrow.

Selectman Tanis says at one of the past meetings in June, we made the motion that the architect will have the architect determine what repairs will need to be made, and then all that will be itemized and be presented as a town meeting. And at that time, if approved, the use would also be discussed.

Selectman Menges says the use is a separate issue.

Mr. Woods is asked to leave by Chairman Cronin for being disruptive.

Progress of Clerical Union Wage Job Classification Study. Selectman Menges says we have sent to the clerical union employees the questionnaire along with a letter, asking them to describe their daily duties. We have called the union representative and let him know that we have sent this out. We expect them to reply, through their supervisors, by the 23rd. A comparison will be made to the questionnaire that were sent out last time, to determine the changes in duties if any. Those personnel who are deserving or who have earned an increase in rate can be properly placed.

Chairman Cronin says this is to bring everything up to date.

Report on the Town Accountant's Procurement Section Addition to Draft Town Government Policy Book. Intern, Lucas Fagundes speaks about what has been added to the Policy Manual. He has been working with the Town Accountant, and they have added things such as, The Reserve Policy procedures, Fraud Prevention and Protection Policy procedures and Procurement manual. He says, what we had before was outdated and the numbers were different, so we changed that. We are hoping for more revisions like that and continue to make changes.

Selectman Menges says that the draft policy manual is now in the hands of the department heads for review and revisions. This is all due to the efforts of our intern Lucas Fagundes. It was an exceptional amount of work that was involved. The department heads now have a form that they can make changes on. In three months we will have a final draft to vote on.

Acknowledgments

Gregory Steele just graduated from the Police academy on July 2, 2015. Selectman Menges say he wished him success in his chosen career. Chairman Cronin says we are glad to have him back.

Prime Time has had an anonymous donation of \$112.00. Selectman Tanis motions to accept and acknowledge. Selectman Menges seconds. Motion carries.

Selectman Menges talks a little about the pleasure spots around town that can be enjoyed during the summer months, such as Sweets Knoll. We have community playgrounds in North and South Dighton thanks to the Parks and Recreation committee. Enjoy while is summer.

Chairman Cronin says thank you to everyone.

Selectman Menges motions to adjourn and Selectman Tanis seconds.

Adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted.

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


Dean V. Cronin-Chairman

Matthew W. Tanis-Member


Patrick W. Menges-Clerk