The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

Selectmen's Meeting Room, 979 Somerset Ave, Dighton, MA

RECEIVED
2015 SEP 17 AM 9:15
TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY

Called to order 7:30 pm by Chairman Dean Cronin

Pledge of allegiance is recited.

A moment of silence is observed in memory of 9/11 per request of Tom Medeiros.

Introduction of new firefighters

Chief Antone Roderick says it has been a couple of weeks since they started, but there are two new firefighters that have joined the ranks fulltime.

He introduces Tyler Nicolan and Alex Greene to the Selectmen. Chief Roderick says they have passed their all entry level physicals. Drug testing. Entry level testing, Mass fit testing. He adds that he has sent the application and all the completed paperwork to the academy today, so they may attend the fire academy. Both are paramedics. Right now, Alex is filling the empty slot we have with one of our men being out. Tyler is on Group one, which is actually a three man group right now. That was our ultimate goal to have three men on each shift, to alleviate some of the issues with getting A2 out the door. It has worked rather well. We are working in the right direction. Hopefully down the road we will get a third man to get the rest of the groups up to three men.

Selectman Menges says we would like to hear from the new appointees as to what prompted you to commit to the position of a firefighter. What is it about the job that inspired you?

Tyler begins and says the field takes a special person. You have to be a selfless person. You must be willing to go the extra mile every day. He adds that you either love it or hate it. Selectman Menges asks about the academy. Tyler says he is excited to learn about the fire side. I am excited to learn new things and look forward to new experiences.

Selectman Menges says he has seen Alex already hard at work polishing the ambulance at the station.

Alex says as far as emergency medical services, I started as a paramedic, and it grew into fire services. It usually does branch out to the fire aspect. As far as the academy, although it will be a grueling task, I am excited to start a new chapter in my life.

Selectman Menges asks what they have done to prepare for the academy.

They answer training and say that they have been doing lots and lots of cardio.

Chairman Cronin asks why Dighton.

Tyler says he has always lived on the town line in Dighton. Dighton has a comfortable at home feel. The community seems to support the department.

Alex likes the family atmosphere of Dighton and thinks fire and medic combined is great.

Chairman Cronin asks where their experience came from.

Tyler says he started working for a private EMS company in New Bedford and also at the same time worked in Swansea. I ended up being offered a full time position in Swansea. Until this opportunity came around I was working in Swansea.

Alex says we have been through school together. We both worked in New Bedford together and then in Swansea together. We have had the same journey. We have both been working in Swansea for the past four years now.

Selectman Menges says you did go through a considerable process to be appointed. You had an application process and a selection board to go through.

Chief says we actually posted the positions in house and gave a couple of weeks for applications to be submitted. At that time, myself and the office of Deputy Chief, Captain, Lieutenant and the union president sorted through the applications. We conducted the interviews here at town hall, being a neutral meeting place. We used a rating system that we developed to ask general questions about fire and EMS service to find out what they like or don't like, as far as shift schedules, working overtime and availability. It is a two page general questionnaire to feel them out and we score them and categorize them, just to make sure that everyone is on the same page. Then we convene and we rank them in number order 1 through 4. No favoritism. We have documentation backup. Both are very good individuals, very polite. We have had them out to do some driving training, a little pump operation with the engines, a little driving of the trucks to get the feel of the roads in Dighton. Landmarks and building recognition. Street acknowledgement. A little bit of everything. In the morning the equipment gets checked and the station gets cleaned. They are both very energetic. Mr. Medeiros is on Tyler's group and he has been taking him out under his wing. Alex is on the lieutenant's group and that is working out well also. The next step is to get the academy under their wings. They will graduate with firefighter one and two certificates, and their hazardous material response certificates. The Department is going in the right direction. We hope to add some more in the future to get the groups to where we need them to staff the apparatus.

Selectman Menges says there are a lot of challenges in a fire that didn't exist years ago. As far as EMT s the expectations of the public for rapidity of response and expertise upon arrival and life support. The expectations of the public are very high. You still have to save apiece of your heart or you would not be able to make the sacrifice. He says god bless and good luck at the academy.

Chief would like to remind you that on October 3rd, we will be dedicating the piece of steel at 10:00 am in the morning at station #2. The monument and the piece of steel will be in place. We will have a ceremony and we would like to read the names all of the fallen brothers as well.

Chairman Cronin says congratulations and stay safe.

Minutes
Selectman Menges motions for the approval of the Executive Session minutes of August 27th, regarding union matters. Chairman Cronin steps down to second. Motion carries.

Selectman Menges motions for the approval of the minutes of September 2nd regular meeting. Chairman Cronin steps down to second. Motion carries.

Warrants
Selectman Menges motions the warrants for approval.
#11A-16 in the amount of $73,461.65 dated September 9, 2015.
#11B-16 in the amount of $108,415.96 dated September 9, 2015.
Chairman Cronin steps down to second. Motions carries.

Correspondence
Received from Mass Gaming Commission. Toward those who wish to submit written comments regarding a tribal casino in Region C. Chairman Cronin reads the correspondence in its entirety. The deadline to submit comments has been extended to Friday September 18th.

Correspondence from Governor Baker's office proclaiming this month "Emergency Preparedness Month," is read by Chairman Cronin. September is Emergency Preparedness Month for families, and the Governor encourages them to take additional emergency preparedness steps at home, work and at school. He adds that you can receive alerts from MEMA on your smart phone. Sign up at mass.gov/MEMA/mobile app. He shows the proclamation proclaiming Emergency Preparedness month.

Announcements
Chairman Cronin reads the announcements in their entirety.

New Business
Approve recommendation of the highway superintendent for the purchase of jersey barriers for the town. Chairman Cronin reads the bid results. G. Lopes Construction – did not have any. K. Resendes-did not have any. Pavao $150.00/each. JJ Hooks. $250.00/each and Shea Concrete $260.00/each. He says there is a discrepancy. We will need clarification on this. His intention was to award this to Pavao at $115.00/each. The bid sheet says $150.00 and the recommendation letter says $115.00/each.

Selectman Menges says we can safely say that the superintendent probably made a mistake, but even at $150.00, Pavao was still the lowest bidder.

Chairman Cronin says he will entertain a motion to accept the low bidder's price from Pavao Construction. Selectman Menges says he will make a motion to accept the recommendation of the superintendent for the low bidder and we will call him in the morning to verify what the number is. Chairman Cronin steps down to second the motion. Motion carries.

Renewal letter for the agreement between Town of Berkley and Town of Dighton for the shared Veteran's Agent Services. Chairman Cronin explains the agreement and says that it will be mailed to Town of Berkley tomorrow morning. Selectman Menges makes a motion to send invoice to the Town of Berkley as outlined in the letter. Chairman Cronin steps down to second. Motion carries.
Reports

Selectman Menges starts with the posting of the impending removal of the fence across lot #82 at the broad cove nature trail on September 30, 2015.

Also, working out details of the purchase and sales agreement of land contiguous with the elementary school, contingent upon the approval of the finance committee and the town meeting.

He adds that we are in the process of obtaining a contractor to proceed with a solar installation being done at the site of the former landfill.

He ends by saying that we are proceeding at pace and the mandates of the board voted at our last two meetings are being executed slowly but surely.

Acknowledgements
Selectman Menges says we need to thank the inspectors, the school administration, and especially the custodial personnel at the elementary school whose hard work ensured that the school was able to open as scheduled. It was very important to this board that the schools opened on time and without construction going on. The roofing project carried on throughout the summer. They were able to make that happen. Mr. Braga says we will have new boilers at the high school on the first of October. Thank God. We want to acknowledge everyone involved.

Public input
Nancy Goulart would like to say that today was the first meeting of the MMA Policy Committee for Energy and Environment. The entire meeting was about whether or not the State should have privacy for issuing NPDES permits. Right now the Federal Government (EPA) controls storm water, waste water and drinking water. There are only three states in the country where the Federal Government has privacy. Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New Mexico.
The estimated price tag for the state to take privacy for this is between 10 and 14 million dollars. The state does not intend to pay of any of it. We discussed it at length and I never heard the benefits of the state taking it over.

So what we decided to do as a committee was to send a letter to the State office of local mandates to get more information. So, personally having dealt with storm water, I don't see a lot of benefit to this. But this will be coming down the pike. We will have storm water forever and we need to set up a line item in the budget to deal with storm water.

Nancy gives the board an article which talks about how the towns and cities coming up with the money to take care of this. There are a number of endangered rivers in the state and fortunately we do not have any here. There will be more coming down the pike on this. Chairman Cronin thanks Nancy.

Melissa St. Laurent says there was a gentlemen in a couple of months ago regarding a community garden and she is wondering if that went anywhere. Chairman Cronin says it is a good idea, but he has not heard anything further on that.

Chairman Cronin says he is all set.

Selectman Menges says he has one odd remark that he would like to interject before the end of the proceedings.

This moment belongs really to our veterans who fought in the two world wars I and II, when we were closely aligned with England. Seventy plus years ago during the Second World War there was also in England a young girl who celebrated a remarkable anniversary today. Queen Elizabeth the second. As of today, she is the longest reigning monarch in England and begins her 65th year as reigning queen of England. So on this night, the day that she surpassed Queen Victoria as the longest reigning queen. As independent Americans since 1776, we have to say "God save the Queen."

Chairman Cronin asks for a motion to adjourn.
Selectman Menges motions to adjourn. Chairman Cronin steps down to second. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 Pm

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen

Dean V. Cronin | Patrick W. Menges

Dean V. Cronin-Chairman **Patrick W. Menges-Clerk**