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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order by Dean Cronin, Chairman, at 7:33pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Mr. Cronin welcomed the newest board member, Nancy Goulart.

Minutes

It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Dean Cronin, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the executive session minutes of September 16, 2015, regarding personnel matters.

It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Dean Cronin, and VOTED to approve the minutes of September 23, 2015.

Mrs. Goulart abstained from voting on the two previous motions because she was not a member of the board until September 26, 2015.

Warrants

It was moved by Nancy Goulart, seconded by Patrick Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve warrant #14A-16 in the amount of \$78,647.16 dated September 30, 2015.

It was moved by Nancy Goulart, seconded by Patrick Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve warrant #14B-16 in the amount of \$43,172.70 dated September 30, 2015.

Correspondence

Mr. Menges read a letter from Karlheinz Joeckel who lives in Germany. Mr. Joeckel requested memorabilia from the town such as envelopes and patches from the police and fire depts. Following Mr. Menges' reading of the English translation of Mr. Joeckel's letter, Mr. Cronin read the letter in German. Mr. Cronin studied German for several years. In response to Mr. Joeckel's request, it was moved by Nancy Goulart, seconded by Patrick Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to send a copy of the town's 300th ANNIVERSARY BOOK, along with a CD of tonight's meeting, business cards, and other memorabilia to Mr. Joeckel. Each selectman will sign the book where their respective photos are displayed.

Mr. Cronin read correspondence from Bases Covered that raised \$8,000.00 in one afternoon to help families struggling with major medical expenses. He commented that Dighton may be a small town, but it has a big heart.

Announcements

Mr. Menges read the first half of the announcements and Mrs. Goulart read the remainder. Mrs. Goulart asked Chief MacDonald about the Drug Take Back Day held on Sept.26. Chief MacDonald and Sgt. Dutra commented that approximately 35 people dropped off prescription medications for proper disposal. This

event was held in conjunction with the Fall River and Taunton Police Depts. Chief MacDonald added that there is a prescription drop box available at the police dept. 24 hours per day. Sgt. Dutra said the box had already been filled once.

Old Business - None

New Business - Waiver of Worker's Compensation Insurance

Mr. Cronin read a request from Kevin Raposa for a waiver of the town's worker's compensation insurance requirement. Mr. Raposa is a sole operator/owner who wishes to plow snow for the town during the 2015-2016 winter season. It was moved by Nancy Goulart, seconded by Patrick Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the request from Kevin Raposa for a waiver of worker's compensation insurance as outlined above.

Appointment of Two Full Time and Three Reserve Police Officers

Mr. Cronin asked Chief MacDonald to present his recommendations. Chief MacDonald reported that over the past months, he has met with the three sergeants to discuss the future direction of the department. They all felt that it is very important to "beef up" the staff. Voters approved the article for a full time School Resource Officer (SRO) at the high school when school is in session. Having an SRO at the high school created the need for new officers within the police department. Chief MacDonald read a letter to the board containing his and the sergeants' recommendations that Michelle Bishop and Michael MacDonald be appointed full time officers. Additionally, they recommended Timothy O'Leary, Bryan Chaves and Thomas Wycislak as reserve officers.

Chief MacDonald stated that each officer will be required to undergo the medical, physical and psychological testing as a condition of employment required by the state. In response to questions from Mrs. Goulart, the chief replied that the reserve officers' positions were posted on line and there were twelve applicants of which four or five were qualified because they had already attended the police academy. Regarding the full time positions, he stated that they went through the reserve list, selected those most qualified, and then discussed those candidates with the sergeants.

It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Nancy Goulart, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to appoint Timothy O'Leary, Bryan Chaves and Thomas Wycislak reserve officers as recommended. Mr. Cronin asked how much training was involved. Sergeant Dutra replied that reserves are trained approximately two to three months before they are even considered for road duty.

Regarding the full time positions, it was moved by Nancy Goulart, seconded by Patrick Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to appoint Michelle Bishop and Michael MacDonald as recommended. Ms. Bishop is the first full time female police officer in town. Mrs. Goulart asked the new full time officers how long they served as reserves and what shifts they will cover. Each responded that their service was approximately one and one-half years. Chief MacDonald replied that they will cover any assigned shift. The board expressed congratulations and best wishes to the new appointees. Mr. Menges stated that this is the most important appointment that the Board makes. Truly, the first responders are the most critical. He added that we take these appointments extremely seriously. He asked the officers what inspired them to take on the role. Each officer stood to address the Board, gave a brief statement about themselves, and what

led them to become police officers. Mrs. Sue Medeiros, Town Clerk, was introduced and she administered the oath of office to the new officers.

Chief Mac Donald advised the board that the SRO position has been posted and so far, one application has been received. Mr. Menges advised the appointees that their commissions will go to the town clerk for completion of the paperwork. Chief MacDonald thanked the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Health Study Committee

It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Nancy Goulart, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY that with the assistance of Ron O'Connor, Department of Public Health Representative, the board recruit a committee with suitable qualifications to study the future needs and structure of the Dighton Board of Health. Mr. Cronin announced that the board would accept applications from interested people. Mrs. Goulart stated that when this was discussed at a meeting earlier this week, it was obvious that the Board of Health has to deal with the day-to-day operations, complaints and other matters. There has been a lot of discussion about the Board of Health and whether it should be separated from the Board of Selectmen. This study committee can look at the various issues and report back with solid recommendations on how the town should proceed. This way, the Board can devote its time dealing with current issues and the committee can study a long term solution regarding the Board's structure.

Town Meeting Communications Committee

It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Nancy Goulart, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to expand the mandate of the Town Meeting Communications Committee to include, not only the town meeting communications, but also communicating to the townspeople regarding all meaningful public affairs, and the committee, therefore, be restyled as the Public Affairs Communications Committee.

Dighton Historical Commission

Mr. Cronin read a letter from the Commission regarding a change in the classification of two of its members. The letter stated that the Commission would like to keep Mrs. Horton as an alternate member due to her inability to attend meetings on a regular basis and it would like to change the classification of Mrs. Bedard from an alternate to a full member of the committee. Mrs. Goulart asked if Mrs. Horton has been contacted. Mr. Menges replied that he thinks she is aware of it. He thinks her absence is due to the fact that she lives in Rhode Island and has trouble attending meetings regularly, but when she can, she assists the commission. It was moved by Nancy Goulart, seconded by Patrick Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to change the classifications of the members as requested by the Commission.

Reports

Selectman Menges reported that the board recently had a very constructive meeting to review twenty-one initiatives as well as some executive session matters. As was the slogan of Mrs. Goulart's campaign, "Moving forward together."

Acknowledgements

It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Nancy Goulart, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$30 for the Council on Aging.

Public Input

Robert "Woody" Woods offered his congratulations to Mrs. Goulart on her election. He asked who appoints members to the Zoning Board of Appeals because he thinks that there is a vacancy that has not been advertised. He said he heard that the ZBA said that it would not like to have another person because it is comfortable with the people that they have. He added that the townspeople are not very happy with ZBA right now and they are part of the reason that there are so many building permits out there. He would appreciate the Board of Selectmen looking into it. It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Nancy Goulart, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to post the ZBA vacancy on the town's website.

Mr. Cronin stated that our board should get back to announcing the openings on any committees. He went on to say that there does not need to be vacancies in order for citizens to fill out an application for appointment should a vacancy occur. Mr. Menges said as far as he knows, the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals was one of only two that were outstanding after appointments were made. He said that it was overlooked but will be addressed. Mr. Woods asked if the Finance Committee will fill its vacancy now. Mrs. Goulart responded that applications are open until October 30 following which time the Finance Committee will appoint a new member. A letter of interest of an application can be sent in or placed in the Finance Committee's mailbox at town hall.

Brett Zografos congratulated Mrs. Goulart on her election and said she did a great job. Mr. Menges stated that is a sign of class.

Adjournment

It was moved by Patrick Menges, seconded by Nancy Goulart, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the meeting 8:32pm

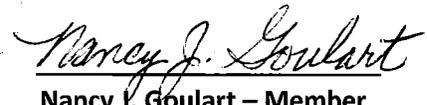
Respectfully submitted,
Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen



Dean V. Cronin-Chairman



Patrick W. Menges-Clerk



Nancy J. Goulart – Member