

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Regular Meeting

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

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY _____

2015 OCT 29 AM 11:09

RECEIVED

The regular meeting for October 7, 2015, called to order at 7:33pm by Chairman Cronin

Present were Chairman Dean Cronin, Selectman Menges, Selectman Goulart, members of the K-8 Regionalization cost/benefit study committee, members of the Van Gyzen Hall Study Committee and administrative assistant Karin Brady.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Chairman Cronin mentioned that members of the K-8 Regionalization cost/benefit study committee are present. Mr. George Solas came forward to speak on behalf of the group.

He gave the board a mission statement and went over it with them.

Chairman Cronin asked if any other members would like to say anything.

Alicen Adams asked if the board could think of anything that they haven't covered and Scott Dingsu wanted to make sure that we do not duplicate efforts.

There was discussion between the board and the committee about a regional agreement for K-8; administration that would be needed, the process used to separate grades K-8 from the region; and how to proceed.

The three scenarios presented by the committee were, separation, combine and build a new school for all middle school students or stay the same.

There was further discussion between the board and committee about each of the options.

Warrants

It was moved by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and VOTED that all warrants be approved.

- a. Warrant #15A-16 in the amount of \$74,347.29 dated October 7, 2015.
- b. Warrant #15B-16 in the amount of \$98,998.99 dated October 7, 2015
- c. Warrant #15C-16 in the amount of \$775,000.00 dated October 7, 2015.
- d. Warrant #15D-16 in the amount of \$12.00 dated October 7, 2015.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Correspondence from the Van Gyzen Hall Study Committee requested that the board expand the scope of the study committee to include an evaluation of the space at town hall. They asked if funds are available to hire an architect or space planner to evaluate town hall and space.

Selectman Goulart suggested that the committee take a look, on their own, at the space in town hall and interview the different departments to find out what their needs are.

Selectman Menges said he thinks that the purpose of the committee is to determine if Van Gyzen is suitable at all for an annex.

The committee reiterated their need for money to perform certain tasks and the board also suggested that the committee go to the town accountant for interpretation of the article on the warrant as related to expenses and what would be covered. In the meantime, the committee should draw up a floor plan or layout and see if there are people that could be relocated without interrupting the flow of business so if money becomes available, they will already have done some groundwork for the architect or planner.

Correspondence from the Mass DOT regarding new RMV campaign "skip the line" go online.

Chairman Cronin read the correspondence about this new campaign to do as much as possible online without going to the RMV branch. The letter also stated that the Somerset AAA office provides renewal services.

Announcements

Announcements were read by Messrs. Cronin and Menges and concluded by Mrs. Goulart

Old Business

Set number of members of the Board of Health Study Committee

A five or seven member committee was suggested with an appointment date the first week of November.

It was moved by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY that the Board of Health Study Committee be set at five members with a closing date of October 21, 2015 at 2:00 pm. Selectman Menges added that Ron O'Connor may be eligible to serve. He will check with the ethics commission to see if there is a conflict.

Set application deadline date for the ZBA vacancy

Selectman Menges mentioned that Vicki Piazza, who was involved with zoning and is highly trained in zoning matters and Connor Fagundes, who is concerned with conservation matters, as two residents that have already submitted applications.

Chairman Cronin suggested the same closing date and time as that for the Board of Health Study Committee.

It was moved by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY that the closing date for applications for the Zoning Board vacancy be set for October 21 at 2:00 pm.

Chairman Cronin added, as friendly amendment to the vote, that the appointment dates will also be the same.

New Business

Road Opening Permits

It was moved by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve an application for road opening permit for Dighton Water District for a new water service at 857 Main Street.

It was moved by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Goulart and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve an application from the Dighton Water District for termination of water service at 1889 Elm Street

It was moved by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve an application from the Dighton Water District for new water service at 1365 Julian's Way.

Removal of Fire Pit at Van Gyzen Hall.

It was moved by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Goulart and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to remove the fire pit at Van Gyzen Hall. He explained that it is in a condition of an attractive nuisance and the superintendent of streets is prepared to do the removal.

Transfer of Sedan to Veteran's Agent

It was moved by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to transfer the town Taurus sedan to the Veteran's Agent. Chairman Cronin explained that the veteran's agent will use it to transport veterans to appointments and such. The veteran's agent said he would like to have this vehicle. Selectman Menges added that we will have the building commissioner apply for a gas card for the veteran's agent.

Reports

Policy Manual

Selectman Menges said intern, Lucas Fagundes, will pick up the policy manual changes and will produce a final draft which will be circulated to department heads for finishing touches.

Police

We have signed a waiver for the new police appointees for the academy

Broad Cove Nature Trail

Selectman Menges will look into getting in touch with Jonathan Gray. Eventually, if the nature trail has to be relocated, we will need the assistance of a number of players. Right now he will continue talking with Mr. Mello about alternative options for the future.

Clerical Union Wage Study

Selectman Menges said tomorrow they will meet at 10:00 am to finalize the board's part of the clerical union wage study. The union agent cannot attend. Mr. Menges informed Mr. McArdle that the board will not make any decisions without him present.

Animal Shelter

The highway superintendent has been informed that we have a private party who is willing to do the improvements.

Solar Project

We have a proposal for a municipal solar project. We were informed by the planning board this morning that the selectmen's office will need to get in touch with the company to proceed with negotiations.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee title has been expanded to the Public Affairs Communication Committee and Shawn Urban has requested that one of the selectmen attend the next meeting to formally read the vote into the minutes.

Master Plan Checklist

Heidi Swist was present at the department heads' meeting and asked that everyone be aware of their goals to make the Master Plan a reality.

Meeting with the Superintendent of Schools

Reminder third Wednesday of each month meeting with Dr. Azar.

Quarterly Meeting with Rehoboth Board of Health

A quarterly meeting with the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen will be held in Dighton on November 4.

Telephone and Security Systems

Telephone and security systems are in the process of being installed.

Purchase of Land

Selectman Menges said we have a signed purchase and sales agreement for the property adjacent to the middle school. The execution of this agreement requires a 21E investigation and when the results come in, we will be able to proceed.

In the meantime we have been informed that the house has asbestos. The building commissioner may provide the seller with the name of a demolition contractor. Although the house is in disrepair, there is a kitchen stove in the house that will be used by the highway department.

Police Station

Selectman Goulart asked for update on the police station and Chairman Cronin said it is just a matter of a technicality regarding an easement that shouldn't be a problem.

Regional School Committee Meeting

Chairman Cronin mentioned the meeting of the Regional Agreement Committee. He stated that they are now hashing out what is each town's basis for agreeing or not agreeing to including an alternative method of assessment for operating costs. The next meeting in Oct 29. As always there is an opportunity for all to attend and have input at the end. The draft of the agreement is 90- 95% complete.

MMA Legislative Breakfast

Selectman Goulart mentioned that she and Selectman Menges attended the MMA legislative breakfast last Friday. She mentioned that there was discussion of local aid, state revenue projections, a \$36 million surplus from the lottery/gaming operations, OPEB legislation and the opioid problem.

Acknowledgements

It was moved by Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Goulart and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to acknowledge and accept an anonymous donation of \$120.00 to Prime Time. Chairman Cronin thanked all the people that continue to make these generous donations.

Closing Comments

Selectman Menges and Goulart mentioned the 911 dedication on October 3. It was a very well-attended, very solemn and well done. Thanks were extended to Tom Medeiros, Chief Tony Roderick and all of the police and firefighters who attended.

It was moved by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn at 9:26pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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



Dean V. Cronin-Chairman



Patrick W. Menges-Clerk



Nancy J. Goulart – Member