

**The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

**Department Heads Meeting**

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

Called to order by Chairman Cronin at 10: 00 am

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Present were Chairman Cronin, Selectman Goulart, Selectman Menges, Jim Aguiar, Jocelyn Tavares, Tom ferry, Chief MacDonald, Jennifer Luiz, Sue Medeiros, Mary Hathaway, Ed Olney, Jim Ready, Stacy Ferry, Alice Souza (Fire and Harbormaster not represented). Melissa St Laurent was present in the audience.**

**Alice Souza**

Alice asked about the roof at Prime Time and the status of the repair. Jim Aguiar stated that the roofing contractor had not responded to requests for repair and asked the board if he could seek alternative routes.

**Jim Aguiar**

Jim Aguiar stated that his office is busy. Contractors have indicated that they will continue to work as long as weather holds out. The School Department has reached out for building permit/occupancy counts. They are gearing up for expansion within the next five years. The building commissioner stated that he will meet with David Nappi with regard to class sizes and occupancy.

Jim Aguiar said last year there were 42 houses. This year there are 52 right now and the town may exceed 60. The concern is real. He added that he was told by the ZBA that there are more 40Bs slated.

(There is general discussion about permits and 40Bs).

Selectman Goulart asked about elderly housing. Jim said there was a proposal for one way back. Jim added that the town may want to seek developers that could be considered as part of our requirement for low income housing. Jim said that another thing to consider is the burden on our police and fire departments.

Selectman Goulart asked about the status of the proposed development near Country Hill Drive and Jim said the Department of Environmental Protection is involved.

**Don Hirschy (not present)**

Statement from Veteran's agent was read by Selectman Menges and it stated that the certification for the Valor Act has been completed. The Veteran's Day unveiling will feature the 48 star flag that was donated to the town and Mr. Hirschy hoped to have Stella Haskins (widow of Byron Haskins) present for the dedication.

Selectman Goulart motioned to accept the written statement from Don Hirschy, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to accept the written statement.

### **Jocelyn Tavares**

Jocelyn mentioned the library's chimney repair. Jim Aguiar said the bids received were all over the place and he has rewritten the specs for the project to include period brick.

Jocelyn said they have a program on the History of the Beatles this Saturday at 1:00 pm at the middle school and this Beatles scholar has received rave reviews. Jocelyn also mentioned that there will be a demonstration on E-books in a couple of weeks, a Thanksgiving drop-in craft program on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and an upcoming Black Friday craft event. Jocelyn told everyone that Representative Kennedy's visit to the library this past weekend was exciting and very well attended.

### **Tom Ferry**

Tom said he is busy with transitioning to snow equipment. The car for Veteran's Agent is in need of repairs and it will have to wait a couple of months due to the transitioning of the equipment. Mr. Ferry said Forest Street was paved yesterday. Cedar Street is tentatively scheduled for next week. He added that the last weather event messed up all paving schedules. Tom Ferry added that the Van Gyzen Hall had some windows broken last weekend. Also, the heat is still on and the camera that is there needs new batteries. Mr. Ferry stated that while his crew was there they removed a pile of debris. Tom added that the neighborhood is using as a dumping ground for yard waste.

Next on the list, Tom asked the board to write a letter to Verizon asking them to be faster on replacing double poles. If Verizon needs to ask permission, maybe the board of selectmen could deny the permission because the poles are causing serious hazards to the pedestrians. Selectman Goulart volunteered to draft a letter and copy to TMLP. Selectman Menges will make a call.

Selectman Goulart suggested that the board bring someone in to discuss at a future meeting.

Mr. Ferry then asked the board if the agreement with the union is that the part time help is on hold for now.

Tom said he had asked for two part time employees.

Chairman Cronin asked how many full time employees he has now. Tom said six, five available, really four right now because one has to stay in the garage. Tom added that Jeff saves a lot of money by doing the repairs for the town.

Tom said as soon as we get the parts for the lawn mower from Germany, we will continue to mow the sides of the road (just in case there are complaints).

Mr. Ferry mentioned that the Lions Club has purchased some handicapped swings and some of the normal type swings have been eliminated. The highway department has also paved the area to allow for wheelchair access. The department has since received complaints because people do not understand the reason for it. Please let everyone know that we are waiting for the units to come in and there will be rubber mats eventually.

Tom Ferry then addressed the building commissioner. He stated that the shutters from the Segregansett School are currently in the boiler room to allow them to dry and can be moved on Friday. Jim Aguiar asked if the board can reach out to D-R high to see if the carpentry division can come and install the shutters. Selectman Menges said he thinks that Mr. Pires and Mr. Pacheco may be in the school in the next few days to begin coating the lead paint.

Tom Ferry asked about Broad Cove Nature Trail.

Selectman Menges said we will have a meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Parks and Recreation and the Conservation Commission together. It appears that on the land that conservation has acquired, the trail will go up along Silvia's orchard wall up to the Broad Cove Nature Trail and out to Route 138. The main trail will be Route 138 to Hart Street. There will need to be considerable work done to make a parking place and the outdoor classroom will need to be discussed. Tom mentioned he would like to be invited to that meeting and the trail will need to be widened. Selectman Menges added that Antone Roderick Sr., has offered to give the town 2 trailer loads of fill to accomplish that.

Jim Aguiar mentioned that 1889 Elm Street is in deplorable conditions and he has scheduled a meeting at town hall tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to be briefed and will then proceed to the address to decide the fate of the structure. The town has employed the services of Trauma 24 to provide protective gear for use during the inspection and showers after exiting the building.

(There was discussion about the Berkley Dighton bridge, town markers and the steep drop off on the west side of the town's lane near the bridge).

#### **Chief MacDonald**

Chief MacDonald stated that the School Resource Officer started this week. Last week the Police Department had a call that an internet threat was made, and the department worked on that over the weekend. On Monday morning there were dogs, SWAT teams from Taunton, and members of Dighton Police Department. The Chief stated that for the upcoming week the School Resource Officer will be at the school with another officer for further backup and the police will be showing their faces at the middle and elementary school as well. He thought that the department handled it the best it could. Kids and parents have been interviewed. The threats were steep. The school committee was 100% behind the police department.

#### **Jen Luiz**

Jen Luiz said the auditors were here and the audit is still in progress. She has other projects that she is working on. She stated she is waiting on 17 budgets and five year forecasts.

#### **Sue Medeiros**

Sue stated there are 19 questions on the ballot this year for the March election. Town election is in April and as of January 2nd we will have to be ready for that. Dog licenses will be available and census forms will be sent that week also. Sue added that her office will be mailing out ballot booklets with the questions to the public.

#### **Mary Hathaway**

Mary said her office is very busy because it is tax time. She is working with the insurance company and payroll companies due to increased reporting requirements.

**Ed Olney**

Ed gave some background of the Cable Committee, its members and their responsibilities. He stated he does not appreciate the badmouthing against the cable committee and said they are trying their best. The committee is not being uncooperative. There are two people and they are working very hard. The committee does not have a budget and does not ask for money. That is all.

**Jim Ready**

Jim Ready said there will be an article on the town warrant for us. He thought cable should be a district, like the water district.

**Melissa St Laurent**

Melissa mentioned that she had sent numerous emails to cable to request records.

Selectman Menges said if someone comes to cable and asks for a records request oral, written or otherwise, they have ten days to respond.

Jim asked who will initiate the response.

Sue said the law is in the legislature right now. There can be more than one custodian of a record.

There was discussion of the Public Records Law, procedure and responsibilities.

Selectman Goulart said that the Board will come up with a uniform form so that everyone will be on the same page. Once the form is created the department heads will get a copy of it.

Selectman Goulart added that the finance committee provides the Town Clerk and the Town Accountant with copies of the records. If a records request comes in, she would just refer them to the town clerk because she can take the money and provide the information.

Selectman Goulart commended the Lions Club on the Arts Festival.

**Stacy Ferry**

Stacy said she was busy with stable and barn inspections. Stacey stated she is currently in the process of trying to determine the owner of some animals and she also has a cruelty situation which she will discuss with the board. Selectman Menges asked Stacey to be available tomorrow for an interview with a weekend animal control officer and could possibly deal with the cruelty issue also.

**Harbormaster (not present)**

The Harbormaster's report is read by Selectman Goulart. In the report he stated that he planned to remove the wake buoys that week.

Selectman Menges reminded everyone that there were only two meetings this month for Board of Selectmen and budget and annual reports are due January 1. Selectman Menges added the Veteran's Day unveiling of the 48 star flag and the Thanksgiving game.

Selectman Goulart mentioned Ted Reinstein's presentation sponsored by the library and what a great job he did.

**Public Input**

Melissa St Laurent asked if the high school can look at the Veteran's agent's car and Selectman Menges said he believed that it would not shorten the wait.

Melissa also mentioned that the buses at DMS are overcrowded and Chairman Cronin said that should be addressed to the school committee.

**Motion to adjourn**

Selectman Goulart motioned to adjourn, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn at 12:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

  
Dean V. Cronin-Chairman

  
Patrick W. Menges-Clerk

  
Nancy J. Goulart - Member