

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Regular Meeting

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

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY _____

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Meeting called to order by Chairman Cronin at 7:35 pm

There was a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris attacks and their victims.

Selectman Menges introduced each member of the Dighton Rehoboth Varsity Falcon Football Team (all seniors). Each member stated his position on the team and plans for college.

Minutes

Minutes from the Executive Session of October 22, 2015, Personnel Matter, and the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 22, 2015, School Resource Officer, were motioned by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and **VOTED** unanimously for approval as prepared.

Warrants

Warrant #20A-16 in the amount of \$80,777.78 dated 11/11/15, Warrant #20B-16 in the amount of \$138,538.81 dated 11/11/15, Warrant #20C-16 in the amount of \$2,176,285.00 dated 11/11/15, Warrant #21A-16 in the amount of \$75,788.33 dated 11/18/15, Warrant #21B-16 in the amount of \$97,337.04 dated 11/18/15 and Warrant #21C-16 in the amount of \$738.20 dated 11/18/15 were all motioned by Selectman Goulart, seconded by Selectman Menges and **VOTED** unanimously for approval as prepared.

Selectman Goulart added for clarification, that the \$2 million warrant is the Dighton Rehoboth School Regional assessment.

Correspondence

Correspondence from Comcast stating their intent to continue to provide high speed internet to the schools at no charge was read by Selectman Cronin.

Announcements

Announcements were read by Chairman Cronin

Selectman Menges added two new announcements. He stated that next Thursday November 26 is the Thanksgiving Day football game at 10:00 am, and he also added that the "Blues for Schools" fundraiser will be held on November 28, 2015,

Old Business

Appoint Robert Rendon to the DR Regional Financial Advisory Committee.

Selectman Menges motioned to appoint, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to appoint Mr. Rendon to the Dighton Rehoboth Regional Financial Advisory Committee.

Approval of new RFP for Solar Project Proposals for Former Sanitary Landfill.

Selectman Goulart asked about the changes that were made.

Selectman Menges motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously that the revised RFP be approved.

Resignation of Robert Peixoto and Gary Scott Dingus from the Development and Industrial Commission.

Selectman Menges stated that Robert Peixoto had recently resigned from the Dighton Industrial Development Financing Authority and the board asked if it was his intention to also resign from the Development and Industrial Commission. Gary Scott Dingus was recently appointed by the Finance Committee to the seat left vacant by Nancy Goulart.

Selectman Menges motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve the resignation of Robert Peixoto from the Development and Industrial Commission.

The resignation of Gary Scott Dingus was tabled until his written resignation is received.

Transfer of temporary meter at the Berkley Dighton Bridge to the Town of Dighton.

Selectman Menges motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to transfer the electricity meter to the Town of Dighton. Selectman Goulart stated that Dighton will receive the bill for the lights on the bridge. Berkley will reimburse Dighton for the six lights in its town.

Waiver of Workman's Compensation for Roger Sisson.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to grant waiver for Workman's Compensation to Roger Sisson.

Road opening permit for Columbia Gas for a new gas service at 1513 Pine Street Dighton MA.

Selectman Goulart motioned to approve road opening permit for Columbia Gas, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to grant the permit.

Request report from Van Gyzen Hall Study Committee

Selectman Menges motioned, Nancy Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to request a report from Van Gyzen Study Committee by December 30, 2015.

Meet with Mr. Frenette, Conservation Commissioner

Selectman Menges said the plan is to relocate the Broad Cove Nature trail to the land recently purchased by the Conservation Commission. Selectman Menges added that some improvement will need to be made for vehicles to park and we will need to hear from Superintendent Ferry about that improvement.

Mr. Frenette stated it is certainly viable and should be pursued. Mr. Frenette also said he wasn't aware of the parking plans, but thought that was an excellent idea. He stated that the first thing that should be

done is to extend the trail to the existing railroad tracks before the construction on County Street begins.

Selectman Goulart asked if there is any way to skirt the Mello property and still end up down at the point. Mr. Frenette said not without crossing the marsh.

(There was general discussion of the possibility of building a boardwalk through the marsh).

Selectman Menges asked Parks and Recreation representative Tim Rhines, if Parks and Recreation would approve of this kind of thing. Mr. Rhines said he would talk with the other members on his board, Superintendent Ferry, and then the Selectman and Conservation Commission would need to get together to discuss this.

Mr. Frenette said he would like to know where the south boundary is on Mr. Mello's property and would like to know where the north boundary is as well. Selectman Menges said he will find out and asked Mr. Frenette if we could get a copy of Mr. DeLano's map.

A meeting date of December 9, as part of the Selectmen's meeting, was discussed. Mr. Frenette and Mr. Rhines said they will be available.

Review Building Permit Fees for ISM Solar

Michael Lucini came forward to speak for ISM Solar regarding solar project on Elm Street. Mr. Lucini said the issue is that when his engineering firm (ProTech) came in to pull the permit, the fee was over four times the usual fee of some other towns. Mr. Lucini said \$30,000.00 is typical for a project of this size, but the fee in Dighton will be over \$120,000.00. He also said that this is not the only large scale project being constructed in town and he would appreciate anything that could be done to bring this fee more in line with what other communities were charging.

Chairman Cronin asked how other towns are arriving at their fees. Mr. Lucini said most charge per megawatt.

Selectman Menges said the initial fee for the project needs to offset the fees that would have been collected for other projects that may have been constructed on that land.

Mr. Lucini said that they are only working on about 15 acres of the total parcel, and asked if that was considered.

Selectman Goulart said that the fee formula fees of \$.45/sq. ft. of solar panel was approved March 6, 2013.

(There was general discussion about how the ISM fees are arrived at and what other towns were charging).

A summary of other towns and the fees that they charged for projects of the same size was given to the board by Mr. Lucini.

Selectman Cronin said he felt that this was not an apples to apples comparison. These figures were based on megawatts and our fee is based on square footage of solar panels.

Mr. Lucini suggested setting a rate for large scale projects, not just for ISM, but for all upcoming projects.

Selectman Menges said he would like ISM to submit a proposal for the large scale solar project fees in writing and the board will review and give a decision.

(There was a discussion of PILOT agreements and the benefits to the town).

Selectman Goulart said the information presented is not helpful to her. She said the board needs to know what the fees in the study are based on. Is it square footage or is it megawatts? Selectman Goulart wanted to know how each of the fees listed were established. Selectman Goulart said without knowing how the permit fees were established in these communities, she didn't have enough information to determine if Mr. Lucini had a viable request.

Selectman Menges motioned, selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously that Mr. Lucini submit the requested fee for large scale solar projects in writing, to be considered by the board with what was presented tonight, and the board will give a decision to ISM solar on whether the fee will be changed.

Reports

Report on electricity aggregation.

Chairman Cronin said he attended the bid opening for the electricity aggregation program last Thursday. The contract has been signed. Everyone who uses this service will be locked into a rate of \$.0949/kilowatt hour for the next 24 months. Chairman Cronin added that if you are a National Grid customer, you will automatically be included in this program beginning with your meter reading in January 2016. The name of the company is Con Edison and this program is for anyone who does not have solar panels and who is not currently committed to another program. Chairman Cronin said customers can opt out anytime by telephone with no penalties and no charge. He added that if you choose to opt out, you will automatically go back to the default rate for National Grid of 12 cents. He also mentioned that if anyone had questions to feel free to call the selectmen's office.

Selectman Menges added a "thank you" to Chairman Cronin for attending the meetings and staying on top of this to the end.

Acknowledgements.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectmen Menges seconded and it was unanimously **VOTED** to acknowledge two anonymous donations for Prime Time, one in the amount of \$36.00 and the second in the amount of \$30.00.

Chairman Cronin mentioned the celebration of the Dighton Lion's 60th anniversary celebration tomorrow night at Magoni's restaurant.

The Building Commissioner came in to speak about the permit fees for solar projects in towns. He said that he did not think that our fees are out of the realm. Chairman Cronin and Selectman Menges recapped what had been discussed earlier.

Selectman Goulart asked the Building Commissioner what had happened at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Jim Aguiar said that the Zoning Board wants to be sure that all I s are dotted and T s are crossed. The variance has been granted for access with minor modifications.

Public Input

Selectman Menges stated that he had generated minutes for the monthly meeting that had taken place at noon with the superintendent of schools, Dr. Azar.

Selectman Menges motioned and Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** to dedicate the adjournment to Annette Tweedy and Rita Gilbert. Selectman Menges said Rita Gilbert served as assistant town accountant and also worked for the Board of Selectman and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He added that on January 18th the board of selectman sent a letter to Mrs. Tweedy, indicating that it would be read upon completion of the police station. He read the letter in its entirety.

Selectman Goulart added a word about Rita Gilbert and then about Annette Tweedy and of her tireless efforts to get full K-12 regionalization.

Chairman Cronin added that Anette Tweedy had a big heart.

Selectman Goulart motioned to adjourn, selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen



Dean V. Cronin-Chairman



Patrick W. Menges-Clerk



Nancy J. Goulart-Member