

RECEIVED

2016 JAN 14 PM 4:31

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY _____

The following Meeting was not video recorded.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Department Heads Meeting

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

Called to order at 10:01 am.

Selectman Menges mentioned the services to be held today for Donald French. He asked for a moment of silence for Mr. French.

Bella (for Alice Souza)

Bella asked about the roof at Prime time. Jim Aguiar answered he was waiting for a price and would let Alice know when he had it.

Selectman Menges introduced Vicki Piazza who was sitting in.

Cathal Obrien

Cathal O'Brien stated he had two patches to do and he had some gravel and sand coming to be ready for snow and ice.

Cathal thanked the town for helping to pick up the truck that the water department recently won at auction. He also thanked Manheim for painting and lettering it.

Jim Aguiar

Jim Aguiar stated said that the town had a record number of single family homes constructed this year and that he had reached out to developers to see what was in store for next year. There is no slowdown in sight. Jim stated that solar farms seem to be taking off in Dighton. There were three being constructed and 4 more in the approval process. Jim added there may be as many as seven large scale projects next year.

Chairman Cronin explained that one company had recently disputed the permit fee of \$137,000.00, but that the fee was eventually paid. Building Commissioner Aguiar explained how he came up with the fee and commended the Board of Selectmen for their support on that issue.

Chief Roderick

Chief Roderick said he was still doing work in the schools for the SAFE program and he had met with Jim Aguiar with regard to that yesterday. Chief Roderick also mentioned that the State had recently required the town's four intermediate EMTs to attend classes and he would get them enrolled. He added that this past Monday was the first day of academy training for the two new recruits. Chief Roderick also stated that Engine Two had gone out for pump rebuilding and when Engine Two is done, Engine One will go. He said finally that December 13 would be the Santa Run and December 20 would be the rain date.

Chairman Cronin asked about the intermediate EMTs becoming advanced and who would foot the bill. Chief Roderick said there would be no change in pay but they have to attend the class or they drop to a basic.

Selectman Menges asked Chief Roderick if he verified that there was enough money in the budget to cover the training. Chief Roderick said he thought there was.

Selectman Menges stated that he would like to set a date for the Disaster Committee meeting, if possible before the 15th of December and a Monday or Wednesday would be good.

Tom Ferry

Tom Ferry asked about the response from Verizon regarding pole placement/sidewalk repair. Selectman Goulart said there had been no response.

Tom mentioned to everyone that SRPEDD had recently mailed out a reminder that there is grant money available statewide.

Tom also said he hoped to have the sides of the roads mowed before winter.

Tom said there should be a mercury bucket in the selectmen's office to receive thermometers and maybe the town should advertise that, so they will not end up in the trash. He asked about the possibility of a spring flyer from the Board of Health to advertise that and maybe a bulky item pickup day. He added that it should be advertised to bring mercury to the transfer station, not to town hall.

Tom said there is a new house on Monteiro Drive. That street has not been completed yet. The residents will want the town to plow it. Selectman Menges said this should be addressed with the planning board. They have the 53G accounts, etc. Selectman Menges added that all that the Board of Selectmen can do is tell them to go to the planning board. They are the only authority that can seize the funds from 53G accounts.

Chairman Cronin mentioned that there is a handicapped person on that road. That is where it becomes a legal battle.

Selectman Menges suggested the board of selectmen create a bylaw that the developers file the required bond with the selectmen's office and the board should ask legal counsel about this.

Superintendent Ferry said the Highway Department was almost snow ready, although the department could really use two plows. Tom asked if that was something that can be done, or if an article would be needed for that. Selectman Goulart asked how much money would be needed and Tom Ferry answered \$18,000 to \$20,000.00. Selectman Goulart told Tom to see if they are on the state bid list and to get back to the board with solid numbers and availability. She would need more information.

Selectman Menges said as far as using the snow and ice account, we would get reimbursement and he suggested that whatever the criteria is for debiting that account, the highway department should use that.

Jen Luiz said he can use it for a plow because that equipment cannot be used in the summer.

Selectman Menges asked where the highway stood on obtaining a blade for the large truck that the town had recently acquired.

Tom Ferry stated he hoped to get one from the state surplus but that is hit or miss. Towns and cities have first dibs on it, usually in July or August.

Tom Ferry asked if there was still a meeting planned for next week at the nature trail. He has some information and resolutions for that.

There was discussion of the parking area.

Tom Ferry asked who will be present and also asked if it will take place at the selectmen's meeting next Wednesday.

Tom also mentioned that the landfill is still being inspected. The state has not forgotten about it. The highway department is still working on road repairs. He added that the salt shed roof project was coming along and should be done within a week. Most of the wood had been replaced and the roofing material and dumpster were on site.

Selectman Goulart asked about her request to place a guardrail at the Berkley Dighton Bridge and if it has been responded to. Tom Ferry said no. Selectman Goulart suggested maybe it could be part of the Eagle Scout project.

(Vicki Piazza had no comments).

Stacy Ferry

Stacey Ferry said kennel inspections are coming up at the end of the year. She stated that the dog kennel building is red. The fencing and the runs are up.

Sue Medeiros

Sue said censuses would be going out in a couple of weeks. Nomination papers would be available January 4. Candidates would have six weeks to take out papers. The Presidential Primary will be held March 1 and the town election will be April 9. Sue thanked Tom Ferry and the Board of Selectmen for all their help with the tree lighting ceremony.

Selectman Goulart mentioned the train and the board looking into getting it repaired.

Selectman Goulart asked Sue Medeiros about pre-voting with regard to the election.

(There was general discussion about requirements with regard to pre-voting).

Sue said she will keep board updated.

Mary Hathaway

Mary Hathaway said it was nice that the tax rate was set early, so that she can work on the tax bills.

Selectman Menges asked about contributions to the hardship fund and Mary said there was not enough money in the account to warrant any action.

Jen Luiz

Jen mentioned that she was waiting for budgets, financial forecasts and revenue forecasts.

Jocelyn Tavares

Jocelyn stated that there are a number of Christmas themed events at the library this month. Santa would be coming on the December 19. The library would also be hosting Christmas crafts on December 22 and a cookie swap the next night.

Jocelyn mentioned that the library hosted a genealogy event last night. The Massachusetts Society of Genealogy came. Jocelyn also mentioned that in January the library was hoping to have the Bristol County Beekeepers come in and also had planned workshops for people with new devices to help with downloading books.

Finally, Jocelyn mentioned that the library would like to have Ted Reinstein come back sometime in May.

Selectman Menges said the annual reports and preliminary budgets are due January 1. There will be a meeting of the Disaster Committee before January 15 to make sure members are all on the same page before the winter.

Selectman Menges added that if there is anyone that you would like to recommend, who has been particularly outstanding this year, please forward a note to the Board of Selectmen's office. The board would like to bestow appropriate honors at their meeting on December 23.

Sue Medeiros asked Selectman Cronin if he had any information on the energy aggregation plan.

Chairman Cronin gave a brief description of how it will work. The contract was signed two weeks ago and currently there are 23 cities and towns involved. The towns have locked in a rate of \$.0949 cents per kilowatt hour for a period of two years. The rate was previously \$.16 per kilowatt hour for National Grid customers.

Chairman Cronin told Sue that you do not have to do anything, except all of the homes that have solar panels on their homes are locked into their rate contained in their contract. They are not eligible. If they choose to opt out, they will have to pay fees. Total savings would be 15 million dollars in Bristol County alone. This will be great for the economy. He added that customers of National Grid are automatically in. If you want to opt out you can, but you cannot come back in until next January.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

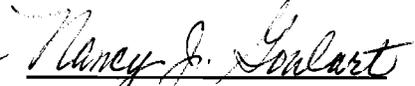
Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen



Dean V. Cronin-Chairman



Patrick W. Menges-Clerk



Nancy J. Goulart-Member