

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

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

Meeting called to order by Chairman Cronin at 7:32 pm

The Cub Scouts Pack 45 led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Selectman Menges presented the scouts with certificates of achievement and refreshments were served.

Minutes

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of October 28, 2015, regular meeting.

Minutes of November 4, 2015, were tabled until the next meeting.

Warrants

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve warrant #25A-16, in the amount of \$74,579.33 dated December 16, 2015 and warrant #25B-16 in the amount of \$129,889.27, dated December 16, 2015.

Correspondence

Correspondence from the Mass DOT regarding President Avenue bridge closure was read by Chairman Cronin.

Correspondence from the Town of Berkley regarding the approval to split the electricity bill for the lights on the Berkley Dighton Bridge was read by Chairman Cronin.

Announcements were read by Chairman Cronin and Selectman Menges added that the Holiday Concert at the Dighton Elementary School was open to the public.

Old Business:

Mr. Robert Mullen came forward to speak about the Van Gyzen Hall Study Committee's final report. He listed the members of the committee and read the six alternatives that had been studied along with the cost for each. Their final recommendation stated that the building should be demolished and the land sold. Mr. Mullen said the committee would prepare the proper warrant articles for the next town meeting.

Selectman Menges motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** to take the report under advisement.

Chairman Cronin asked Mr. Mullen what the cost column represented and if all of the scenarios were reviewed by all of the committee members

Selectman Goulart asked if the proposed memorial would be out near the sidewalk and if the plaque would state the history of the building. Mr. Mullen answered yes to both.

New Business

The warrant for the Special Town Meeting of December 30, 2015 was read aloud by Selectman Menges.

Selectman Goulart added that Mr. Swartz had suggested setting up a special account called "Somerset Woods" so that it could not be used for any other legal purposes and it would close out at the end of the year.

Selectman Menges responded that the legal bills incurred included some engineering expenses and the caption for a special account should be broad enough to include those.

Chairman Cronin added that the reason for the special meeting is because soon the town will incur a 12% interest charge on these legal invoices.

Selectman Menges also added that the budget process needs to begin on January 1, and we need to know the correct figure of what is left in free cash to begin the process.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a road opening permit for Columbia Gas at School Street and Mount Hope Street for corrosion work.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a road opening permit for Columbia Gas at Bedford and Spring Street for corrosion work.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a road opening permit for Columbia Gas at 232 Main Street, Dighton, MA for corrosion work.

Chairman Cronin added that all of the above road opening permits were previously approved by Highway Superintendent Thomas Ferry, provided they are completed in a timely manner using flowable fill.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a request by Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry for disposal of surplus equipment. The equipment included a 2000 Ford F250 and a 1998 Ford Taurus. Method of disposal to be determined following approval by the Finance Committee.

A copy of superintendent Ferry's request will be placed in the Finance Committee's mailbox.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a request from the Highway Superintendent to purchase one snow plow in the amount of \$12,000.00.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a request from the Fire Chief, Antone Roderick, Jr., for three ambulance write off requests totaling \$1043.48 due to hardships.

Selectman Menges motioned, Chairman Cronin stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** unanimously to appoint Selectman Goulart to represent the board at the upcoming Dighton Berkley Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony.

Selectman Goulart stated it was her opinion that the entire board should attend the event and that she was inquiring as to who had been invited by MassDOT, because county officials should be present so they could be recognized and thanked for the donation of over a hundred thousand dollars worth of easements.

Reports

Selectman Menges said that the board recently interviewed Ernest Peredetto for the Director of the Board of Health position and hoped that the Board of Health would be ready to act on this on Monday.

Selectman Menges also stated that morning he had met with Peter Woodhouse who was interested in assisting the town in gaining Green Community status. Mr. Woodhouse left with the understanding that Dighton is interested in renewable energy, but is waiting for any opportunity to partner with another community in that area.

Selectman Menges mentioned that the separation of the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen would be placed on the 2017 annual town meeting warrant per the recommendation of the Committee to Study the Structure and Function of the Board of Health.

Chairman Cronin stated that the Police Station Building Project is currently bogged down by two boards and the permitting process.

Acknowledgements

Selectman Menges motioned, selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to acknowledge two anonymous donations in the amounts of \$155.00 and \$24.00 to the Council on Aging.

Selectman Menges thanked Santa and Santa's helpers who supplied the candy for the annual Santa ride through town this past weekend. Selectman Menges also thanked the building commissioner for hanging the Disaster Committee's Certificate and also for seeing to the refurbishing of the clerk/treasurer's sign.

Public Input

Jack Taylor commented on the Special Town Meeting and how no one knew that it was happening. Jack also said he thought that December 30 was a bad day to hold a meeting because some people would be on vacation and there was a general consensus among the voters was that they don't have a say.

Peter Caron said he assumed that the December 30 special town meeting was about Somerset Woods appeal and wondered why the town was still going forward with this.

Selectman Menges said the hearing has been held and the board determined that it was in the best interest of the town and had authorized Attorney Gay to file for an appeal for another hearing which occurred last week.

Selectman Goulart stated that the town has got to support Conservation Commission decisions.

Joe Pacheco said he did not think the town would prevail.

Jack Taylor asked if the intent was to stop the project or to protect the wetlands.

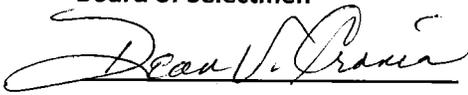
Peter Caron said the appeal will not stop it, but will change the layout. If this goes to housing court, the developer will have to submit new plans and go back through the process at about the halfway point.

There was discussion about the state's affordable units 10% requirement with regard to 40B developments.

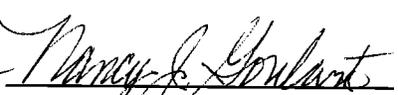
Chairman Cronin thanked the remaining audience, Jack Taylor and Robert Mullen for their constructive input.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn at 9:15pm.

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen


Dean. V. Cronin-Chairman


Patrick W. Menges-Clerk


Nancy J. Goulart-Member