

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by Selectman Menges acting as Chairman. (Chairman Cronin was not present.)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Report of the Committee to Study the Structure and Functions of the Board of Health

Ron O'Connor and Tom Pires were present to give the recommendation of the Committee to Study the Structure and Functions of the Board of Health.

Recommendations

1. That the Board of Health should separate from the Board of Selectmen.
2. The Board of Health should be elected.

Selectman Menges stated that the Article proposing the separation will be placed on the 2016 Town Meeting Warrant and the voters would take it from there.

Selectman Menges said that the Board of Health had been considering its organization and staff. Instead having the clerk ½ time for the Board of Health and ½ time for the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Board of Health would ask the town to consider that there be a full time person for each. Selectman Menges stated that if the town approves that, an impact negotiation will occur with the union. Selectman Menges further stated that originally the title was "Director of Public Health," but it had since been changed to "Liaison to the Board of Health" to allow the person to learn the duties of the Board of Health in case they would like to run for the newly created separate board. Selectman Menges stated that the Board of Health had asked for volunteers from the community to apply and there had been only one so far.

Selectman Menges said the Board of Health had put \$15,000.00 in the budget for next year so that if the board decided to pay an intern, the money would be there.

Tom Pires said the committee had agreed on an elected Board of Health and he asked if any stipends paid would come out of the selectmen's money. Tom Pires stated that 50% of the work of the Board of Selectmen is Board of Health related, so he felt that the selectmen's salaries should be reduced.

Ron O'Connor was curious about the job description of the liaison, because he thought that could be contracted with another community. He liked the concept of bringing someone on to become familiar with the Board of Health before running for the seat.

Selectman Goulart said there is no job description, it would be whatever we need them to do. The liaison had come up at the last meeting. It would be unpaid, but if someone had a desire to learn it would be a golden opportunity for them.

Selectman Goulart mentioned that the Board of Health had also talked about the information that he (Mr. O'Connor) had sent us from the Department of Public Health regarding interns that are paid by someone else.

Selectman Goulart added that the elected position would require some compensation, but that won't be dealt with until we are ready for the election in 2018. She did not object to reducing the salaries of the selectmen once the boards were separated.

Selectman Goulart hoped that someone with a medical background would come on board.

Ron O'Connor mentioned that in having a qualified board, the key would be to budget for that. Training for the board members would be very important.

Tom Pires said it is the opinion of the committee that the two boards be split. Selectman Goulart and Selectman Menges agreed.

Minutes

Selectman Menges asked that the record show that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16 and the minutes of the Executive Session of December 2, 2016, have been prepared, but the Board will need time to peruse them.

Warrants

Selectman Goulart motioned and Selectman Menges stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve warrant #31A-16 in the amount of \$86,023.78 dated January 27, 2016, Warrant #31B-16 in the amount of \$13,743.06 dated January 27, 2016, Warrant #31C-16 in the amount of \$124,646.38 dated January 27, 2016 and warrant #31D-16, in the amount of \$636.25 dated January 27, 2016.

Correspondence

None

Announcements

Announcements were read by Selectman Goulart.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Selectman Menges motioned and Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a request from Tony Rosario and the Taunton Area Vietnam Vets to hold "Cruise Night" events behind town hall this summer.

Reports

Selectman Goulart reported on the Mass Municipal Association's annual meeting which took place on January 23, 2016. She summarized some of the topics that were covered, including education, Chapter 90 funds and opioids. She also stated the town accountant is currently looking into a purchasing consortium for town to purchase items at discounted prices through the Higher Education Consortium (MHEC). Selectman Goulart had also obtained a list of abandoned properties in the state treasurer's office listed as the Town of Dighton and had given the information to the Town Treasurer who would contact the Abandoned Property Department, submit a claim and report back.

Selectman Menges said that the board had two meetings that day. The first with Dr. Azar and Catherine Antonellis at noon. Laura Washington and Nick Charest attended regarding a survey on opioid abuse for the students and how they will supply the high school with measures to stem the problem.

Selectman Menges said that the Board of Selectmen and Dr. Azar had also discussed the school budget, improvements to the Gridiron Canteen at the football field and the heating issues at the elementary school.

Selectman Menges added that the Board of Health had also attended a meeting at the elementary school that evening to address heating issues. He thanked David Nappi, Peter Caron, Jim Aguiar, David Rosa and Rosalind Grassie who were also in attendance.

Selectman Menges also reported on some initiatives that were currently being wrapped up such as telephones, security and the Town Government Policy Book which should be in draft form by the end of February.

Acknowledgements

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** unanimously to acknowledge an anonymous donation in the amount of \$20.00 to Prime Time.

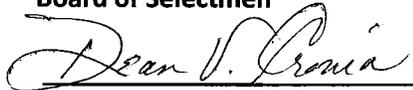
Public Input

None.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges stepped down to second and it was **VOTED unanimously** to adjourn at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen



Dean. V. Cronin-Chairman



Patrick W. Menges-Clerk



Nancy J. Goulart-Member