

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

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

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Cronin at 7:37pm.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Minutes**

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 23, 2015, and the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2016.

**Warrants**

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve Warrant #34A-16 in the amount of \$76,170.99 dated February 17, 2016, and Warrant #34B-16 in the amount of \$90,224.37 dated February 17, 2016.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Announcements**

Announcements were read by Chairman Cronin

**Old Business:**

**Nathaniel Vargas's Eagle Scout Project Located at the Berkley Dighton Bridge.**

Nathaniel came forward to show a drawing of what he intended to do with regard to his Eagle Scout Project at the Berkley Dighton Bridge. Nathaniel told the board that he will be going before the Conservation Commission next Wednesday evening.

Selectman Goulart suggested that Nathaniel take the drawing to the Conservation Commission, let the commission know his intentions, where he will and will not go and also let them know that he is working with Tom Ferry on the project.

Chairman Cronin told Nathaniel that Conservation would be very supportive and would help him through the process and Selectman Goulart asked Nathaniel to keep in touch with the board during the process.

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Selectman Menges asked Nathaniel when he would have his green book for the selectmen to sign. Nathaniel said he was working on that.

**New Business:**

**Ambulance Write Offs requested by Fire Chief Antone P. Roderick.**

Chairman Cronin explained that every time there is a write off request made there were certain criteria that had to be met. He explained the criteria and he read the amounts aloud.

Selectman Goulart motioned, selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve the ambulance write offs totaling \$2556.10, as recommended by the Fire Chief.

**Announcement of DEP's Hearing Officer's Recommended Decision Concerning Somerset Woods.**

Selectman Menges said that the board received a call from Gay and Gay Law Offices that afternoon concerning an appeal of the Conservation Commission's Special Order of Conditions regulating the proposed subdivision known as Somerset Woods.

Selectman Menges gave some background as to what had transpired and how it had come to the town to fund the defense of the Conservation Commission's actions.

Selectman Menges also mentioned that The Department of Environmental Protection Hearing Officer had given a recommended decision to the Commissioner of The Department of Environmental Protection which was supported by 40 pages of findings. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection's decision will be final. It was doubtful that the Commissioner of The Department of Environmental Protection would overturn the recommended decision.

Selectman Menges said there was an unpaid balance of approximately \$19,000.00 to the Hill Law Group, which would require action at a special town meeting which would take place immediately prior to the Annual Town Meeting when it is held.

Selectman Menges mentioned Edward Swartz who originally asked the town to intervene. His diligence, his courage and his work to keep the neighborhood involvement going made an enormous difference.

Chairman Cronin said this was a major accomplishment for the Conservation Commission.

Selectman Goulart congratulated the Conservation Commission and said thank you to all the people that supported the Conservation Commission. She hoped this was a message to everyone that this is not a community where someone can come into and trample over the committees that keep this town safe.

**Reports.**

Selectman Menges said we have many positive developments. The Industrial and Development Commission is having a presentation at the library and was also sponsoring a "Business Recognition Program."

The chairman Vicki Piazza had also presented the town with supplemental guidelines of how buildings, commercial in particular, should look and a copy of that document had been sent to the Planning Board and the Building Commissioner who were currently reviewing it.

Selectman Menges had hoped to vote to accept the town's policy manual tonight, but the intern, Lucas Fagundes, was working to insert the Dighton Police Department Hiring Policy and also Community Preservation Grant Agreement. Selectman Menges said he hoped to vote on that next week.

Selectmen Menges said he also had a conversation with the Police Chief and the Animal Control Officer about how complaints of domestic animals would be handled in the future. Selectman Menges said that abuse and neglect in Massachusetts is a felony and the Board of Selectmen would refer those cases to the District Court. The Board of Selectmen would see to it that the Animal Control Officer will have the support that she needs.

Selectman Menges also said that the Board of Selectmen's monthly meeting with the Superintendent of Schools had been postponed. That meeting would take place next week.

**Acknowledgements.**

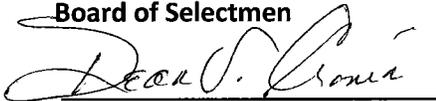
Selectman Menges congratulated the manager at Hannaford's who had recently received an award from her entire district.

Selectman Menges also recommended the dedication of adjournment to John Williams II of Wareham who passed away, as many of his family members reside in North Dighton. The Board of Selectmen dedicated the adjournment with condolences.

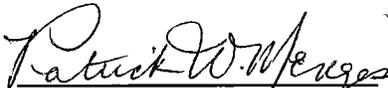
Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted

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



**Dean. V. Cronin-Chairman**



**Patrick W. Menges-Clerk**



**Nancy J. Goulart-Member**