

TOWN OF DIGHTON, BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
March 23, 2016  
(This meeting was broadcast live and recorded.)

Dean Cronin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in first floor meeting room at town hall.

Present: Dean Cronin, Nancy Goulart, Patrick Menges

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Roberta Perry, who served the town for many years in the capacity of founding member of the Cable Commission. Ed Olney from the Cable Commission joined the meeting. He brought with him a white ceramic cookie jar that belonged to Roberta. He mentioned her years of service of the Cable Committee, the many trips to Berkley when the studio was in the basement of the old town hall, and the delicious cookies, especially the cinnamon rollups, that Roberta baked and placed in the jar. Mr. Menges mentioned that she was a cheerleader at old Dighton High School, was mother to retired police officer, Billy Perry, and a good friend and neighbor who transported people to various medical appointments. Mrs. Goulart mentioned that her oldest sister met Roberta while a student at Dighton High School and they became lifelong friends. She also mentioned that Roberta was pictured on Page 46 of the town's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book with her son, Billy; both of whom worked at the polls on November 6, 2012.

Recognition of Alex Cote

Mr. Menges introduced Alex Cote, eight years old, who raised and donated \$2,000 to the Bases Covered charity that was established to help families experiencing hardships due to serious illness. Alex gave up his enjoyment of video/computer games for three months and with the support of his family and friends raised this large amount of money in a very short time. Alex sat in Mr. Menges' chair while Mr. Menges read the citation from the town that was subsequently presented to Alex in recognition of this outstanding act of charity. Board members congratulated Alex and thanked him and his family.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mrs. Goulart, seconded by Mr. Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of the Board of Selectmen on February 24 and March 2, 2016.

Approval of Warrants

It was moved by Mrs. Goulart, seconded by Mr. Menges, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the warrants #39A-16 and #39B-16 for payroll and accounts payable, respectively, dated March 23, 2016.

Correspondence

Mr. Cronin read a letter from the Cemetery Commission that expressed concerns about leaves and other types of yard waste being dumped in town cemeteries located on private property. The letter reminded residents that there are fines of up to \$1,000 for illegal dumping.

Old Business – None

New Business

Mrs. Goulart made, and Mr. Menges seconded, the following individual motions to approve road cur requests from Columbia Gas:

- 1) Replace gas main service at Mount Hope Street; North Dighton
- 2) Replace gas main service at the intersection of School and Mount Hope Streets; North Dighton
- 3) Replace gas main service at the intersection of School and Pearl Streets; North Dighton
- 4) Replace gas main service at between #179 and #238 Main Street, Dighton
- 5) Replace gas main service on Pleasant Street, Dighton
- 6) Replace gas main service at between #1783 and #2063 Elm Street, Dighton

ALL VOTES WERE UNANIMOUS

TOWN CLERK  
DIGHTON, MA  
BY \_\_\_\_\_

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RECEIVED

All of the road work for replacement of gas service will be coordinated with Tom Ferry, Supt. of Streets. Mr. Aguiar was asked to report back to the board as to when the work will begin.

Resolution Supporting Full Funding for Education Foundation Budget Commission Recommendations

An email was received from Glenn Jefferson requesting that the board consider voting to support the recommendations for full funding for the education budget as prepared by the commission appointed to study this matter. Mr. Menges read the recommendations. The governor's proposed FY17 budget listed increased funding for unrestricted local aid (aid to cities and towns) but only a small increase for Ch. 70 (aid to education). Without a significant increase in Ch. 70 aid, the burden to fund more of the education budget falls back on the taxpayers.

It was moved by Mr. Menges, seconded by Mrs. Goulart, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to support the Commission's Recommendations as requested.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Notification of this action will be sent to the town's legislative delegation and the MA Municipal Association.

Reports

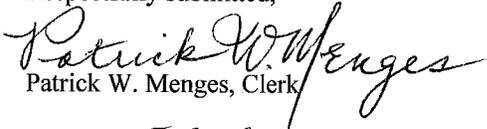
Mrs. Goulart gave a brief report on the Greater Attleboro/Taunton Home Consortium meeting that she attended on March 17. The consortium assists income eligible first-time home buyers with up to \$10,000 to help with the down payment and closing costs or rehabilitation of existing homes. A lien is placed on the property and is paid back to the consortium when the house is sold. There is no interest charged to the property owner. Projects discussed included a recent duplex completed in Taunton and the Shoe Shop Place consisting of 10, two-bedroom units in Middleboro is underway. Other work has included removal of lead paint in Taunton, Middleboro, Lakeville and proposals for work in Berkley, Norton, Carver, Taunton, and Seekonk. Freetown is the newest member of the consortium and its membership brought an additional \$30,000 in funding to the consortium. The consortium has \$53,000 that must be spent on projects before June 30, 2017 or it will be returned to HUD. The board plans to have a presentation at a future meeting to make residents aware of this opportunity.

Public Input – None

Adjournment - It was moved by Mrs. Goulart, seconded by Mr. Menges, and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patrick W. Menges, Clerk

*With my gratitude to Mrs. Goulart for  
the typing of these minutes.*

*P. W. M.*