

The following Meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 by Chairman Dean Cronin

A moment of silence was observed for the victims of the terrorist bombings in Belgium.

Item #5 on the Agenda was taken first.

Presentation of checks by "Positively Dighton"

Selectman Menges said that representatives of "Positively Dighton" are present tonight to present checks to the Dighton Lions Club, Bases Covered and the friends of the Animal Shelter.

Lissa Masters said last weekend "Positively Dighton" held their "Spring Everything" event with a silent auction where \$510.00 was raised. Lissa added that it was voted by the members of "Positively Dighton" at a prior meeting that the money would be split between three charities this year.

Checks were presented to the Dighton Animal Shelter, Dighton Food Bank and "Bases Covered."

Lissa said the "Positively Dighton" was a Facebook organization of positive people with a passion for Dighton and were always looking for new members with the same goals.

Selectmen Menges thanked the members of Positively Dighton.

Item #4 on the agenda was taken next.

Show of appreciation to John Meagher

Selectman Menges said that at various times over the last summer, the board had met in various locations around the town. It had been a challenge getting these meetings on the cable channel and John Meagher was the person who did the video taping of those meetings.

Selectman Menges presented Mr. Meagher with a pizza in appreciation for the times when he missed dinner while taping.

Minutes

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, and the regular meeting of March 23, 2016.

Warrants

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve Warrant #40A-16 in the amount of \$74,396.73, Warrant #40B-16 in the amount of \$22,420.72, Warrant

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#40C-16 in the amount of \$48,077.01 and Warrant #40D-16 in the amount of \$2,627.57 all dated March 30, 2016.

Correspondence

Correspondence from the Mass Highway Department, Highway Division regarding spring State Highway sweeping was read by Chairman Cronin.

Chairman Cronin said that the town sweepers have been out last week, but the highways are a little bit harder to get cleaned. Chairman Cronin added that our Highway Superintendent is on top of this.

Letter from the Building Commissioner regarding work to be performed by Columbia Gas Company in the area of Elm, Mount Hope, Pearl, School, Main and Pleasant Streets now through the summer of 2016.

Letter from the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen regarding their discussion with Dighton-Rehoboth Regional Agreement Amendment Committee members.

Chairman Cronin gave some history of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional Agreement Committee and its purpose and read the letter from the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen to the Dighton Board of Selectmen stating that an alternative method of assessment must be included in the committee's recommended changes to the regional agreement and if it is not, then the deal is off the table.

Chairman Cronin said that fifteen months of work has gone down the tubes and now the state will apply the statutory method and will not recognize any alternative methods.

Selectman Goulart commented that she was disappointed with this letter and the amount of hours that were spent trying to bring this to fruition.

Selectman Menges motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously that the clerk of the Board of Selectmen be instructed to respond to the letter to Rehoboth BOS as follows:

"Dear Rehoboth Selectmen:

Thank you for your expression of your view concerning the product of the RAAC committee deliberations dated March 21, 2016. It is our understanding that regardless of the mention or not of an alternative method in either the 1987 or any subsequent amended regional agreement, an alternative method cannot be used for regional assessments without a vote in both towns in the year in which it is proposed.

Sincerely yours,

Board of Selectmen"

Announcements were read by Chairman Cronin.

Old Business:

Request by Power Management for approval of AMERESCO to Contract with the town for solar projects.

Sabin Rossi, of Power Management Co., came forward and talked about solar projects being proposed, specifically at the landfill and at the Lopes Athletic Complex.

Sabin stated that after two consecutive "Requests for Quotes" for the landfill project they wound up with one respondent to both and that was AMERESCO.

Director of Development, Cleo Taliadouros and Geri Cantor, Project Development Manager from AMERESCO, were also present, gave some background on the company and stated that the majority of their experience was with municipalities throughout the country as well as in Massachusetts.

Geri Cantor explained the proposed project at the former landfill and spoke of the cost benefits to the town.

Selectman Goulart asked how it would affect the residents of Dighton.

Geri said that the way that it would affect the residents is in lower monthly payments for utilities through National Grid, but that all of the figures were not set in stone. The figures were assumptions based on the size of the project and legislation pending at the state level.

Selectman Goulart said she would not vote to agree to anything that is not based on facts.

Selectman Menges said that he would like to say that there are currently three projects on the town meeting warrant. The lease benefit will come to the town for the land as well as the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreements. Selectman Menges said the town may not get as much as it hoped but there is no danger of loss.

There was discussion about procedures within town hall and how the town meeting vote should be handled.

Selectman Menges motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously that Selectman Goulart's questions about viability, sustainability and profitability of this solar installation on the Tremont Street Landfill be forwarded to Mr. Rossi at Power Management. He is to pursue answers from the Board of Assessors and other boards such as conservation and zoning. Selectman Goulart asked that the location on Maple Swamp Road be added to the motion as well.

Selectman Menges also motioned that the board refer to town counsel for both, a comparative study of the industry standard practice among towns, Dighton's policy and its own opinion of the law, and the question of the authority of the board of selectmen to authorize siting of a solar farm on the Tremont Street landfill.

Selectman Goulart did not second.

Instead, Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded (for discussion purposes) and it was **VOTED** unanimously that the board contact town counsel and ask if a town meeting vote is required in order to site a solar farm on town owned property.

Selectman Menges said he still wanted to know from town counsel, what the practice has been in other towns leading up to approval, whether other town's board of selectmen or town managers have authorized these projects without a town meeting vote. He said whether we get this from town counsel or Mr. Rossi, he didn't care.

Selectman Goulart said she could do that herself. The only opinion that she was interested in is that of town counsel regarding the need for voter approval for use of town property.

Selectman Menges addressed Mr Rossi's residual concern about whether the board would go ahead with a contingent approval. Selectman Menges felt the board should delay that action until they have the information.

Mr. Rossi said he wanted to do exactly what the town wants them to do.

Selectman Menges thanked everyone for their patience.

Town Policy Book

Selectman Menges motioned, Selectman Goulart seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously, that subject to future amendments, as recommended by the users as they use this, the Policies and Procedures Manual, last edited February 29, 2016, be placed into effect as prepared for our consideration by intern, Lucas Fagundes and modified with additional material by the town accountant.

Selectman Goulart said that it was Selectman Menges' leadership in getting this project done and she thanked him for that.

Selectman Menges said at the Department Heads' meeting it will be made known that the department heads can download the manual online for review.

Vehicle for the Veterans Agent

Selectman Menges said he did not want to leave this stone unturned. Selectman Menges said our Veterans Agent still needs a vehicle and currently transports veterans in his own vehicle. He added this is just a reminder to the board that he still needs a vehicle. Selectman Menges asked that everyone keep their eyes and ears open.

Selectman Goulart suggested that the board bring it up at a Finance Committee meeting and possibly acquire a vehicle through a donation from Manheim. Possibly they would be willing to put some money in the budget to acquire a vehicle. Selectman Menges thought it was a good idea and the town should approach Manheim.

Selectman Menges motioned, Chairman Cronin stepped down to second, and it was **VOTED** unanimously that Nancy Goulart be appointed as a member of the Greater Taunton-Attleboro Home Consortium thru June of 2016.

Resignation of Chris Pacheco from the Dighton Historical Commission.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Chris Pacheco with regret. Selectman Menges added that Chris still remains president of the Dighton Historical Society.

Resignation of Reserve Officer Nicholas Barros from the Dighton Police Department.

The letter of resignation of Nicholas Barros was read by Chairman Cronin.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to accept the resignation of Dighton Police Reserve Officer Nicholas Barros with regret and thanks for his service.

Selectman Menges said a few words about Officer Barros and his decision to leave and wished him the best.

Chairman Cronin said Officer Barros was a very dedicated young man, who was very professional and he would be missed.

Reports

Selectman Menges said he wanted to inform the board that he had spoken to Warren Jones, President of Chapter 5 of the "Patriot Riders" regarding Van Gyzen Hall. Mr. Jones had asked about the possibility of donation of the building to an organization. Selectman Menges said he told him it would not be possible and that there were already articles on the town warrant.

Acknowledgements

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to acknowledge an anonymous donation to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$156.00.

Public Input.

A resident asked if money could be raised and appropriated from the Capital Expenditure Account to repair the sidewalks at the corner of Pearl and Spring Street. Selectman Menges said the sidewalk was an issue. Selectman Menges also said that if handicapped access is the problem, as long as we have an intention to comply, and a plan to do it, in the short term we can obtain the permission to repair the sidewalk for now.

Selectman Goulart wondered if it could be handled by the Highway Department with some leftover blacktop from town paving for now.

Mr. Robert Woods thanked Nancy Goulart for all of her hard work.

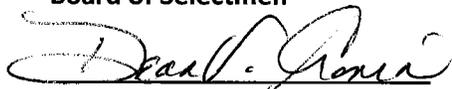
Adjournment

Selectman Menges dedicated the adjournment to Mr. McGillivray who was a veteran from town.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Menges seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn
At 10:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen



Dean. V. Cronin-Chairman

_____ **Patrick W. Menges-Clerk**



Nancy J. Goulart-Member