

The following meeting was video recorded for cable broadcast.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7:30pm

**Regular Meeting**

Selectmen's Meeting Room, 979 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA 02715

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Reorganize Board of Selectmen**

Chairman Cronin announced that all current positions related to both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health were vacant. Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to nominate and elect Selectman Cronin as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Cronin seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to nominate and elect Selectman Goulart as Chairman of the Board of Health.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Chairman Cronin seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to nominate and elect Selectman Zografos as Clerk to both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to nominate and elect Chairman Cronin as Personnel Officer.

**Minutes**

There were no meeting minutes to be approved.

**Warrants**

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve Warrant #42A-16 in the amount of \$83,235.23 dated April 13, 2016 and Warrant #42B-16 in the amount of \$99,774.19 dated April 13, 2016.

**Correspondence**

Chairman Cronin read a notice from Xfinity (Comcast) regarding the renaming of various subscription services. He noted that this does not affect service rates or result in any increases in monthly bills.

**Announcements**

Chairman Cronin read the announcements. He then announced vacancies on both the Historical Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Timothy Rhines, a Dighton resident in the audience, notified the Board of Selectmen of a vacancy on the Community Preservation Committee. He also added that the seat has been vacant since January, but he was not sure when the term for the vacant seat

TOWN CLERK  
DIGHTON, MA

2016 APR 26 AM 11:05

RECEIVED

expires. Chairman Cronin notified the public of how to apply/volunteer, either by obtaining and completing an application form or by e-mailing one's qualifications and intent to the Board of Selectmen. Volunteer forms can be obtained at the Selectmen's Office.

Selectman Goulart announced the Earth Day Cleanup event organized by Vicki Piazza on Saturday, April 23, 2016 starting at 9am at the landfill on Tremont Street. She added that "I love Dighton" trash bags for use in vehicles will be given to volunteers at the event.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

Chairman Cronin read a letter from Patrick Menges resigning from all appointed offices, such as the Disaster Committee, the Soil Conservation Committee, and Water Resource Trustee. Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to accept Mr. Menges' resignation.

Chairman Cronin read a letter from Brett Zografos resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Selectman Goulart motioned, Chairman Cronin seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to accept Mr. Zografos' resignation.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve a Road Cut Permit for Columbia Gas to replace gas main service starting at the intersection of Elm Street and Main Street, working approximately 100ft on School Lane.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to appoint Christina Franca as a Passport Application Agent.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos motioned and it was **VOTED** unanimously to appoint Karin Brady as a Passport Application Agent.

Chairman Cronin noted the increase in passport applications since Fall River had its licensing pulled. He stated that several individuals have been trained/took courses to become certified to deal with passport applications. He added that this service is bringing in revenue for the town. A resident in the audience noted that there were several people waiting for passports downstairs while this meeting was being conducted, highlighting the surge in applications.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Chairman Cronin seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to appoint Selectman Zografos to the Disaster Committee.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Chairman Cronin seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to appoint Selectman Zografos to the Soil Conservation Committee.

Chairman Cronin noted the need to hold off on appointing Selectman Zografos as Water Resource Trustee as he needed to verify the requirements of the position.

### **Reports**

Selectman Goulart received an e-mail regarding the Bristol-Plymouth refurbishing the Christmas Train. She added that she will follow-up to obtain more information regarding the event.

Chairman Cronin read a letter from Town Accountant Jennifer Luiz requesting to carry over two weeks of vacation time. Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to approve Ms. Luiz's request.

Chairman Cronin noted to the public that town employees are contractually allowed to carry over a maximum of two weeks vacation time.

### **Acknowledgements**

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$144.00 made to the Council on Aging.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$31.00 made to the Council on Aging.

### **Public Input**

Mr. Timothy Rhines expressed the Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) need for a part-time secretary for 4-6 hours per month at a cost of approximately \$1000 per annum. He stated that the new position would be Pay-grade 4, Level 1. He noted that the position would be posted publicly and that the Committee was simply "putting out feelers". He stated that no OBRA would be necessary and that the cost would come from CPC funds.

Mr. Rhines noted that CPC is receiving a high volume of applications and that an abundance of research is necessary. Thus, he believes that the new part-time secretary would alleviate some of the burden currently imposed on CPC members by assisting with research.

Mr. Thomas Pires, a CPC member, spoke to the union contact about the process of hiring a new part-time secretary. He stated that CPC did not intend to handpick someone for the position; rather, they wish to have someone who is currently working less than 30 hours per week at Town Hall apply to fill the new position.

Selectman Goulart stated that the CPC should not offer the position to a town employee currently working 18-19 hours because it would put that individual at 20 hours per week, which would trigger three things for said individual: the need for benefits, the need to enter the union, and the need to pay union dues.

Selectman Goulart stated that if the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is providing matching CPA funds in the amount of 19% this year. Mr. Rhines responded that the CPC is still waiting for the Commonwealth because we may get additional funds. He added that CPC is working to determine if extra money (approximately \$10 million) can be obtained from the state budget.

Mr. Pires asked the Board of Selectmen if they had had a chance to read his correspondence pertaining to solar farms, stormwater, and the 5-year permit issuance regarding stormwater. Selectman Goulart, Chairman Cronin, and Selectman Zografos stated they had not had time to read it yet, but that they intend to.

Mr. Rhines asked if there were any updates concerning the new police building. Chairman Cronin responded that bids for the new police station were received on April 13, 2016 and that the past performance of sub-bidders will be evaluated. He also stated that the architect and engineers will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen this Tuesday, April 19, 2016. He reiterated the Police Station Building Committee's intent to break ground on the project in May.

Chairman Cronin noted that he was surprised to realize that only a single bid was received for plumbing and that only four bids from general contractors were received on April 13, 2016. He also expressed concern that the bids received were too high.

Selectman Goulart stated that a date has still not been set for the Annual Town Meeting because the Finance Committee has yet to complete its work on the FY17 Budget. She noted that they are likely to complete their work by next Tuesday, April 19, 2016. She added that she thinks it will be difficult to set the Annual Town Meeting for May and that it is more likely to be set for the first week of June.

Mr. Kenneth Pacheco, Vice-Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), thanked Selectman Zografos for his contributions and service while on ZBA. He noted that during his time on ZBA, Selectman Zografos helped to ensure that all meeting minutes and agendas were uploaded to the Town of Dighton website. Selectman Zografos thanked Mr. Pacheco and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Selectman Goulart motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Brett R. Zografos**  
**Clerk**  
**Board of Selectmen**