

**TOWN OF DIGHTON  
BOARDS OF SELECTMEN/HEALTH  
January 13, 2010**

Nancy Goulart, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: Nancy Goulart, Edward D. Reese, Sr., and Thomas Pires

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Approve Minutes

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to approve the meeting minutes of January 6, 2010.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Approve Warrants

Motion: Edward D. Reese, Sr., seconded: Thomas Pires VOTED to approve the following warrants:

Warrant #029A-10	Payroll	\$	52,895.02
Warrant #029B-10	Vendor bills	\$	68,249.75
Warrant #029C-10	Vendor bills	\$	422.39
Warrant #029D-10	Vendor bills	\$	136.50

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Fees for Dog Licenses and Kennels

Thomas Pires read the following schedule of dog and kennel license fees as recommended by the Town Clerk for the second time:

<u>Dog License Fees</u>		<u>Kennel License Fees</u>	
Spayed Females	\$5.00	4 dogs or less	\$20.00
Neutered Males	\$5.00	10 dogs or less	\$35.00
Males	\$5.00	More than 10 dogs	\$65.00
Females	\$10.00		

It was noted that kennel licenses require animal control officer and Board of Health approval prior to issuance. The board will read the rate one more time and then take action.

Cruiser Fee for Details

Edward D. Reese, Sr., read a cruiser detail fee of \$15.00 per hour for the second time. The board will read the rate one more time and then take action.

Animal Inspector and Animal Control Officer

The board discussed the animal inspector rate, animal control officer rate, shelter fees and transportation fees. Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr., VOTED to establish a boarding fee at the Transfer Station of \$25.00 per day for the first ten days and then \$15.00 thereafter until the animal is picked up or transferred.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr., VOTED to establish a transfer fee of \$20.00.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

The board will read the fees two more times and then take action.

D-R Regional School District

On December 12, 2010 the School Committee voted 7 – 1 to approve Dighton’s request to reduce the FY10 assessment in the amount of \$79,063.00. The board plans to call a special town meeting to act on the following: fill the vacancy in the highway department, purchase one new police cruiser, prior year bills, fund the collective bargaining agreement with the police department, once resolved, and the interest on short-term borrowing in anticipation of taxes. The board thanks for the support from the School Committee and especially to Rehoboth members.

Local Arts Council

Motion: Edward D. Reese, Sr., seconded: Thomas Pires VOTED to appoint Ken Fortier of 1290 Smith Street, Dighton to the Dighton Cultural Council as recommended by Kristen Kerns.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Ms. Kerns stated the Massachusetts Cultural Council has approved grants awarded by the committee.

Enfeld, 2530 Elm Street

Town counsel will request a hearing for continuing contempt of court based on Ms. Enfeld’s failure to comply with the court’s judgment of November 13, 2009 and will request an order to pay the town’s attorney’s fees.

Dog Hearing

Shawn Watson of 1030 Oak Street, North Dighton appeared before the board to discuss violations of the Dighton General Bylaws and Massachusetts General Laws regarding several dogs kept on the property and to discuss the dog bite incident that occurred on Friday, January 8, 2010. A copy of the laws was provided to Mr. Watson. Animal Control Officer, Stacy Ferry, reported that on October 7, 2009, Mr. Watson had 5 adult pitbulls outside and 1 adult female pitbull with a litter of 7 inside. At that time, Mrs.

January 13, 2010

Ferry informed Mr. Watson that he was running an illegal kennel and was instructed what measures had to be taken to come into compliance. Mr. Watson has taken no action stating that he was unaware of the laws and that the dogs have not been vaccinated for rabies or licensed because he does not have the money due to losing his job. Mr. Watson further stated that the female dog has only had 2 litters and that the puppies are given away not sold or used for blood sport. Mrs. Ferry added that Joy Bannister, the former dog officer, had visited Mr. Watson's home twice regarding dog complaints.

On January 8, 2010, Mrs. Ferry responded to a dog bite incident at 1030 Oak Street, North Dighton. Mrs. Ferry instructed Mr. Watson that the animal was not to leave the state of Massachusetts, that the animal had to be quarantined for 10 days, and that a hearing would be required because he was not in compliance. The victim, Betsy Bilodeau of 2080 Maple Street, appeared before the board stating that she was jogging by the house when two pitbulls circled around her and one dog bit her. After flagging down a passerby, Ms. Bilodeau went to the hospital to seek medical attention. Due to the traumatizing event, Ms. Bilodeau is unable to identify which animal bit her. Pictures were produced. Ms. Bilodeau is concerned that she or someone else is going to get seriously injured if the problem persists. Mr. Watson stated that the dog in question has been brought to a friend's house in New Hampshire.

The board determined that Mr. Watson take the following action:

- The dog in New Hampshire must be returned no later than Friday, January 15, 2010.
- The two dogs involved in the January 8, 2010 incident must be returned to the Animal Control Officer and quarantined for 10 days at the shelter located on Tremont Street at the owner's expense (\$25.00 per day per dog)
- The remaining dogs must be quarantined at home for 10 days
- The kennel facilities must be upgraded as recommended by the Animal Control Officer within 10 days and must be inspected by the Animal Control Officer
- Once the quarantine period is over ALL dogs must be vaccinated to prevent rabies by a licensed veterinarian, in the presence of the Animal Control Officer. Each dog must be properly licensed in the town and a kennel license obtained
- All dogs must be properly restrained at all times, no exceptions.

Failure to comply will result in a hearing and the animal(s) will be permanently removed from the town or euthanized. The board will also seek town counsel's recommendation to order the spaying and/or neutering of all animals.

Worker's Compensation Waiver

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr., VOTED to waive the worker's compensation insurance requirement for Edward Olney for the purpose of snow plowing for the remainder of FY10.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

January 13, 2010

Public Input

Thomas Pires announced that he has received complaints regarding excavating on Tremont Street. The board will request an inspection from the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Health Agent.

Nancy Goulart reminded residents that Monday, January 18, 2010 is a holiday and the special senatorial election is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the Dighton Elementary School.

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: Edward D. Reese, Sr. VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Respectfully submitted,  
Boards of Selectmen/Health  
Kerrie J Easterday, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

