

**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARDS OF SELECTMEN/HEALTH
OCTOBER 27, 2010**

Edward D. Reese, Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

Present: Edward D. Reese, Sr., Thomas Pires, E. Bud Whalon, Marguerite Mitchell, Esquire, Jennifer Luiz, Lynn Dupont, Nancy Goulart, Brenda Herbeck, Ron O'Connor, Patricia Gailes

Jennifer Luiz, Town Accountant, opposed holding the meeting in executive session and requested the matter be held in open session on camera. The matter was before the Board at the request of Lynn Dupont that concerned an email sent to the Board by the Town Accountant. Lynn Dupont received a copy of the email by an unknown source and would like the Board address concerns of allegations and "tone" of email. A copy of the email was produced and read allowed (Exhibit A).

In particular, Ms. Dupont pointed out that Mrs. Luiz' responses to questions raised on the Library's website questioned the credibility of the people who served in various capacities to prepare a plan for a new library. Further, Ms. Dupont found the tone offensive and felt that an apology was in order. Ron O'Connor, Chair Trustee, supports Mrs. Dupont's statement and is concerned and offended of Mrs. Luiz' allegation that the Trustees' are withholding information until after Special Town Meeting.

Nancy Goulart, Finance Committee member, former selectmen, stated that requests for accounting of monies have gone unanswered since April of 2009. Attempts were made for an independent audit, however, no findings were found because supporting documents were not produced and requests for information were not being answered by members of the Library.

Jen Luiz, Town Accountant, stated that the email was intended for the Board's review and comment and questioned how the Library obtained a copy (it was noted by town counsel, that once an email is sent, it becomes public document). Further, Mrs. Luiz' tone in her responses was not intended to be offensive but was factual responses to questions raised in the past year and a half. Mrs. Luiz apologized to those who were offended by the email and suggested that an independent audit be performed immediately. All parties agreed that an independent audit be performed immediately.

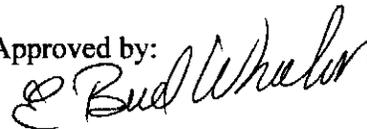
The Board thanked all for the participation in the meeting, offered no opinion relative to the email received and suggested that lines of communication be open and all parties work together to come to a resolution.

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded: E. Bud Whalon VOTED to adjourn at 7:29 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

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

Approved by:



Kerrie Easterday

From: Jennifer Luiz [jluiz@townofdighton.com]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2010 2:46 PM
To: Ed Reese; Tom Pires; Bud Whalon
Cc: kerrie easterday
Subject: Direct link to New Library website????

Good Afternoon,

I'm not sure if you have heard or are aware of the website regarding commonly asked questions about the New Dighton Library. **I urge you to PLEASE take a look at it...**

Start by going to the actual library website paid for by tax dollars <http://www.dightonlibrary.org/> once opened click on "**Commonly Asked Questions about the Dighton Library construction project**" to the right of the Eventkeeper.

Some of the information I'm seeing is not quite backed by facts and some information is just plain misleading, not sure if the BOS wants this information tied to a Town website , by doing so doesn't it give the Towns stamp of approval on the project and appearance of truth/facts???

Jenn

(My questions/comments are in Blue after the Library's answers in black)

Look at:

#1 "Where would the new library be located?

"This site had been granted to the Building Committee by the Board of Selectmen in September 2001"

I have looked back at the Selectmen's meetings from September 2001 (actually about a year and a half worth of minutes in and around this time frame) and on Sept. 5, 2001 the board met with the trustees and land was discussed " Mr. Perry stated that it may be dedicated or put on a shelf until you propose a library to the voters... He also stated that there is one more site in No. Dighton that bears looking into for a possible second choice" " Mr. Nelson stated he had no objections to the site " Mr. Costa did not comment on the land..... AND

Jocelyn just mentioned today that by the Town Voting to accept the "Preliminary design for a new Public Library building for the Town" (ATM 6-6-05) the Town actually voted to allow the building to be built on that land as well ... HHMMM not sure if I buy that one... I asked for a copy of the design that was accepted ... If they just held up that wonderful picture downstairs at Town Hall I don't buy it... I'm sure we could view the tape of the meeting if need be.

#2 "Who is on the Building Committee?"

part of this section references the Friends and "All spent monies collected on this project have been spent for the purposes of the project and ..."

I am still waiting for the invoices or proof of where \$20,000 in Dighton Power gift money went along with \$19,695.71 in ME/LIG State Grant money. So if they can't supply me with this information how can they truthfully state that all money has been spent for the purposes of the project ???? or are they withholding the information they have from me until after this vote takes place??

I am most concerned with the fact that the Trustees are part of this building committee (in their own words from their July 8, 2010 meeting the Building committee is a subcommittee of the Trustees"... as a Trustee and/or employee of the Library all gifts and donations must be turned in to the Town treasurer weekly but for the last 10+ years no gifts , donations, or funds that were raised for the Dighton Public Library Building where ever turned over to the Town, only the \$20,000 in Dighton Power gift money for a renovation project that never took place but money disappeared.

#3 "How much does this cost me?"

Not sure but doesn't Carol and the other Assessors set the tax rate for Dighton and have to get the approval from the DOR before broadcasting the information, it appears the Library has done it for them this year, and that the tax rate for FY11 will be the same as FY10????

#4 "What are the project costs?"

Does anyone know where they got their "revised Estimate from Sept 2010" ?? Was this done professionally ?? How is it that everything went up but the Escalation and Contingencies which decreased 50%?

#5 "How much has been raised?"

\$147,299.29 has been collected and confirmed to date.

I guess they don't count what they have "collected and spent" over the last 10 years ... and what happened to the "gifts and donations made to the Town for the project in the amount of \$1,696,000" (this is the amount they had used in Article 20 of the ATM 6-5-06 , with \$1,695,491 used in Article 29 of the STM 11-20-06) VERY little ever came into the TOWN for gifts and donations and what did was quickly used or removed from the Towns hands over the last 10years.