

**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARDS OF SELECTMEN/HEALTH
JUNE 6, 2012**

E. Bud Whalon called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: E. Bud Whalon, Dean V. Cronin and Thomas J. Pires

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Dean V. Cronin, seconded: Thomas J. Pires, VOTED to table the approval of meeting minutes for further review.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Approve Warrants

Motion: Dean V. Cronin, seconded: Thomas J. Pires, VOTED to approve the following warrants:

Warrant #049A-12	Payroll	\$	62,768.26
Warrant #049B-12	Vendor bills	\$	38,189.67

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Expenditure Detail The Board has nothing to report at this time.

Correspondence

The Tri Centennial Re-Enactment Committee extended their thanks and appreciation to the Dighton Police Department for help given during Founder's Day and the encampment at Sweets Knoll Farm.

The National Honor Society of the Bristol County Agricultural High School extended their thanks to the Dighton Police Department for their assistance during the Robert Kryszton Scholarship 5K Roadrace held on Sunday, May 20, 2012.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association thanked the Dighton Police Department for their assistance in transportation needs for the Fall River Area Lock Up fundraising held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012. The event raised over \$27,000.00.

The Board received notice from Rev. Timothy Goldrick that as of June 27, 2012 he will be transferred from Dighton to Falmouth making him unable to serve as Dighton's Chaplain for the Police Department.

Announcements were read.

Report of the Personnel Officer

Dean V. Cronin noted that the Board awaits the opinion of the Fire Chief prior to awarding the Ambulance bid. Motion: Dean V. Cronin, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to table the awarding of the Ambulance until the recommendation of the Fire Chief is received.

Voted: UNANIMOUS

Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District Assessment Letter

The Board received correspondence from Attorney Michael Long stating that the Regional School District Committee accepts the sum of \$984,440.83 with respect to the Town of Dighton's assessment for the fourth quarter of FY12, but the District in not way waives any future rights to enforce the provisions of law or the regional agreement relative to the budgetary process and assessments. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Dean V. Cronin VOTED to forward correspondence to Town Counsel for review.

Voted: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Vacation Carry Over Request

The Board received a request to carry over vacation time from Nancy Pinto. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Dean V. Cronin VOTED to approve the request of Nancy Pinto to transfer 70 hours (2 weeks) of vacation time from FY12 to FY13.

Voted: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Appointment of Ex Officio Member to the Dighton Water District

The Board received correspondence relative to the appointment of Thomas Pires as the Town's ex officio member of the Board of Trustees of the Water Resources Acquisition, Exploration and Development Trust. It was noted that said appointment must be a member of the Water District. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Dean V. Cronin, VOTED to table the matter for further review.

Voted: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Appointment of part time help for Highway Department

After receiving several applications and conducting interviews Highway Superintendent submitted his letter of recommendation to appoint Ian Crawford of North Dighton. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Dean V. Cronin, VOTED to appoint Ian Crawford as the Highway Department part time laborer with mechanical abilities effective June 13, 2012.

Voted: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Prime Time Revolving Fund

The Board received a request for assistance from Alice Souza, Director of Prime Time in approximately \$6,300.00 in building costs. Said shortage is due to the added expenditure of senior aids. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Dean V. Cronin, VOTED to approve the request for assistance of Alice Souza in the excess expenditures of \$6,300.00 for building repairs.

Voted: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Employee Complaints Towards Public Officials

June 6, 2012

At the request of the Board Thomas Medeiros appeared before the for the purpose of discussing complaints towards public officials. It should be noted that Mr. Medeiros requested the meeting to be in open session. Dean V. Cronin stated for the record that the matter is investigatory (fact finding mission) matter and not a discipline matter.

Dean V. Cronin read a letter submitted by Thomas Medeiros to the Taunton Gazette, Facebook and Dighton.com. Mr. Cronin asked what prompted the letter as it appears to be directed to two out of three Selectmen. Paul Medeiros, Fire Union representative stated that Mr. Medeiros submitted the letter for public knowledge and to make a statement that he and the Fire Department stand behind the Fire Chief. Mr. Cronin respects Mr. Medeiros' comments, however, questions if the contents of the letter is in the best interest of the Town. Mr. Medeiros believes so. When asked if it appeared that it was conduct unbecoming Mr. Medeiros stated no. Mr. Medeiros stands by his letter and his statement that he supports the Fire Chief.

Dean V. Cronin noted that the matter was before the Board because the Fire Chief refused any action until he spoke to Town Counsel. Mr. Cronin further explained that there was no need to approach Town Counsel as the matter could be handled through progressive discipline as per the Union contract.

Thomas Medeiros stated that E. Bud Whalon contacted the Fire Chief and told him to suspend Mr. Medeiros. E. Bud Whalon denied the allegation.

Shawn Urban, Lincoln Avenue noted that the matter falls under the Freedom of Information Act and that it appears the Board is following in the same footsteps as Rehoboth. Mr. Hendricks noted that he stands behind the Fire Department after they have saved his son's life 10 years ago. Brett Perry, Pleasant Street noted that he has been a life resident and as such has noted that the Fire Department works well together, and asks the Board not to destroy what has been built. Marjory Medeiros wanted to know what happened to freedom of speech.

Dean V. Cronin noted that no discipline is going to be issued as this was a fact finding interview and that the matter is now closed for further comment.

Motion: Thomas Pires, seconded Dean V. Cronin to adjourn at 8:09 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

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

Approved by:

 6/20/12