

TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARDS OF SELECTMEN/HEALTH
JULY 26, 2013

THIS MEETING WAS NOT AUDIO TAPED NOR VIDEO RECORDED.

Chairman Cronin entertained a motion that the Selectmen come out of Executive Session when at 10:32AM the Board reconvened. The motion was made by Selectman Thomas Pires and seconded by Selectman Patrick W. Menges, and a roll call vote upon it was unanimous, viz:

Selectman Pires, AYE
Selectman Menges, AYE
Selectman Cronin, AYE

Wherefore a public session began, attended also by Nancy Goulart, the Selectmen's liaison to the Department of Transportation concerning the Brook Street Bridge Replacement Project, Pamela Marquis and Linda Walsh of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and Superintendent Thomas Ferry of the Dighton Highway Department.

Mrs. Goulart talked at length to the Department of Transportation representatives present about Brook Street Bridge Project easements. None had been donated, she said. She also talked about the process of compensating the easement grantors and obtaining their signatures for payments, etc. (See state checklist for process.) Mrs. Goulart asked, answered, explained, and commented upon the easement acquisitions in the presence of the Selectmen.

The Department of Transportation representatives spoke about the process as well. A vote of the Selectmen for recordation of the easements will be needed on Wednesday, 14, August 2013 [the next anticipated regular meeting of the Selectmen following preparatory work]; the next day, Thursday, 15 August, will be the deadline for submission of required newspaper advertising. Concerning the present/extant status of the Brook Street Bridge Project, section peer reviews are under weigh.¹

Mrs. Goulart said that she would ask Attorney John Holgerson to schedule a special meeting of the Selectmen for a vote on recordation. Selectman Menges vigorously objected to the suggestion that the expense of any attorney was necessary to schedule a Selectmen's meeting. "These ladies [the DOT representatives present] have said that a vote on recordation can be taken at the Board's regular meeting on August 14th, in time to place the ad with the newspaper before Friday. We are driving the train and we have the brains to schedule the vote without the expense of a lawyer to do it for us...."

Mrs. Goulart stated, "I'm not trying to run up the expense of the lawyer – it is time for Mr. Holgerson's involvement in the process." [Subsequent correspondence from Mrs. Goulart clarified that Mr. Holgerson's services are needed – not to schedule a recordation vote – but to write the order of taking for the easements before a recordation vote.]

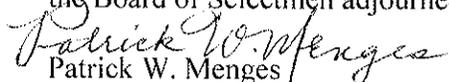
¹ "Under weigh" is a naval term for a vessel at sail because the weight of its raised anchor is on deck; hence the spelling. PWM

Mr. Menges said that some actions should be taken at regular meetings of the Selectmen to avoid a backlog of undone minutes of special meetings that could result in voiding of Selectmen's actions by the Attorney general for lack of minutes required by the Open Meeting Law. Selectman Pires agreed.

A question was asked about the construction over the Taunton River of a new Dighton-Berkley Bridge. Said Linda Walsh, "It's going to be slow."

There followed much conversation about how the new Brook Street Bridge construction project would be awarded and how the Bridge will be built. Finally, it was stated that Attorney Holgerson must have necessary documents to Dighton by 5 August.

Upon a motion of Selectmen Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges, and voted unanimously, the Board of Selectmen adjourned at 11:25 o'clock AM.


Patrick W. Menges
Clerk of the Board of Selectmen