

TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARDS OF SELECTMEN
DIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, 395 MAIN STREET
9 AUGUST 2013, 11:00 O'CLOCK AM

THIS MEETING WAS NOT AUDIO TAPED NOR VIDEO RECORDED.

The Board of Selectmen met with the Trustees and staff of the Dighton Public Library and the Building Commissioner and Fire Chief at the library building at 395 Main Street, on Friday, 9 August 2013. Present were: Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Dean V. Cronin, Selectman Thomas J. Pires, Clerk of the Selectmen Patrick W. Menges, Library Trustees' Chairman Ron O'Connor, Library Trustee Eva Marie Cabral, Library Director Jocelyn Tavares, Library Staff member Phyllis Haskell, Library Staff member Scott Haskell, and Kimberly Greelish-Rust, and Building Commissioner James D. Aguiar, Jr., [Chief of the Fire Department Antone Roderick, Jr., arrived after the meeting had begun.]

Jocelyn Tavares minuted the meeting for the Board of Library Trustees.

Chairman Cronin called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM, and stated that he was turning the meeting over to Building Commissioner Aguiar. Commissioner Aguiar stated that he and the Fire Chief had toured/inspected the Library building.

Commissioner Aguiar said that in past years safety enforcement at the Public Library had been lax. The building, he said, was not code compliant, and violations put the building and its contents in jeopardy.

All that had changed on Tuesday when he and the Fire Chief inspected the Library, the Commissioner said; he was taken aback by what he saw. After the walkthrough the Commissioner instructed the Librarian to take "band-aid" measures; these were only short-term, immediate measures. More must be done. The Commissioner inveighed a collaboration between the library Trustees and the Selectmen to rectify the situation. He said that today's meeting was an opportunity to get everybody's concerns. He then invited discussion.

Chairman Cronin asked Commissioner Aguiar to enumerate specific safety violations. The Commissioner said lack of exit signs; lack of emergency lightings; basement never intended to be occupied; egress in basement not code compliant – must be brought up to code; east end of lower level next to furnace room is a "dead end" without secondary egress nor emergency responder access and has therefore been closed since the inspection Tuesday; extreme accumulation of paper/flammables, an "accident waiting to happen". Commissioner Aguiar said, noting the late arrival of Fire Chief Roderick, "The Chief may have more to say, about the fire alarm, etc." The Fire Chief entered the Reading Room, but did not immediately comment.

The meeting was recessed for the Selectmen to visit and view the second floor of the Library.

The meeting reconvened after the Selectmen had visited the second floor. Much bombast ensued including valuation of the Library's historical materials, the Library's suitability for Community Preservation Funds, the possibility of expanding the building south onto former Zeneca property which would necessitate relocation of the Library's present sewer; and historical discussion.

Asked for summary of concerns, the Building Commissioner said that a terraced egress for the northeast corner of the lower level and a "doghouse" upright door and exit sign for the west lower level egress were essential. He said that an immediate problem of accumulated/stored material blocking the west lower level egress stairs had been taken care of at his request by the library staff since his inspection Tuesday.

Selectman Cronin asked how quickly Commissioner Aguiar and the Fire Chief could furnish a complete list of code violations to the Selectmen and the Library Trustees. Commissioner Aguiar said that he would have it for the Boards at the beginning of next week (week of 18 August).

The Library Trustees indicated that they would take up this matter at their Monday, 18 August meeting, attempt to place a dollar value on the code compliance measures needed, including possibly, as several times during the meeting suggested by the Fire Chief, a climate controlled storage pod, and that they would prepare a presentation of their contemplated compliance efforts for the Selectmen's televised Wednesday, 14 August 2013 meeting.

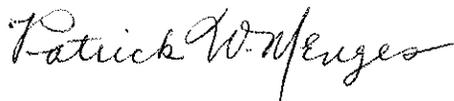
Selectman Menges asked the Trustees to obtain a price for installation of fire suppression sprinklers on all three Library floors.

Selectman Cronin said, "Just look around – who are the majority of your Library patrons? Children. What is more important than the children's safety?"

The meeting was adjourned without day, at 11:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Boards of Selectmen
Patrick W. Menges, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick W. Menges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.