

**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 8, 2014**

Dean V. Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: Dean V. Cronin, Thomas J. Pires and Patrick W. Menges

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was honored for the passing of Gilbert J. Lopes, Sr.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED to approve the meeting minutes of December 18, 2013 – Regular Meeting.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED to approve the meeting minutes of December 23, 2013 – FY15 Preliminary Budget Review.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Approve Warrants

Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges, VOTED to approve the following warrants:

Warrant #028A-14	Payroll	\$	72,481.45
Warrant #028B-14	Vendor bills	\$	80,547.48
Warrant #028C-14	Vendor bills	\$	3,328.00

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Expenditure Detail

NONE

Correspondence

Please be advised, MAS Building & Bridge, Inc., will be starting work on the Brook Street Bridge project on January 27, 2014. The section of road between 349 Brook Street and 383 Brook Street will be closed on January 27, 2014 and will not be re-opened until further notice. This section of road will be impassable for any vehicle and appropriate barricade will be installed to prevent vehicles from passing.

Dighton is preparing its comprehensive Master Plan and cordially invites the public to share ideas on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 7:00PM-9:30PM at the John VanGyzen Hall, 495 School Street, North Dighton. More information may be obtained from the Planning Department at (508) 669-6636 or hswist@townofdighton.com.

The Town Clerk now has dog licenses available as required by state law. It was noted, all kennel licenses are now required to have the Animal Control Officer and/or Building Inspector inspect prior to issuance. For more information please contact the Town Clerk at (508) 669-5411.

The Board extended their gratitude to Kelsey Kolic for her generous \$250.00 donation to the Animal Shelter.

The Department of Fire Services in conjunction with Fire Chief Antone Roderick, Jr., would like to urge able residents to shovel snow away from fire hydrants in case access to them is needed quickly. Additionally, clear snow from furnace and dryer vents and from vehicle tailpipes. An educational video may be obtained at <http://youtu.be/7Yy9zXsawCA>.

The Department of Fire Services in conjunction with Fire Chief Antone Roderick, Jr., would like to issue a fire safety warning as we enter into extreme cold weather. Please make sure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working properly, do not use extension cords with heat producing appliances, properly use wood, coal and pellet stoves, as well as, generators, use flashlights and battery-operated candles, prevent freezing pipes and consider going to a shelter to charge up cell phones for emergency calls. For more information please visit www.mass.gov/dfs or <http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe>.

The Massachusetts 'Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association (MTWFA) thanks the Town for nominating Thomas Ferry for the Tree Warden of the Year, but regret that is not chosen for this round. MTWFA encourages the Town to submit his name again in the future.

Announcements were read.

Review/Discuss/Act: Award Bid for Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting for the Dighton Library

Ron O'Connor appeared before the Board with regards to awarding the bid for the Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting for the Dighton Library. Mr. O'Connor would like to thank the Building Commissioner, the Fire Chief, the Board of Selectmen and the Town voters for their approval. The Library has rented a storage pod for various materials.

The Board received and read the Board of Trustees of the Dighton Public Library. Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED to award the bid for the Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting for the Dighton Library to National Security as recommended by the Dighton Library Board of Trustees, Building Commissioner and Fire Chief.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

It was noted that National Security was not the lowest bidder but fulfilled all requirements.

Annual Town Election Notification

Annual Town Election is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 12, 2014 at the Dighton Elementary School 8:00AM to 6:00PM. Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's office on Thursday, January 2, 2014 through 5:00PM February 20, 2014. The deadline to return nomination papers to the Town Clerk is 5:00PM on Monday, February 24,

2014. For a name to be placed on the ballot, it is necessary to obtain at least twenty-eight (28) signatures of registered voters (MGL Ch. 53, Section 6).

Review/Discuss/Act: Impose Supplemental (Occupancy Real Estate Tax)

Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED that the Town of Dighton rescind its vote of May 2, 2012 to reject the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 2D and make those provisions applicable in the Town for fiscal years that begin on or after July 1, 2014.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Snow Removal Over-Expenditure

Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED to approve, if necessary, Thomas Ferry, Highway Superintendent, has permission to over expend the voted appropriation of \$50,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2014.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

The matter will be referred to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Review/Discuss/Act: Memorandum for Record re: Stabilization Account

The Board would like to state for the record that it is the objective of the Board to ask the Town annually to transfer to the stabilization account ten (10%) percent of the fiscal year end's certified unexpended free cash. Motion: Patrick W. Menges, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to adopt the Memorandum as read.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

Review/Discuss/Act: Respond to Tax Rate Increase, Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Review Process

Over the weekend the residents received their real estate tax bill reflecting a substantial increase. Last year, the Town lost \$24 million in residential value and abandoned homes. The Board is not insensitive to the heavy burden placed on the residential property owners and is keenly aware of the situation. As such, the Board has had extensive meetings with Department Heads to ensure that each department is budgeting at the lowest possible cost to run their department and emphasize the ultimate goal. There are some increase to line items that are out of the Board's hands (i.e., insurance) but cost savings are being sought everywhere. The Board thanked all Department Heads and Elected Officials for their cooperation and support.

The Board accepts the responsibility and is aware of the plight of the residents, but would like to remind residents that ultimately it is up to the voters to attend the town meetings and insist in obtaining information, question expenditures and cast your vote.

Review/Discuss/Act: Signing of Tri-Centennial Book

It was with great honor that the Board sign a Tri-Centennial Book to Brian Carvalho at Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School District (BPRTSD) for the largest publication done at BPRTSD).

Review/Discuss/Act: Future North Dighton Playground

Timothy Rhines and Dave Rosa appeared before the Board seeking support to install a playground on Chase & Summer Streets, north of the Jennings Memorial. The land is a mixed use parcel and the proposed playground would be for ages toddler years to 15 and be fully enclosed with a fence. Funding for the project is currently being researched. The baseball and softball fields will remain as is. The Board is not inclined to give the Playground Committee its decision until area residents are heard. An informational meeting inviting said residents will be arranged.

Review/Discuss/Act: Industrial Development Finance Authority

Motion: Patrick W. Menges, seconded: Thomas J. Pires VOTED to appoint Mary Hathaway as member to the Industrial Development Finance Committee.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

The Board still needs two more members: one Real Estate Representative and one At-Large member.

Public Input

The Board is proud to attend the Code of Honor this Sunday in recognition of Brandon Shileikis for the creation of the Dighton Tri-Centennial Park on Pleasant Street.

The Board would like to thank the Shileikis brothers in escorting Ruth Leonard during the December 18, 2013 meeting honoring her dog Aggie.

Timothy Rhines would like to thank the Fire Chief for his response to his home over the holidays.

Adjournment

In memory of Gilbert J. Lopes, Sr., for his philanthropy and contribution to the Town of Dighton and surrounding communities, Motion: Thomas J. Pires, seconded: Patrick W. Menges VOTED to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

Vote: UNANIMOUS

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

Approved by:

Patrick W. Menges
Thomas Pires