

The following Meeting was video and audio recorded for Airing on Channel 9

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by chairman Pacheco

Present: Chairman Pacheco, Selectman Zografos, Town Administrator Michael Mullen and Executive Assistant Karin Brady

Selectman Hull was absent.

Also Present: Dighton Water District Commissioners Jason Quin, Derek Lach and Jeff Cloonan, Dighton Trails Committee member Rachel Conti, Taunton River Stewardship Council member Bill Napolitano, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Superintendent Anthony Azar,

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Scheduled Appointments

Jeffrey Carvalho Dighton Trails Committee

Rachel Conti said the Taunton River Stewardship has funded the Trails Feasibility study in full. She said they applied for the grant and they were awarded \$40,000.00. She said they would be returning \$40,000.00 that was voted at Town meeting to the town.

Bill Napolitano of SRPEDD said the Trails Committee has been working so diligently on connecting their trail. He said he works with the Taunton River Stewardship and had urged the Trails Committee to apply for the grant. Mr. Napolitano said it was a unanimous vote by the Council.

Rachel Conti thanked the Stewardship and Mr. Carvalho for his work on this grant.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOLED** to accept the \$40,000.00 in funding for the Trails Committee Feasibility Study from the Taunton River Stewardship Council.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Certificates of Recognition

Chairman Pacheco said this agenda item was a result of a letter written by Nicole Mello recognizing the school nurses in the town.

Chairman Pacheco read the Certificates of Recognition for Allison Alberto, Dawn Daily, Therese Hutson, Cathy Mondor, Denise Wilkins and Alyson Bellora.

TOWN CLERK
DIGTON, MA
JMS

2022 FEB 7 PM 1:11

RECEIVED

Mr. David Derrig

Chairman Pacheco read the letter from Mr. Derrig regarding a donation of \$250.00 to the James Briggs Garden Project. He explained that the garden is really coming along and the garden would supply food to the food bank and the residents at Lincoln Village.

Mr. David Derrig said it was great to hear of the progress at the community garden and he was happy to come and help out at the garden.

Chairman Pacheco thanked Mr. Derrig and said the money would be used to purchase plants.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the donation for the James Briggs Garden in the amount of \$250.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Certificates of Recognition for Lt. Tom Medeiros and Lieutenant Joseph White

Selectman Zografos read the Certificate of Recognition for Lt. Thomas Medeiros and Lt. Joseph White.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the Certificates of Recognition.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Chairman Pacheco thanked Lt. Medeiros and Lt White for their service and he appreciated everything that they have done for the town.

Chief Maguy said Lt Medeiros will be needed for many things at the fire Department. He is always assisting.

Chief Maguy said Lt. White will be missed and this was a big loss for the Fire Department.

Tom Medeiros said it was a privilege to be trusted to take care of the residents in town. He said as long as he can physically be there for the department, he will be and he appreciated the recognition.

Joint Meeting with Dighton Water District

Present: Jason Quin, Derek Lach and Jeff Cloonan

Jeff Cloonan said the rates have stayed pretty flat since 2009. He said the capital has been used as a tool to keep rates down. Mr. Cloonan said that may not have been the best idea and we are feeling the pain now.

Mr. Cloonan said there are filters that should be rehabbed every 10-15 years. He said we took a look at them and found we needed to address this and we are on the last one now. Mr. Cloonan said we have also been doing some ground water explanation. He said the two big projects will be the purchase of

the water supply on Brook Street and the Main Street Water Replacement Project. Mr. Cloonan said we are also still paying for the water treatment plant.

Mr. Cloonan said the Water District did a study and this is what Woodward and Curran and we came up with for rates. He said this is the first year with the rate study and with the new structure we are anticipating the taxes will go down.

Jason Quinn, said this is worst case scenario. He said this has been years of not doing any capital improvements. He said we are trying to make things better.

Derek Lach, said we did not make the rates up. It was the result of over a year's worth of work with Woodward and Curran. He said we cannot keep putting bandaids on Main Street.

Chairman Pacheco asked if the infrastructure bill that Congress passed will help with this.

Mr. Cloonan said we were able to secure a SRF low interest rate loan. Mr. Lach said Woodward and Curran will be working with us to secure any grants that are out there.

Selectman Zografos asked how much additional revenue will be raised as a result of the increase.

Jeff Cloonan said we are still paying on the treatment plant which will be paid in 2026. He said our operating budget is 2.1 million. Derek said with the new rates we will be putting \$250,000.00 into stabilization.

Chairman Pacheco read the letter from Robert Perry, 1531 Stanzone Drive.

Mr. Perry asked in his letter why the massive increases are required? Jeff Cloonan said from 2009 to now we have not seen any increase. He said that was irresponsible and should have been happening every 2-3 years.

Mr. Perry also asked what will the new revenues fund? Mr. Cloonan said Main Street Water Replacement and purchase of well.

Mr. Perry's letter also asked if the Water Commissioners have a plan? Mr. Lach said, "Yes, there is a Master Plan located at the Treatment Plant."

Mr. Robert Perry, 1531 Stanzone Drive, said his questions were answered. He appreciated the time and input from the commissioners.

Derek Ashton – 1847 Somerset Avenue, said he has Somerset Water. He has Somerset water and wanted to share his bill. Per thousand gallons he pays \$570.00. His bill per quarter is \$140.28.

Chairman Pacheco thanked the Water Commissioners.

Announcements

Chairman Pacheco read the Annual Town election Notice with expiring terms.

Selectman Zografos read the rest of the announcements.

Town Administrators Report

Establishment of a Dighton Financial Dashboard

Mr. Mullen said he has created a Financial Dashboard with highlights of the town's financial position.

He went over the information contained in the Financial Dashboard document.

Selectman Zografos thanked Mr. Mullen and the Town Accountant for their efforts.

Mr. Mullen said he and Town Accountant Janelle Vining would like to give an update on revenues and a year-to-date review of local receipt revenues and expenditures.

Town Accountant Janelle Vining went over the Revenue Analysis Report and the expected revenues. She said the financial team will update the board again in mid -February.

Selectman Zografos asked for further explanation of the Ambulance Fund. Janelle said taking out \$650,000.00 was a substantial amount and because the revenues were \$540,000.00, it was not sustainable. Selectman Zografos asked that the Ambulance Fund not be used for budgetary expenses.

Chairman Pacheco agreed with Selectman Zografos.

Mr. Mullen said he, the Treasurer/Collector and the Town Clerk met with member of the State Auditor's Office regarding a research project about special districts in town and how they interact with us.

Selectmen's Report

Community Impact Fee Meeting

Selectman Zografos said the Community impact meeting was held and it seemed the consensus was that we need to implement some sort of Community Impact Fee. He said the Water District will send us their fee schedule for new connections and our Building Commissioner will speak to the Woburn Building Inspector about Community Impact Fees. Selectman Zografos also said that Ms. Goulart would be connecting with the Department of Revenue regarding this subject.

Superintendent Search – Selectman Hull

Selectman Hull submitted a written report that the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District Superintendent Selection Committee met and the interviews that will be taking place over the next week.

Chairman Pacheco said he attended the Pandemic Reopening Task Force meeting and the committee will be dissolving. He said matters will be handled by the Emergency Management Committee. He said we have given the Town Administrator permission to attend the meetings and pass along information to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Zografos thanked the Pandemic Reopening Task Force for all of their efforts in getting our building re-opened very quickly and we have been able to stay open throughout. He commended them for their work.

Chairman Pacheco said he attended the Capital Outlay Committee meeting and they will be meeting again in February to discuss plans. He thanked Mr. Mullen for his involvement.

Chairman Pacheco said the next Board of Selectmen's meeting would be on January 26, and was planned to be Zoom as well. He thought that by the end of January the COVID numbers would go down and the meetings beginning in February would be able to be in person and via Zoom.

Selectman Zografos said he reached out to School Committee members to see if there was interest and he was waiting to hear back from them. He said we would all prefer to have an in-person meeting, but he supported Selectman Pacheco's decision.

New Business:

Board of Health – Proposed Appointment of Barbara Catabia

Chairman Pacheco read the letter recommending Barbara Catabia to the position. He also read a letter from Mrs. Barbara Catabia expressing interest in the position.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to appoint Mrs. Barbara Catabia to fill the unexpired term of Matthew Tanis on the Board of Health.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Proposed Acceptance of Highway Department Joint Salt Bid

Selectman Zografos motioned that the Board of Selectmen award the Joint Purchase Salt Bid to the Eastern Minerals salt based on the bid outlined in the packet at, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Highway Superintended Request to Deficit Spend for Snow and Ice

Chairman Pacheco read the memorandum from town Administrator Michael Mullen with regard to the request from the Highway Superintendent to overspend the snow/ice budget.

Highway Superintendent said it is a routine practice

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the request of the Highway Department Superintendent to overspend the snow/ice account for the 2021/2022 winter season.

Selectman Zografos said he felt this was not controversial and supported this as always.

Selectman Pacheco agreed.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Wage Classification Study Contract-HR Key Solutions

Chairman Pacheco said we agreed with the Clerical Union during negotiations to conduct a wage study.

Mr. Mullen gave some background information for HR Key Solutions, and Mary Beth Bernard who will be conducting the survey. He said the survey will be conducted in the month of March and completed by May.

Selectman Zografos thanked the Town Administrator for making this one of his priorities.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the contract with HR Key Solutions in the amount of \$5,700.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Amendment to Pure Oasis Host Community Agreement

Mr. Mullen said we found out after execution of the agreement that there was a typographical error. The name should be Pure Oasis Grow LLC.

Chairman Pacheco asked about the changes outlined in number 4.

Selectman Zografos motioned, chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the amendment to the Host Community Agreement with Pure Oasis Grow LLC as prepared this evening.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Town of Dighton and Coalition of Police – Agreement of Consent Election

Chairman Pacheco read the letter from Mass COP.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen voluntarily recognize the Dighton Public Safety Dispatchers, Mass Cop as the exclusive bargaining representative for all full-time dispatchers and dispatch supervisors as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Resignation of Gayle Salve from the Dighton Historical Commission

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Gayle Salve form the Dighton Historical Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Minutes

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting of December 22, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting of December 29, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s special meeting of January 5, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting of January 12, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Warrants

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #28A-22 in the amount of \$114,731.18, Warrant 28B-22 in the amount of \$66,969.19 and Warrant 28C-22 in the amount of \$3,485.53 all dated January 12, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #29A-22 in the amount of \$99,117.24 and Warrant 29B-22 in the amount of \$324,952.44 both dated January 19, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Public Input

None.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

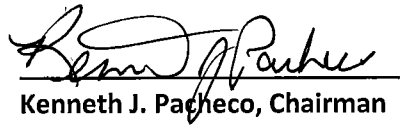
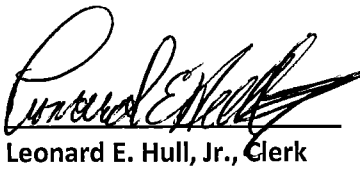
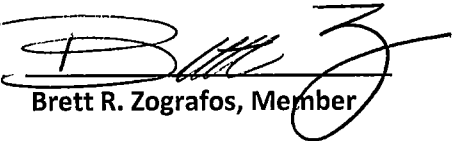
Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Executive Assistant

Board of Selectmen

		
Kenneth J. Pacheco, Chairman	Leonard E. Hull, Jr., Clerk	Brett R. Zografos, Member

Documents Reviewed:

- Letter from the Taunton River Stewardship Council approving funding for Dighton Trails feasibility study.
- Dighton Trails TRSC funding Proposal
- Certificate of Recognition Allison Alberto
- Certificate of Recognition Dawn Dailey
- Certificate of Recognition Therese D. Hudson
- Certificate of Recognition Cathy Mondor
- Certificate of Recognition Denise Wilkins
- Certificate of Recognition Alyson Bellora
- Letter from David Derrig regarding donation to the James Briggs Garden Project
- Certificate of recognition Lt. Thomas Medeiros
- Certificate of Recognition Lt. Joseph White
- Letter from Robert Perry, 1531 Stanzone Drive to the Board of Water Commissioners regarding rates
- Water District Proposed Water Rates
- Water District Proposed projects
- Annual Town Election Flyer
- Important Updates on COVID 19 flyer
- Election Worker Application Form
- Important Voter Information
- Parking Ban Information
- Dighton Burning Permit Information
- Dighton Financial Dashboard document
- Town of Dighton FY23 Budget Revenue Analysis Power Point document
- Email regarding meeting with State Auditor and Dighton Water District and North Dighton Fire District
- Letter from the Board of Health recommending Ms. Barbara Catabia to fill Board of Health position
- Letter of Interest from Ms. Barbara Catabia
- Barbara Catabia Resume and Application

Letter from Medfield Board of Selectmen regarding Joint Purchase Salt Bid Award
Joint Salt Bid Documents
Memo to the Board of Selectmen from Town Administrator Michael Mullen regarding overspending the Snow and Ice Budget
Letter from Highway Superintendent Thomas Ferry requesting to Overspend the Snow and Ice Budget
MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D
Snow and Ice Control Budget
Tax Recapitulation Sheet outlining Snow and Ice Deficit
Contract for Services HR Key Solutions
Host Community Agreement Pure Oasis, LLC
Notice of Voluntary Recognition for Dighton Public Safety Dispatchers from the Town of Dighton
Letter from MassCOP
Resignation Letter from Gayle Salve from the Dighton Historical Commission
Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of December 22, 2021
Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of December 29, 2021
Minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 5, 2022
Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 12, 2022