



The following meeting was videotaped and audio recorded.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday February 8, 2023

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA 02715

And via Zoom

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Hull.

Chairman Hull mentioned that the meeting was being recorded and He gave Zoom login instructions and instructions for providing public input.

Roll Call:

Chairman Hull, present.

Ken Pacheco present via Zoom.

Selectman Caron, present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was Recited.

Moment of Silence

A moment of Silence was requested for Kay Nawlicki, Alfred Pacheco and Paige Correia.

Scheduled Appointments

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing – Application for New Liquor License

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into a Public Hearing – Application for New Liquor License for Dave’s Fast Mart.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Hull said this hearing was continued from the last Board of Selectmen’s meeting, and is regarding a new application for liquor license for Dave’s Fast Mart, 420 Somerset Avenue.

Chairman Hull asked for Public Input.

There was no public input.

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the liquor license for Dave’s Fast Mart at 420 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA.

6:05 p.m. Jeff Carvalho – Dighton Trails Committee Chairman

Mr. Carvalho was requesting the approval of the Board of Selectmen for the dedication of a park bench located at the bus turnround on Route 138 in Dighton to Mr. Ralph Cox.

Mr. Carvalho said Kellie Cox was the winner of the logo contest for the Dighton Trails Committee. He said the strawberry in the logo was a nod to Dighton's history, the Council Oak was also included and the trails connecting the town. The Trails Committee asked Kelly what she would like as a reward for being the winner. Ms. Cox asked if we would dedicate a bench to her late father-in-law Ralph Cox who raised six kids in Dighton.

Mr. Carvalho said the dedication, if approved would be held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday Feb 13.

There were no questions from the board.

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the dedication of a bench at the Dighton/Somerset line on Route 138 in honor of Ralph Cox.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

6:15 p.m. - Library Building Committee

Library Project Update

Chairman Hull said he would allow public input after the presentation by Library Trustee Chairman Ron O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor gave a short speech regarding the origination of the library in Dighton. He presented a Power Point presentation and an overview of the budget for exterior renovations.

Holli Roache of Granite City Partners, presented a proposed action plan for planned interior renovations and installation of ducted mini-split HVAC systems throughout the building.

She said the historic characteristics of the building are being preserved as they go along by using some of the original bead board.

Joe Shea of Granite City Partners, presented the proposed budget for the interior renovation project moving forward. He said the Library Building Committee would be coming forward to validate each step in the process of the project. He said the majority of the \$800,000.00 budget is HVAC and General Contracting. Joe said following the cost estimating, the next step would be to look for non – Dighton funding.

Mr. Mullen said when we first began talking about the project, we placed an imperative on trying to identify and secure non-local funding. He said, in the last 10 months we have been diligent in securing funding. Last June and July the town spent \$790,000 for building acquisition and we also received \$200,000 in the form of a state earmark.

Mr. Mullen said later on in this agenda is a proposed approval of a \$27,000 grant submitted by the Library Director, Jocelyn Tavares. He said we have submitted a grant for the \$200,000 cost of HVAC improvements and we are hoping to receive that as well. Mr. Mullen said if we have a successful CPC application that would bring the final Dighton cost down to \$200,000. He said the omnibus legislation has loosened up controls on ARPA funding. Mr. Mullen said we are waiting to see exactly how the

Treasury will loosen up those funds and see what the towns remaining ARPA funding will be in terms of an opportunity for the library.

Mr. Mullen said the next few months would be very busy. He said if that is all in place by June 2023, that would put us on track to put the remaining part of the project out for procurement in late 2023. The end date of 2024 is contingent upon a lot of moving parts.

Mr. Mullen said this project is continuing to evolve on a weekly basis. He said, we as a town, can feel confident that the numbers that we have now can guide the project going forward.

Chairman Hull asked for comments and questions.

Selectman Pacheco thanked everyone for the presentation. He said we have a great opportunity to have a new library and he supported the project 100%.

Selectman Caron asked why we needed stairs if we have ramps. He also commented that the furniture cost is a big number to be hanging out there.

Selectman Caron asked what if the ifs don't work out. He said we will be left with a library that we can't finish.

Mr. Mullen said at some point we do have an \$800,000.00 building that the town indicated they would like to see become the library.

Chairman Hull thanked Granite City Partners and Building Commissioner Aguiar for managing Phase I.

Chairman Hull asked about the Building Commissioner weekend overtime. Mr. Aguiar said he came in to open up the building and give the contractor access to the building on the weekends in order to take advantage of the weather. He said the building would not be as far as it is, had that not happened.

Chairman Hull said the one piece he felt was missing, was where the Library Building Committee reached out to the community to become a part of the project through capital funding drives.

Mr. O'Connor said the Library Building Committee hasn't discussed this as of yet, but it is an important step. He said we want to get the building in the condition to invite people in at some point. Mr. O'Connor said there are many feasible options.

Chairman Hull said he had major concerns about Phase II of the project. We made a promise that we would complete this library without affecting the taxpayers. He asked Mr. Shea and Mr. Aguiar to look at the project with the funds that we do have, not funds in question.

Chairman Hull said that he received a report from the Town Accountant for which he had questions.

Chairman Hull asked if Open Space funds could be transferred. Kevin Smith said no.

Mr. Mullen said the available resources would be \$329,346.00 plus the \$23,376.87 in FY23 the existing available funds to fund the library project. At the beginning of next fiscal year, there will be another \$82,500.

Kevin Smith said the money that comes in each year, allocates approximately \$12,500 to each fund. He said CPC will meet next Thursday the 16th to discuss the application. Nothing has been pledged to the project so far.

There was discussion regarding funding.

Kevin Smith, 1147 Center Street, asked about the HVAC (13 units) was addressing both levels of the library.

Public Input

None.

Announcements

Announcements were read by Selectman Pacheco.

Selectmen's Reports

Selectman Pacheco had none.

Selectman Caron had no report.

Chairman Hull

Chairman Hull said the Main Street project crossed Route 138 today and Phase I was almost complete. He said the Water District meeting tomorrow had been moved to 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Hull said the Citizen Financial Advisory Committee has begun meeting and would present a budget to the Finance Committee.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Mullen said the Town Accountant and I have begun departmental budget review meetings and we will continue these meetings over the next few weeks.

He said in the last two weeks we have been dedicating significant amounts of time in applying for grants and he wanted to recognize Jocelyn Tavares for her work on the library grant and the Fire Chief for submitting a grant to FEMA which could replace the breathing apparatus for our Firefighters. Mr. Mullen said we need to apply for these grants in order to achieve our goals.

Old Business:

Council on Aging Items for Surplus Disposal

Mr. Mullen said at the last meeting there was a question about what would be declared surplus. He said all items would be declared surplus. Mr Aguiar went over the auction process

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Council on Aging items for surplus as outlined.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

New Business:

Mass Cultural Council Cultural Sector Grant Recovery in the amount of \$26,660.00

Ms. Tavares said this grant was based on if your organization was impacted by COVID. She thought we had a good case, so she applied. She was pleasantly surprised at the amount of money. She said the grant is unrestricted so it can be used for anything and can be applied to some of the items mentioned earlier.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the Mass Cultural Council Cultural Sector Recovery grant in the amount of \$26,660.00 and to appoint Town Administrator Mullen to be the signatory for the contract

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Request to Appoint Elizabeth Moreira as the Board of Health Office Manager

Chairman Nicole Mello said the screening committee screened candidates and the Board of Health recommended Ms. Moreira

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectmen Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Ms. Elizabeth Moreira as the new Board of Health Office Manager.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Request to Appoint Two (2) Special Police Officers

Chairman Hull read a letter from Chief Shawn Cronin to appoint two Special Police Officers.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Joanne Larrabee and Robert Brassard, Jr as Special Police Officers.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Request for Bristol County Retirement Board COLA Increase

Chairman Hull read the letter from the Bristol County Retirement Board.

Chairman Hull said his understanding was that this would affect very few people.

Mr. Mullen said it would affect all of the current retirees.

Mr. Mullen said we did reach out to see the impact on FY23 and FY24 assessments and it would not have an impact at all.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to vote to approve the additional 2% COLA for FY2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.

Changes to Transfer Station Sticker Requirements

Mr. Mullen said we spoke with CMRK, our new textile and home goods recycler and they have agreed to pick up old books and household items.

Mr. Mullen said one of the concerns with the bins at the Transfer station, was that it would be more difficult for residents. We have the ability to require a sticker for all items at the transfer station.

Mr. Mullen said there is an 800 number to call to make an appointment with CMRK in conjunction with Big Brother Big Sister. He said this is not a service provided by Borges Brothers.

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to reconsider the vote not to require stickers for book donations.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Solid Waste Advisory Committee request to require a sticker for all items at the Transfer Station.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.

Public Input

None.

Warrants

Selectman Caron read the warrant amounts as follows: Warrant #31A-23 in the amount of \$119,593.81, Warrant #31B-23 in the amount of \$406,846.17 and Warrant #31C-23 in the amount of \$2,146.97, all dated February 1, 2023.

Warrant #32A-23 in the amount of \$109 157.81 and Warrant #32B-23 in the amount of \$445,863.50, both dated February 8, 2023.

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrants dated February 1 and February 8, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.

Council on Aging

A letter from COA office Manager Laura Medeiros was read regarding an anonymous donation that was received by the Council on Aging Prime Time office.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the gift on behalf of Karen Thibeault to the COA in the amount of \$50.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.

Mark Pacheco Letter of Resignation from Land Use Committee

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation letter from Mark Pacheco from the Land Use Committee

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.

Minutes

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting minutes of January 25, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.

Executive Session

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)(3)(7).

2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

a. Library Director, per MGL Chapter 78, Section 34

3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

a. Dighton Town Clerical Union

7 To comply with or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

a. Executive Session Minutes

Approval of the Board of Selectmen's Executive Session minutes of January 25, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

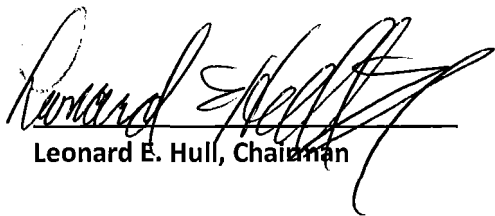
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.


Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Executive Assistant

Board of Selectmen


Leonard E. Hull, Chairman

Peter D. Caron, Clerk


Kenneth J. Pacheco, Member

Documents Reviewed:

Packet from Jafarian Law to ABCC filed on behalf of Dave's Fast Mart

Email from Jeff Carvalho regarding request for dedication of bench to Mr. Ralph Cox.

Library Building Committee Update Power Point Presentation

Parking Ban Announcement

Dog Licensing Application Announcement

Open Space Volunteers Needed Announcement

Council on Aging Request to Dispose of Surplus Items

Mass Cultural Council Grant to Dighton Library

Request by Board of Health to Appoint Elizabeth Moreira as Office Manager to the Board of Health

Request by Police Chief Shawn Cronin to Appoint Two Special Officers

Bristol County Retirement 5% COLA Increases

Memo from PERAC Regarding COLA Increases

Memo from Bristol County Retirement Regarding COLA Increases

Bristol County Retirement Funding Schedule

Bristol County Retirement COLA Base Study

Email Resignation from Mark Pacheco from the Land Use Committee

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2023