

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pacheco at 5:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Chairman Pacheco, present.

Selectman Zografos, present.

Chairman Pacheco stated that the board would be going into Executive Session.

Executive Session

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3)

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 Police Officers MassCop Local 306

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Return to Open Session – 6:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was requested by Selectman Hull for Joelle Anger, Michael Rulon and Ethan Plante.

Recognition of Alice Souza

Chairman Pacheco read the Certificate of Recognition for Alice Souza. He thanked Alice for her service and the members of the board presented Mrs. Souza with the certificate, some flowers and some candy.

Mrs. Souza thanked everyone.

TOWNSHIP CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY [Signature]

2022 MAR -3 PM 1:28

RECEIVED

Tom Ferry – Highway Superintendent

Chairman Pacheco read a letter from Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry recommending Mr. Michael Berube for the position of Foreman, Class I.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Michael Berube as Highway Department, Foreman Class I effective February 10, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Proclamation for Black History Month

Chairman Pacheco read the proclamation for Black History Month.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Proclamation for Black History Month as prepared this evening.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Public Input

Mr. Tom Ferry, Council on Aging Chairman was asking for a consensus of the board. He was proposing a job fair and an open house on February 23, for the Council on Aging.

Members of the board supported the idea, but did not vote on it, because it was not included on the agenda.

Announcements

Chairman Pacheco read a portion of the announcements.

He asked if anyone on Zoom wanted to provide public input, because he had forgotten to ask previously during the first public input.

There was none.

Selectman Zografos announced that Northwoods Medical Center was offering COVID vaccines as well as booster shots.

Selectman Zografos finished reading the remaining announcements.

Town Administrators Report

Budget Process

Town Administrator gave an update on the budget process. He said he and the financial team spent the better part of the afternoon yesterday, looking at revenues and they were able to cut about \$400,000.00 from the budget revenue projections. He said there would be a budget presentation in the beginning of March to the Board of Selectmen.

Town Administrator Mullen advised the board that there would be a discussion with our financial advisor regarding the proposed Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School project and he let the board know that a debt exclusion would be necessary for the \$800,000.00 cost in debt service per year for the project. He said that discussion would take place at the next Board of Selectmen's regular meeting on March 23.

Old Business:

None.

Selectmen's Report

Chairman Pacheco gave an update on the COVID case numbers for the week. He said they had greatly improved.

Chairman Pacheco gave a report on the Bristol County Advisory Board meeting which he attended in place of Selectman Hull. He said that a contract was approved for the support staff in Bristol County. He said they also received information that cities and towns could start submitting requests for ARPA funds.

Selectman Zografos-Five Year Plan

Selectman Zografos said the interior renovation project in the upper level of Town Hall was progressing at an appropriate rate. He said the new counter for the Treasurer and the Town Clerk was complete. Selectman Zografos said the bathroom upgrades were next in the plan, because they were being paid for with grant funds. He said once the bathroom upgrades were complete for a grant deadline of June 2022, they would begin construction in the Treasurer's office, Assessor's office, copier room and break room.

Selectman Zografos reported that meetings were being held with Woodward and Curran regarding the feasibility of the expansion of sewer either on Route 44 or Route 138. They also met with the Sewer Commission on the subject. Selectman Zografos said they were also waiting for an answer from Woodward and Curran as to whether there is a moratorium on excavation work on Route 44 due to the recent paving that occurred.

Selectman Hull-Five Year Plan

Selectman Hull said included in his Five-Year Plan was the Water District, the Bristol County Trustees and the Department of Public Works. He said the focus is on repeaters for Police and Fire Departments.

Selectman Hull reported the Water District, the state is encouraging closer ties between the Water and Sewer districts and cities and towns.

Selectman Hull said we will continue to work with Bristol Aggie to explore green energy projects. He said they are talking about rooftop panels at this time and everyone is talking about mitigating the cost of electricity.

Selectman Hull said with regard to the Water District, the Main Street Project will be going forward in August. He said they are currently in negotiations with Somerset and we are looking to help them with additional options.

Selectman Hull said regarding the DPW, there will be an upcoming meeting with the DEP to discuss moving the garage to the landfill. He said the condition of the town garage and the feasibility of moving it to the landfill would be discussed.

Selectman Hull also mentioned the use of solar power to help fund some of the capital projects in town.

Selectman Hull also mentioned the bridge on Pleasant Street. He said he would like to focus on funding sources outside of operational funds.

There was discussion about the selection of projects within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

Selectman Zografos said he would like to figure out the process of how projects are selected within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and how we can submit our projects for consideration.

Selectman Hull suggested a letter to Senator Pacheco and Representative Haddad to ask for a meeting with regard to these kinds of projects. Selectman Zografos also suggested reaching out to the Somerset Town Administrator to ask if they would be interested in a joint effort.

Mr. Mullen said an update from the Board of Selectman advising Sen. Pacheco and Representative Haddad could be sent out, advising them of the \$150,000.00 commitment that Dighton has made to the bridge and letting them know of the cost of the project.

Selectman Hull said that the School Committee would be conducting three interviews for the position of School Superintendent and they would appoint someone by March 1, 2022.

He said the School Committee voted to send a letter regarding the mask mandate to the Department of Education.

Selectman Hull also said the School Department will be looking for increases within the budget. He said they will be looking for additional staffing. They are also looking to have building Special Education Coordinators. He said they would also be asking for ADA upgrades at the high school which are Federally required.

Warrant for Annual Town Election

Chairman Pacheco read the warrant for the Annual Town Election.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to sign the Annual Town Election Warrant tonight as presented.

Nancy Goulart, Gray Terrace wanted to remind the board that the Bristol County Agricultural School for a debt exclusion vote as well.

There was discussion about debt exclusion votes and education of the public regarding the facts and figures.

Selectman Zografos agreed with Mrs. Goulart with regard to keeping the Bristol County Agricultural School in mind with regard to education of the public.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Surplus Equipment for Disposal – Highway Department

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to declare the following items as surplus for disposal:

Two (2) Keyboards

Two (2) Monitors

Two (2) Laptops

One (1) Dell Optiplex 755 w/Dell Monitor

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Zografos, aye.

Hybrid Vehicle for Inspections

Chairman Pacheco read the letter of intent dated February 7, 2022, from Town Administrator Michael Mullen to Jarrett Fotti, Sales Manager., d/b/a Route 44 Toyota to award bid for a Hybrid Inspectional Vehicle to DMR Corp., d/b/a Route 44 Toyota.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the contract for services between the town of Dighton and DMR Corp., d/b/a route 44 Toyota to purchase one Hybrid Inspectional Vehicle as presented this evening.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Temporary Sewer Department Staffing Recommendation

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen waive the requirement of the Town of Dighton’s hiring policy for this specific situation to allow for the temporary Sewer Department Clerk.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye
Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Zografos motioned, chairman Pacheco stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to appoint Lisa Caledonia as the temporary Sewer Department Clerk from February 10, 2022 through March 3, 2022 at the rate of \$20.64/hour.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.
Selectman Hull, no.

Acknowledgements

None.

Correspondence

Chairman Pacheco read a letter from Chief Maguy regarding the recent disbandment of the Pandemic Reopening Task Force.

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen acknowledge that the Pandemic Reopening Task Force has voted to disband the Pandemic Reopening Task Force at it January 26, 2022 meeting.

There was discussion about how the committee was initially formed.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Minutes

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** to postpone the approval of the minutes until the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting on February 23, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Warrants

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #31A-22 in the amount of \$141,179.45 and Warrant #31B-22 in the amount of \$82,065.56, both dated February 2, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye

Selectman Zografos motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #32A-22 in the amount of \$115,142.84, Warrant #32B-22 in the amount of \$498,603.26 and Warrant #32C-22 in the amount of \$3,080,049.00 all dated February 9, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.
Selectman Zografos, aye.

Public Input

Robert Woods, 158 Chace Street, wanted to thank Lisa Caledonia for agreeing to help out in the Sewer Department. He said he thought that would be very helpful.

Mr. Woods requested that the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator look into doing away with the practice of using Cushing’s Manual for reference at Town Meetings. He thought it was outdated and he asked the board to look into the procedure on how to do away with this and switch to Robert’s Rules of Order. Selectman Zografos said he agreed with Mr. Woods.

Mr. Woods also thanked Mrs. Souza and all she has done for Dighton. He thought the town should take a good look at the finances for Prime Time and what it costs to run the program. He thought the Council on Aging should provide programs to help seniors with taxes, provide a place to go and hang out with their friends and he would like the town to do a solid cost analysis on the program.

Selectman Zografos agreed that there should be a cost analysis done.

There was discussion of the Prime Time and costs associated with the program.

Nancy Goulart, Grey Terrace, said with regard to the Pleasant Street Bridge, it appeared there would be some land takings and easements. She said control of the project would be between herself and Highway Superintendent, Tom Ferry. She said they would also work with the Town Administrator.

Mrs. Goulart said with regard to Aggie solar, she said she spoke with the business manager and the project was not a done deal. They are unsure if a PILOT agreement would be needed in this case. She said the school may not use all of the power generated, and in that case, they would be selling it.

Mrs. Goulart said the school is also looking into whether it would be just as cost effective to buy it on the market through the Constellation program at MMA.

Mrs. Goulart said there was a proposal years ago to put solar on the landfill on Tremont Street. She said the company refused to guarantee the integrity of the landfill cover and the project fell through.

Mrs. Goulart talked about the origins of using Cushing's manual.

Mrs. Goulart also mentioned Dora Estates and the Taunton Conservation Commission meeting. She said it was continued until the March meeting. She said there would be a meeting at Old Town Hall with the engineer to go over changes being made to the plans.

There was additional discussion by Mr. Woods about Prime Time and the program costs and he said it would be nice to turn the building into a Council on Aging. Selectman Zografos said with the addition of a new Council on Aging director, there would be a new opportunity for these discussions.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Zografos seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3)

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.

- b. Dighton Police Officers MassCop Local 306
- c. Dighton Permanent Firefighters Association Local 4332

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (7)

Executive Session Minutes

- a. Approval of the Board of Selectmen's Executive Session minutes of January 26, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Pacheco, aye.

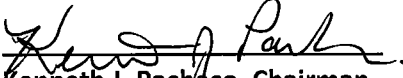
Selectman Hull, aye.

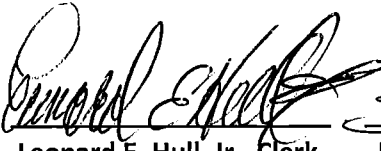
Selectman Zografos, aye.

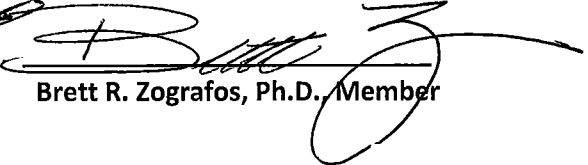
The regular meeting ended at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Executive Assistant


Kenneth J. Pacheco, Chairman


Leonard E. Hull, Jr., Clerk


Brett R. Zografos, Ph.D., Member

Documents Reviewed:

Certificate of Recognition for Alice Souza

Letter from Highway Superintendent recommending Michael Berube for our Foreman Class I vacancy.

Proclamation for Black History

Dighton Historical Society Flyer "King Philip meets J.K. Milliken: Discussion with Author Eric Schultz

Town Clerk Flyer in Search of Election Workers

Important Voter Information from the Town Clerk

Notice of Parking Ban Letter from Highway Superintendent

Burning Season Information Flyer

Annual Town Election Information Flyer

Warrant for Annual Town Election

Request to Declare Surplus Items by the Highway Department

Letter of Intent to Award Town of Dighton's Invitation to Bid for Hybrid Inspectional Vehicle

Long Form Contract between DMR Corp, Rte 44 Toyota and the Town of Dighton

Recommendation Letter from Town Administrator to Hire a Temporary Employee

Town of Dighton – Hiring Policy

Email from Clerical Union Steward Kerrie Easterday Regarding Hiring of Temporary Employee

Email from Lisa Caledonia regarding Temporary Sewer Clerk Position

Letter from the Emergency Preparedness Committee Requesting to Disband the Pandemic Reopening Task Force

Five Year Plan Update Selectman Zografos