



**The following meeting was videotaped and audio recorded.**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Regular Meeting**

Wednesday February 22, 2023

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

And via Zoom

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hull at 6:31 p.m. He gave instruction for logging in to Zoom and for providing public input.

Chairman Hull stated that the meeting was being recorded.

**Roll Call:**

Ken Pacheco, present.

Peter Caron, present.

Chairman Hull, present.

Present: Chairman Hull, Selectman Caron, Selectman Pacheco, Town Administrator Mullen, Police Chief Shawn Cronin, Town Clerk Mark Pacheco, CPC Chairman Kevin Smith, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Patrolman Nicholas Barros,

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Scheduled Appointments**

**Office James Duddy**

Chairman Hull said Officer James Duddy would not be present tonight, but would be in attendance at the next meeting.

**Patrolman Nicholas Barros**

Police Chief Shawn Cronin said Officer Barros did an incredible job in the assessment center. He thanked everyone for being present tonight to support him.

Chief Cronin said Officer Barros has been with the Town of Dighton on and off for a number of years. He said he has a very calm demeanor and can diffuse situations very well.

Chairman Hull said Sergeant Barros comes highly recommended and performed well above average in the testing. He read the recommendation letter from Chief Cronin.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the promotion the promotion of Sergeant Barros effective February 22, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

**Kevin Smith – Chairman of Community Preservation Committee**

**Update on Library Application**

CPC Chairman Kevin Smith went over the CPC Fund Analysis Report with the Board of Selectmen. He said he had a meeting yesterday with the Town Accountant to make sure that the balances are correct. He said the Open Space Account and the Community Housing were both true figures.

Chairman Hull asked if the CPC had any projects in the pipeline that have been discussed for the future.

Mr. Smith said we do have projects in the works, but is not affecting the balances.

Mr. Smith said Mr. Carvahlo from the Trails Committee has an ask for the Trails Committee Funding. He said that request was \$19,000.00 to match grant funds to do a study.

Chairman Hull said you have a proposal before you for \$323,000.00 and he said the library has written a grant as well for \$200,000.00, which will be returned should they get that grant.

Mr. Smith said they made it clear that they would return the grant money to the CPC in the form of an amendment to their application. He said we could take it entirely from undesignated or we can break it up and take from other accounts.

Chairman Hull said worst case, and best case, how much money will be left.

Mr. Smith went over the different funding scenarios that could take place.

Chairman Hull said you have the ability to tell applicants to come back in the spring. Mr. Smith said we have changed the model to allow folks to visit us anytime of year.

Chairman Hull said there is a misperception that if the CPC funds this, there will be no money left in the CPC.

There was discussion about the interior ramp.

Mr. Smith said the ramp on the outside has already been funded by an additional grant that the library has been awarded.

There was discussion of funding scenarios.

Selectman Pacheco said the CPC funds are funds that we already pay 1% of our taxes. It is not additional taxes.

Mr. Smith added that the CPC is extremely limited in the projects that they can fund. It is a very small window. He said the historical asks have been small and they have been applying for grants. Everyone has been very responsible.

Nancy Goulart gave background on Boat Ramp Road and how abatements affect the CPC funds.

**GATHC – Nancy Goulart and James Howland**

Mrs. Goulart said we are here tonight to give history on the Greater Attleboro/Taunton Housing Consortium or GATHC.

Mr. Howland – Director of Community Development Office in Taunton.

Mr. Howland said GATHC has many programs. He said we have assisted a number of people in Dighton. Most affordable units come through his office and we have done at least three rehab projects in Dighton.

Mr. Howland gave an overview of all programs offered by GATHC.

Chairman Hull asked about funding sources. Mr. Howland said it is strictly HUD funding.

Chairman Hull asked who handles the coordination of these housing projects in Dighton. Mr. Mullen said the Zoning Board considers a potential 40B and in terms of who's keeping track of the 440B census, that was something that was raised as an issue last week. We are making sure we have a process to deal with that when the units are available.

Mr. Howland said DHCD handles a lot of this. He said Neighbor Works is now the handler of these properties.

Chairman Hull asked if the DDIC could help with the coordination.

Mr. Mullen said it is more of a Zoning Board duty.

Chairman Hull asked how the contractors are chosen. Mr. Howland said they only hire fully licensed and insured contractors.

**Public Input**

None.

**Announcements**

Announcements were read by Selectman Pacheco.

**Selectmen's Reports**

**Selectman Pacheco**

Selectman Pacheco said the Agricultural Commission did not meet yesterday, but will be meeting next week.

Chairman Hull said that he was made aware that there are regulations being drafted by the Agricultural Commission and asked if they could be done by Fall. Selectman Pacheco said yes they were addressing that.

**Chairman Hull**

Chairman Hull read the list of Annual Town Election Candidates.

He said the Water District does not currently have a superintendent and Greg Olsen was acting as superintendent.

Chairman Hull said Main Street is ahead of schedule and they are in the process of tying home in to the line. National Grid is in the process of moving poles. Residents are asked not to move the orange stakes.

Chairman Hull said Dighton Elementary School received a grant award for academic excellence. The school district voted on a budget and they have said they will try to reduce it by 1.7 million.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Town Administrator Mullen said we are in full budget planning mode for FY24. He said we are working every day to compile the budgets that were submitted. Mr. Mullen said we will have everything ready to go on March 16<sup>th</sup> for a presentation to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. Mr. Mullen said we do expect FY24 budget year to be very challenging. He said we are looking at the school budgets coming in, and based on the revenues we do expect limited revenue position to affect how we plan forward.

Mr. Mullen said we have been working to build and implement the municipal fiber line. He said we heard back from National Grid last week, and they have proposed a draft contract which will let us move forward with grant implementation from the area of Dunkin Donuts all the way down to Main Street. Mr. Mullen said we will have recommendations for the next meeting on March 8.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Appoint Paul Reynolds as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the appointment of Paul Reynolds as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission.

**Facilities Request – Dighton Historical Society**

**Use of Old Town Hall by the Dighton Historical Society**

Selectman Caron motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the request from the Historical Commission.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco abstained.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to waive the fee for the rental of Old Town Hall.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, abstained.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**Town Administrator Evaluation**

Chairman Hull read the consensus evaluation created by the Board of Selectmen and put together by Human Resources.

Selectman Pacheco agreed that it was the best decision that the town has made to hire Mr. Mullen. Selectman Pacheco was very pleased that this town has Mike Mullen as its administrator. He said Mr. Mullen is very thorough in his work and his involvement with the budget.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the evaluation of Town Administrator Mike Mullen.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Mr. Mullen said he was proud to have earned the trust and respect of the town. He said he has been very proud to say that we work with people and we take feedback from people. Mr. Mullen said we have been doing some incredible things. He said we all know the challenges looming, but he thought we would be able to deal with them in a thoughtful way and he was humbled and blessed for the opportunity.

Chairman Hull said he was looking forward to many years of Mr. Mullen being part of the town of Dighton.

**Public Input**

None.

**Warrants**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #33A-23 in the amount of \$127,771.32, Warrant #33B-23 in the amount of \$155,612.91 and Warrant #33C-23 in the amount of \$2,842,314.25 all dated February 15, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #34A-23 in the amount of \$114,319.72, Warrant #34B-23 in the amount of \$115,161.87, Warrant #34C-23 in the amount of \$18,119.79 and Warrant #34D-23 in the amount of \$39,622.51 all dated February 22, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Acknowledgements**

None.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Minutes**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen/Board of Health joint meeting of January 12, 2023

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Executive Session**

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct col

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

3. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation of negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

**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

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Peter D. Caron, Clerk

  
Kenneth J. Pacheco, Member

**Documents Reviewed:**

**Certificate of Recognition James Duddy**

**Request from Police Chief Shawn Cronin to Promote Nicholas Barros to Sergeant**

**Warrant for Annual Town Election**

**Request from Town Clerk to Hire Three Officers for Annual Town Election**

**CPC Fund Analysis Report**

**Parking Ban Announcement**

**Dog License Announcement**

**Request to Appoint Paul Reynolds as an Associate Member of the Conservation Commission**

**Paul Reynolds Volunteer Application Form**

**Facility Reservation Request from Dighton Historical Society**

**Performance Self Evaluation - Town Administrator**

**Performance Evaluation – Board of Selectmen Consensus Document**

**Minutes of the Board of Health/Board of Selectmen Joint Meeting of January 12, 2023**