

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Old Town Hall, 111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hull. He gave Zoom information as well as information for submitting public input.

Present: Chairman Hull, Selectman Caron, Selectman Pacheco, Town Administrator Michael Mullen, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Police Chief-Robert MacDonald, Building Commissioner James Aguiar, Harbormaster-Ron Marino and Prime-Time, Council on Aging Director Anabela Powell.

Also Present: Tony Rosario-Vietnam Veterans Jeff Carvalho-Dighton Trails Committee,

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was requested by Selectman Pacheco for Mr. Michael J. Mazetis and Mr. Francis Campbell.

Scheduled Appointments:

6:00 p.m. Tony Rosario – Lions Club Request to Build a Bocce Court

Chairman Hull said there is a process for all construction projects on town property. He said first you should meet with Building Commissioner Aguiar. He said he did not foresee this being a problem, but thought that the process should be followed.

Town Administrator Mullen asked for a few weeks to meet with the Lions Club and make a recommendation on this project.

Chairman Hull asked for a motion to table until the approval process has been completed.

Selectman Caron motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED**.

Selectman Pacheco asked if the ADA Coordinator would be involved. Mr. Aguiar said yes. He said more discussion needed to happen and the location would need to be figured out.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, no.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Pacheco abstained (member of Lions Club)

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

Mr. Carvalho was present to give a status update on the DCR Sweets Knoll Trail.

He said the project would consist of a two-mile trail surrounding the Sweets Knoll Park, and they would be turning the railbed into a trail. Mr. Carvalho said the goal was to be 25% complete with the design by September of 2022.

Mr. Carvalho said there was a stakeholder meeting on March 3, 2022. He also announced that Town of Dighton held a listening session on March 29, 2022.

Mr. Carvalho went over a map of the trail including entry points. He also gave a project overview with projected milestones. He projected early spring 2024 for construction to begin.

Mr. Carvalho said the cost to the Town of Dighton would be nothing. He said there is some property that is owned by the Town of Dighton and we will have to make some decisions as to what to do going forward. Mr. Carvalho outlined the options for the town. He said option 1 would be to gift the lot (13A) to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and option 2 would be to provide an easement to the Commonwealth and DCR to use the lot for a trailhead area.

Mr. Mullen said we have options and some questions to consider and we have some time as the process moves forward. He thought the Board of Selectmen's meeting in June would be a good time to regroup.

Chairman Hull asked if there should be a sub-committee formed with a Board of Selectmen liaison and department heads to determine the process of easements, funding, etc.

Mr. Mullen said he thought the structure was already in place with what has transpired so far. He said Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry, Conservation Agent Lisa Caledonia and others have been involved.

Selectman Pacheco said he was willing to be the liaison to the Dighton Trails Committee

Mr. Carvalho said an Invitation for Bid went out and it is posted on the Town of Dighton Procurement page.

Mr. Ferry said there are two historic properties that the town should keep. Mr. Ferry and Mr. Aguiar both agreed they were in favor of an easement rather than the gifting of the property, especially the one large piece of waterfront property.

Public Input

No public input.

Announcements

The regular announcements were read by Selectman Pacheco.

Town Administrators Report

FY23 Budget Update

Mr. Mullen said the Finance Committee budget process began last night and will continue over the next week. He said he expected a representative from the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District to be present on May 3 at the Finance Committee Meeting and they are expected to have a significant increase in E&D, therefore reducing the assessment.

Wage Classification Study Update

A Wage and Classification study update was given by Mr. Mullen. He said he expected to have draft job descriptions coming before the board for review in Early June.

Pleasant Street Bridge and SRPEDD Update

Mr. Mullen said we have applied for funding for the Pleasant Street Bridge Replacement Project through Congressman Jake Auchincloss' office and we have heard back that the Congressman is interested in assisting us with this effort. He said we have supplied his office with letters of support from Mass DOT, the Dighton Trails Committee and from Representative Pat Haddad.

Mr. Mullen said he, selectmen Pacheco and Congressman Jake Auchincloss met last week regarding funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and there is a survey being circulated by SRPEDD to gather feedback from member communities. He said we will be responding to that survey.

Mr. Ferry said the Pleasant Street Bridge Project is a very important project and the best recognition comes from the state level.

Old Business:

Budget Review

Budget #293-Harbormaster

Mr. Mullen said there was a stipend question, which led to additional questions about the Harbormaster's work.

Selectman Caron asked how many assistant harbormasters are there.

Mr. Ron Marino said there are currently two assistants, but he really needs three. He said they get the boat ready in the spring, they launch all of the no-wake buoys and record each buoy with the Coast Guard and, in the meantime, they go out on the water for enforcement. Mr. Marino said we go two at a time on patrols for safety reasons. He said there is money in the budget for a third person, but he has not found one yet.

Selectman Caron asked how many emergency calls were done last year. Mr. Marino said he could not give that number.

Selectman Caron asked about maintenance, and the additional \$1,700.00 that was requested. He said that was a one-time charge to strip the boat bottom completely of fiberglass. Mr. Marino said the additional money is for unforeseen expenses.

Selectman Caron said no money had been spent. Mr. Marino said he usually does not spend any money from July to December. After he determines that it is safe to do so, he will spend the money for things that are needed.

Selectman Caron asked about professional/technical fees. He asked if there was room to put off the training until next year. Mr. Marino said the training is for conflict mitigation. He said it would not be wise, because it relates to their safety. Mr. Marino said there is an increased need for this type of training, because things have changed so much.

Selectman Caron asked about travel. Mr. Marino said he travels to Bourne and Sandwich for meetings and takes his personal vehicle.

Selectman Caron said he was still not convinced that the Harbormaster needed three assistants.

Mr. Marino said if we do patrols, we want to do that in pairs. He said if he has three, that does not put the same person on every weekend all summer long and then he will call the first assistant on the list and if he cannot make it, he will call the next.

Selectman Caron motioned to remove one Assistant Harbormaster.

Selectman Pacheco said going out with two people is a safety assurance. He supported the third Assistant Harbormaster.

Selectman Hull said he had a number of questions. He was aware of certain safety issues and had some concerns about the Harbormaster's safety.

Chief MacDonald said in past years, Harbormaster Marino was on his own. When the Harbormaster came under the direction of the Police department, he sat with Mr. Marino and he felt there should be two on the boat at all times, for safety purposes. He said as far as training, whatever we can give them is positive. Chief MacDonald said the Police Department was exploring options for training and safety.

Selectman Hull asked if there was standard protocol established. He asked if the Harbormaster pulls over a boat, do they call dispatch? Mr. Marino said they do a circle around the boat, get the registration number and call it into dispatch. He said then we activate the body camera if we have to issue a citation, then we call dispatch again to say we are done.

Selectman Hull asked if there were any other public safety concerns that you would like us to consider. Chief MacDonald said no.

Chairman Hull said staffing and the stipends are the issues. He said with regard to the stipend, there is a proposed increase of 6%. Chairman Hull said we have taken the approach that we will go 2% on the stipends. He said would not support retroactive.

Chairman Hull said, based on the money that we have, we have decided that 2% is what we could afford. He said it is a small gesture of appreciation. He felt that the 2% increase was warranted to show appreciation.

Selectman Pacheco motioned to increase the stipend for the Harbormaster and three assistants by 2% for a total budget amount of \$14,350.00 total budget. There was no second.

Motion failed.

Chairman Hull stepped down to motion that the position of Harbormaster stipend and the Assistant Harbormaster stipend be 2%, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Caron motioned that there be two assistants to the Harbormaster, Selectman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to continue with two Assistant Harbormasters.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Selectman Hull said the budget would be adjusted to reflect two assistants and board would recommend two assistants with an increase in stipend of 2%.

Selectman Pacheco motioned that the Board of Selectman recommend \$11,800.00 for general expenses for the Harbormaster, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**#541-Council on Aging
Anabella Powell, Director**

Selectman Hull did not have any questions, but asked for an explanation of the 58% increase in the Professional & Technical budget line.

Ms. Powell said she would like to open Prime Time 3 full days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday), and on Monday and Friday they would like to hold presentations, and exercise classes for non-attendees.

Chairman Hull asked if they would open up prime time to people other than Dighton residents. Ms. Powell said Dighton residents would get first priority.

Ms. Powell said she would like to hold Tai Chi and exercise at prime time and yoga at Council on Aging so as not to abandon the residents at Lincoln Village. She also said they would like to offer breakfast on Monday and Fridays for people that are not clients. Ms. Powell said she was working on some grants.

Selectman Caron asked about the \$1,000.00 for overtime. Mr. Ferry said it was a mechanism in place for clients that may not be picked up in time.

Selectman Caron asked about the Additional Equipment line. Ms. Powell said that is for a continuous rotation of one computer a year.

Chairman Hull asked if there was an agreement with staff if someone has to stay past their regular time. Ms. Powell said the Assistant Program Director would stay and that is a union position.

There was discussion about overtime and benefitted employees.

Selectman Caron motioned to amend overtime line to \$500.00, Chairman Hull stepped down and seconded the motion and it **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed.

Selectman Caron motioned to recommend #541 Council on Aging in the amount of \$115,662.00, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, no.

#542-Prime Time

There was discussion of the Prime-Time Overtime line and the positions within the Council on Aging and Prime Time.

Mr. Ferry said the board could entertain a reduction in the overtime line, but the Director is non-union and would not be eligible for overtime.

Selectman Caron motioned that the Board of Selectmen recommend #542 Prime-Time in the amount of \$92,763.41, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Hull said the Community Preservation Committee has an at-large vacancy which has been posted. They are hoping to have an applicant for recommendation at the May meeting

New Business:

Proposed Warrant Articles Listing

Mr. Mullen said the language is still being finalized in draft form and will be shared with Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and Town Counsel.

Mr. Mullen went over the listing of Articles for the Warrant and explained them briefly.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to place the Articles on the Warrant with the removal of Article 10 and the corrections to Article 24 and 25.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Recommendation to Appoint Elizabeth Moreira as Sewer Department Senior Clerk

Chairman Hull read the letter of recommendation from the Board of Sewer Commissioners recommending the appointment of Elizabeth Moreira.

Mr. Ferry went through the process of interviews and the recommendation and said Monday would be her start date.

Selectman Pacheco motioned to appoint Ms. Moreira as the Sewer Department Clerk, effective May 2, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Appoint Board of Health Member, Nicole Mello

Selectman Hull stepped down and let the clerk, Selectman Caron handle the recommendation for the vacant Board of Health member due to his involvement in the screening committee.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen appoint Nicole Mello as a member of the Board of Health.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Hull abstained.

Selectman Pacheco motioned to take item 10h. out of order, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

Update Special Municipal Employee List – Nicole Mello, Public Health Nurse

Mr. Mullen said the Board of Health asked that Nicole Mello be added as a Special Municipal employee designation, which would allow the position of Public Health Nurse to be able to hold more than one role in town government

Selectman Caron read the letter from the Board of Health.

Selectman Pacheco motioned to update the Special municipal employee list and add Nicole Mello, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Chairman Hull abstained.

Appoint Board of Selectman member to the TIF Review Board

Mr. Mullen said, at the last meeting, the board made changes to the membership of the TIF Review Board.

Selectman Hull stepped down to motion, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Peter Caron to the TIF Review Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Appoint Board of Selectmen Member to the Agricultural Commission

Selectman Caron motioned to appoint Ken Pacheco, as a liaison to the Agricultural Commission, Selectmen Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Appoint Board of Selectmen Member to the Open Space Committee

Selectman Pacheco motioned that Selectman Caron be appointed as a non-voting liaison member to the Open Space Committee, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Authorize the Town Administrator to execute the contract with Southeast Fence

Selectman Pacheco motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the contract with Southeast Fence in the amount of \$26,797.00, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Acknowledgments

None

Correspondence

An email from Timothy Rhines resigning from all positions within the town was read.

Selectman Caron motioned to accept the resignation of Timothy Rhines from all positions within the town, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED**.

Chairman Hull said he hoped that Mr. Rhines would return to some form of service.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Mr. Mullen said there is now a vacancy on the Planning Board.

Minutes

Selectman Pacheco motioned to approve, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Selectmen's meeting of April 13, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Approval of Warrants

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #42A-22 in the amount of \$105,573.45 and Warrant #42B-22 in the amount of \$58,946.59, both dated April 20, 2022.

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 #43A-22 in the amount of \$116,316.18, Warrant #43B-22 in the amount of \$18,214.02 and Warrant #43C-22 in the amount of \$70,201.64 all dated April 27, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Public Input

None.

Executive Session

Chairman Hull said the board would be going into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A section 21(a)(3)(6)(7):

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 Firefighters Local 4332
- b. Dighton Highway Department Local 1701
- c. Dighton Police Officers MassCOP Local 306
- d. Rachel Rose vs. Town of Dighton

6. to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

- a. Potential real property acquisition for library operations.

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

Executive Session Minutes:

- a. Approval of the Board of Selectmen’s Executive Session Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2022.
- b. Approval of the board of Selectmen’s Executive Session Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2022.

Chairman Hull said the board would not be returning to open session.

Selectman Pacheco motioned to enter into Executive Session, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED.**

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

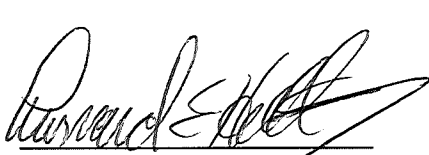
Selectman, Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

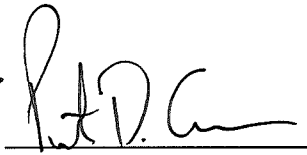
The regular Board of Selectmen’s Meeting ended at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Executive Assistant



Leonard E. Hull, Jr., Chairman



Peter D. Caron, Clerk



Kenneth J. Pacheco, Member

Documents Reviewed:

Lions Club Email Request to build a Bocce Court

Bocce Ball Courts by Kissing Tree

Dighton Trails Committee Status Updates Power Point

Flyer for 13th Continental Regiment/Rehoboth Minuteman Camp Event
Dighton Police Department Drug Take Back Day Flyer
Open Burning Season Flyer
Rabies Vaccination Day Flyer
Letter to Finance Committee regarding Proposed Town of Dighton FY23 Budget Recommendations
Email from SRPEDD regarding Grant Funding needs for Infrastructure
Letter to Congressman Jake Auchincloss regarding Pleasant Street Bridge Replacement Priority
Letter from Pat Haddad to Congressman Auchincloss regarding Pleasant Street Bridge Project
Letter from MassDOT to Town Administrator Mullen in support of Pleasant Street Bridge Project
Letter from Bill Napolitano of SRPEDD in support of Pleasant Street Bridge Project
Letter from Dighton Trails Committee in support of Pleasant Street Bridge Project
Bridge Field Inspection Report from Mass DOT for Pleasant Street Bridge Project
Community Resillience Building Workshop Summary of Findings from Fuss and O'Neil
Regional Projects Addendum to the Somerset-Swansea-Dighton MVP Plans
Hazard Mitigation Plan May 2020 from Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC
Town of Dighton-Open Space and Recreation Plan 2021-2028
Prime Time Preliminary Reopening Plan
Budget Overview
Budget #295-Harbormaster
Budget #541-Council on Aging
Budget #542-Prime Time
Annual Town Meeting Proposed Articles Listing
Letter from Sewer Commissioners recommending the Appointment of Elizabeth Moreira as Sewer Department Office Clerk
Letter from Board of Health Chairman Barbara Catabia, recommending Nicole Mello as a Board of Health Member
Long Form Contract for Southeast Fence and Town of Dighton
Letter from the Board of Health requesting to name Nicole Mello as a Special Municipal employee
Email from Timothy Rhines resigning from all positions held in Dighton
Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Regular meeting of April 13, 2022