

JUN 12 2023

The following Meeting was video and audio recorded for Airing on Channel 9 Time: 12:14pm

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:00 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting**

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

By: [Signature]

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman Caron. He stated that the meeting was being recorded and gave instructions for logging in and providing public input.

**Present:** Chairman Caron, Selectman Mello, Selectman Hull, Town Administrator Michael Mullen, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Police Chief Shawn Cronin,

**Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools-William Runey, Maria Jones and Phillip Hu of SRPEDD,

**Roll Call:**

Leonard E. Hull, present.

Nicole Mello, present.

Peter Caron, present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was requested by Selectman Hull for Loeurm Ham, Antone Mendes, Cynthia Rothwell, and John Tavares.

**Scheduled Appointments**

**6:30 p.m. William Runey, Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. Runey, Dighton-Rehoboth District Superintendent announced that a Statement of Interest has been submitted to the MSBA for a potential upgrade to Dighton Elementary School

Mr Bill Runey, Dighton Rehoboth District Superintendent presented a Power Point presentation regarding the MSBA Grant Program.

He stated that we are only in the que right now and if we are invited into the feasibility study, he said he would assemble a School Building Committee. Mr. Runey said at that point, we would hold visioning sessions, which would include public, professionals, school personnel, school committee members, students, etc.

Mr. Runey outlined populations projections for Dighton Elementary and some issues that are facing Dighton Elementary School. Including traffic issues, building deterioration and lack of safety and security cameras in the school

There was discussion of warrant articles for safety and security on both Dighton and Rehoboth's Town meeting warrants.

There was discussion of traffic issues and what could be done to control traffic currently.

Mr. Runey spoke about the Master Plan that was created by the Town of Dighton in 1993. He mentioned the "road to nowhere" at the Dighton Elementary/Middle School Campus and the reasons that he felt that discussion for improvements failed because a good case was not made by the district for why it was necessary.

Mr. Mullen said he thought that the fact that Dighton has never been to the MSBA, he firmly believed that puts Dighton in a good position with this letter of interest.

Selectman Mello said it seemed there were a lot of parents picking up and dropping off. She wondered if something could be done to help the parents.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the statement on interest to the MSBA from the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District for the Dighton Elementary School campus.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

**6:40 p.m. Shawn Cronin, Police Chief**

**Letter of Gratitude from Joseph Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Boston Division**

The letter from Mr. Bonavolonta was read by Chairman Caron was read by Chairman Caron.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that a letter of commendation be placed in Chief Cronin's file regarding for his partnership with the FBI Boston Division.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Police Chief Cronin said he wanted to recognize the entire department. He was proud of the response of the department with the limited information that they had.

**6:35 p.m. Maria Jones – SRPEDD**

Maria Jones and Phillip Hu were present to speak about Priority Area Planning in the South Coastal Rail (SCR) Corridor.

They went over the difference of a PDA or PPA areas, how they are determined and the evolution of PDA/PPAs.

Ms. Jones went over the timelines for the project as well as the roles of the Board of Selectmen boards and departments. There was discussion of funding for the project and the level of involvement of the state.

Mr. Mullen indicated that it was important that, we as a town, have plans in place.

Chairman Caron asked about grants and if they were scheduled to meet with the Dighton Development and Industrial Commission. Ms. Jones said they had been recommended to speak with the DDIC and would be doing that shortly.

### **Announcements**

Announcements were read by Selectman Mello.

### **Public Input**

Mr. Kevin Smith Jr, wished Nicole Mello Happy Nurses week and thanked her for her work. He announced that the Water District Election coming up. He thanked Mr. Runey for his presentation and for exploring opportunities for the Elementary School. Mr. Smith also requested that the Open Space Committee be included in the upcoming discussions with SRPEDD.

David Marvill, Forest Street, asked about the Library Building Committee Open House.

Chairman Caron read the announcement regarding the Library Open House on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Mullen said that he and Selectman Mello met with the Girl Scouts earlier that day and it went very well.

Mr. Mullen said we are preparing for Town Meeting and at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting there would be a power point presentation with an explanation of all 27 articles.

### **Selectmen's Report**

#### **Nicole Mello**

Selectman Mello said the Commission on Disability met last week and interviewed four candidates. She said they would ask for appointments tonight. Mr. Gale said that he had asked for feedback on a survey. He said no one responded. She said the main complaint was that the survey was too lengthy and it was asked that, in the future, if they could be shortened to gain feedback.

Selectman Mello said the library would be holding their open house this Saturday.

She also said Agricultural Committee met last week.

#### **Leonard Hull**

Mr. Hull mentioned the Annual Town meeting was held in Rehoboth last week. He also mentioned the school committee meeting where H&L Bloom was awarded the contract for transportation and the Dighton PTO donated money for the purchase of agenda books.

He said the Dighton Water District would be holding their annual election this Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> and the annual water district meeting will be may 25<sup>th</sup> at Dighotn Middle School.

Selectman Hull reported a complaint that was received by a resident for the lower end of Hart Street – he received a complaint to trim the brush so that visibility could be improved.

**Old Business:**

**Junk Dealers License – Joseph Firzado, 180 Cobbs Lane, Dighton, MA**

A letter from Building Commissioner, James Aguiar regarding barbed wired on the property was read by Chairman Caron.

The agreed-upon conditions for the issuance of the license were also presented by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Junk Dealer’s license for Joseph Frizado with the limited conditions as stated.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**New Business:**

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Final Approval and Signature**

Mr. Mullen sated that the warrant has been completed, and is before the board for signature and approval

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the warrant as amended this evening to include Board of Selectmen’s recommendations for Article 4.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**FY22 Audit and Management Letter**

Mr. Mullen spoke about the Financial Management Letter and the comments from past Financial Audits which included building organizational processes, timely submissions of Chapter 90 Funding, cleaning up performance bond and conservation fund deposits, reconciling Police Detail Fund, updating Capital Fund, cleaning up accounts receivable processes and building a dedicated Human Resources function.

Selectman Hull said that Roselli and Clark gave all of you and A+.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the financial reports and Financial Management Letter.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Request to Appoint Tom Ferry to the Joint Transportation Planning Group**

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Tom Ferry to the JTPG.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Request to Appoint Michael Mullen, Town Administrator as an Alternate Member of the Joint Transportation Planning Group**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Michael Mullen as an alternate member to JTPG.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Request to Appoint Jeff Carvalho, Planning Board Chairman, as Designee to the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Jeff Carvalho to the SRPEDD

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Request to appoint David Neely as a Resident – at – Large member of the Solid Waste Committee**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint David Neely as a Resident – at – Large member of the Solid Waste Committee.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull asked to read a statement prior to the next agenda items.

Selectman Hull said that the Commission on Disability could have a max of 9 and minimum of 5 members. He said the commission received 4 applications. Selectman Hull said the commission had 2 choices. He said they could reject two applicants or they could expand their board and appoint all four applicants.

Selectman Hull said that this committee is a cross-section of the community.

Chairman Caron read a letter from Commission on Disability Chairman, Jonathan Gale regarding the request to appoint 4 members to the Dighton Commission on Disability.

**Request to Appoint Christopher Andrade to the Commission on Disability**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Christopher Andrade to the Commission on Disability.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Request to Appoint Leah Quinn to the Commission on Disability**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Leah Quinn to the Commission on Disability.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, no.

Chairman Caron, no.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to table the appointment of Leah Quinn until she can attend.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Request to Appoint Dana Rose to the Commission on Disability**

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to table the appointment of Dana Rose until she can attend.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Request to Appoint Timothy Toolin to the Commission on Disability**

Selectman Mello motioned. Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Timothy Toolin to the Commission on Disability.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Contract for DPW Services – Chlorinated Rubber Traffic Line Painting**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into the contract within the Southeastern Regional Services Group for Chlorinated Rubber traffic line painting,

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

There was discussion of the contract.

**Appointment of Board of Selectmen Member to Open Space Committee**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Peter Caron as a voting member to the Open Space Committee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Facilities Request – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Facilities use request for the use of the gazebo area and town hall grounds

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to waive fees for the Dighton Historical Society – Strawberry Festival.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Facilities Request - Taunton Area Vietnam Vets Car Show**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Facilities Use Request to use the area behind Town Hall for the car shows.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to waive fees for the facilities request June 24, July 22 and August 26.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Warrants**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrants dated May 4, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve warrants dated May 11, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Acknowledgements**

**Donation of Helen Lane Map to the Town of Dighton from Louise A. Freeman of Raynham**

A letter from Patricia Gailes was read asking the Board of Selectmen to accept the donation.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the donation of a watercolor historical map drawn by Helen Lane to the Town of Dighton.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.



**Donation of File Cabinets**

A letter from Kerrie Easterday requesting to accept a donation of 6 six file cabinets from Paul Brigham Esquire of Framingham MA, was read by Chairman Caron.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the donation of 6 six file cabinets from Paul Brigham Esq of Framingham, MA.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Resignation letter, Helder Ferreira – Highway Department**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Helder Ferreira from the Dighton Highway Department effective May 12, and authorize to repost the position.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Minutes**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s meeting of April 26, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**


Chairman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Mello, aye.

**Executive Session**


Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Laws,

Regular meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady  
  
Peter Caron – Chairman

  
Nicole Mello, Clerk

  
Leonard E. Hull, Member

**Documents Reviewed:**

**Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest**  
**Letter from Joseph Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge, FBI**  
**PDA-PPA 2024 Update Community Priority Areas of Regional Significance**  
**Dighton Library Building Committee, Open House**  
**Bulky Item Curbside Pickup Flyer**  
**Plant Sale Flyer**  
**Memorial Day Ceremony Flyer**  
**Dighton Historical Society**  
**Board of Health Member Advertisement**  
**Board and Committee Vacancies Flyer**  
**Licensing Guideline: Junk Dealers**  
**Annual Town Meeting Warrant DRAFT**  
**Memo from Michael Mullen Regarding Fiscal Year 2022 Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter**  
**Town of Dighton Management Letter**  
**Town of Dighton Report on Examination of Basic Financial Statements**  
**SRPEDD Appointment of Designee to Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)**  
**Letter from the Board of Health Recommending David Neely for Appointment to the Solid Waste Committee**  
**Letter of Recommendation from Commission on Disability for Appointment of Christopher Andrade, Timothy Toolin, Dana Rose, Leah Quinn**  
**SERSG – Southeastern Regional Services Group – DPW Service Awards**  
**Facilities Use Request – Dighton Historical Society – Strawberry Festival**  
**Facilities Use Request – Taunton Area Vietnam Vets – Cruise Nights**  
**Donation of Helen Lane Map to the Town of Dighton**  
**Request to Accept Donation of Six File Cabinets**  
**Resignation Letter of Helder Ferreira from the Highway Department**  
**Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting of April 26, 2023**