

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Old Town Hall, 111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He provided the Zoom information and the instructions for providing public input during the meeting.

Present: Chairman Leonard Hull, Selectman Kenneth Pacheco, Town Administrator Mullen, Executive assistant Karin Brady, Town Nurse Nicole Mello.

Also Present: John Shea

Via Zoom: Anne Meitzen , Dighton-Watch, Nelson Liu and Karen

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

A Moment of Silence was requested by Chairman Hull for Rosemary Borden, Maria Medeiros and Edward Paradis

Scheduled Appointments

6:00 p.m. William Runey, Superintendent – Dighton-Rehoboth Regional District.

Mr Runey said he was very excited to begin his role as the new Superintendent of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional District. He outlined his career and how he arrived in Dighton.

He said that communication and transparency was very important and he looked forward to working with both Dighton and Rehoboth.

Chairman Hull asked what steps Mr. Runey would take to improve the relationship between Dighton and Rehoboth officials.

He was planning some events to bring the officials together in a relaxed setting and he planned to come to the town halls anytime he is needed, and relay relevant information to both. He was impressed with Mr. Baxter and thought he brought a level of professionalism as well.

Mr Runey said he has seen so many wonderful things that are going on in the schools at this time. He said if we can build trust that will bring the towns together.

6:15 p.m. Nicole Mello – Dighton Town Nurse

Ms. Mello said the last two weeks we have been averaging about 20 cases. She said prior to that, it was 10 cases per week.

She just wanted to visit some of the guidance that she has been getting.

We are still following the same guidance that came out in January.

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DIGHTON, MA
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She said some are confused by close contact. Closer than 6 feet with someone that has tested positive for longer than 15 minutes.

Ms. Mello said if you are up to date on vaccination status (vaccinated with one booster) no quarantine is necessary.

Quarantine and isolation- quarantine if you have been exposed. Isolation if you tested positive.

Vaccine options for ages 5 and up are now available.

She said she has a bi-weekly meeting with DPH. Other countries have done away with quarantining and isolation and she thought we were getting there.

Memorial Day Proclamation

Chairman Hull read the proclamation from the Governor's office.

Public Input

Chairman Hull said public input would be limited to five minutes. He also advised that any comments about any official or person that is not present will not be allowed.

David Marvill, 102 Forest Street, He said it was regarding the speed limit on Forest Street. the street has not had a speed limit sign, since he lived there. He said nothing came from the audit that was to be done in the past.

Mr. Mullen said he would look into this and give an update on this at the next meeting

Chief MacDonald said on Pleasant Street, the police have installed a new speed limit sign. They have an additional sign that will be installed on Forest Street.

Chief MacDonald said he will send patrols to monitor the area as well.

Announcements

The regular announcements were read by Selectmen Pacheco.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Mullen said we now have a final warrant and it has been posted on the Town Website.

He also announced the informational session for the Annual Town Meeting was scheduled for next week at Old Town Hall.

Selectman's Report

Selectman Pacheco said the Agricultural Commission meeting did not have a quorum last night.

Chairman Hull said if anyone is interested in volunteering, please send an application and resume to the Board of Selectmen's office, the secretaries will get that to the appropriate department.

Chairman Hull announced that One Connection has opened and has given the town a check for \$25,000.00 impact fee.

He said the DDIC had a meeting on Monday. He said a developer has attended and expressed interest in locating in Dighton.

Chairman Hull said we will also be holding a business expo sometime in September. He said the businesses in town who are looking to expand should attend as well. It is also a good opportunity for people who are looking for work to hand out a resume.

Ken Pacheco said he thought that one connection was a smooth operation. He said they will be paying 3% of their revenue to the town of Dighton. He said they have 4 employees who are from Dighton.

Chairman Hull said one connection has plans to expand and that will open more job opportunities.

Correspondence

Andrew Lapointe came forward and Chairman Hull read the letter of resignation.

Andrew said this job has been a full five years of ups and downs.

Chairman Hull asked Mr. Lapointe if he would have an exit interview with Mr. Mullen to make your wishes known to make the teams life easier.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Andrew Lapointe from the Cable Committee.

Resignation of Karen Robitaille from the CPC

Chairman Hull read the letter of resignation from Karen Robitaille

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

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

Minutes

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to defer the minutes of May 11, 2022 until the next meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of May 15, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

Warrants

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull said he would Vote no on this due to the fact that he was opposed to a payment to the consultant once again.

He was concerned about fiscal management and good business practices.

He would not support the passage of the warrants.

Presentation on proposed New Dighton Public Library Location.

Mr Joe Shea, Granite City Partners – said they do a lot of conceptual planning for municipalities.

The presentation is on the Town’s web page.

We will talk about a proposed solution to the Dighton Public library.

Mr Shea said we were thrilled to find a mission on the Dighton website.

Mr. Shea went through the slides in the presentation.

Mr. Hull thanked Jocelyn, Mr O’Connor, Mr Aguiar and Mr. Mullen for negotiating this deal

FY21 Management Letter

Mr. Mullen said the Management Letter was submitted to the bond agencies in March so that we could meet our bond requirements. He said there are various issues that the auditors brought to our attention and it is recommended that we address these in the coming months.

Mr. Mullen said we have informational items related to the town’s security. He said the auditors recommended that we place a priority on network security and look at new ways to increase fraud mitigation efforts.

Mr. Mullen said we will have to account for capital assets leases as well in the future.

Mr. Mullen said we have various long-term obligations, employee compensated absences and some other issues that they recommend that we keep an eye on as well.

Mr. Mullen said we will continue looking at ways to generate investment income.

Mr. Mullen said next year, if we purchase the library we will be forced into a single audit.

Mr. Mullen said in the Findings and Comments section, the auditors mentioned three pieces of information that they were not able to get. He said in the past, we have been a year behind in submitting the documents for the Chapter 90 reimbursement process. He also said the auditors referenced some performance bonds that have carried over and they recommend that we clean that up as well.

Mr. Mullen said they commented on the police detail aging issue and they thought there was a strong need to move to bi-weekly payroll.

Chairman Hull asked about the areas that needed to be worked on. He also asked if there would be an action plan to update the board. Mr. Mullen said three-month updates would be in order.

Chairman Hull said there is a major need for software upgrades in the area of payroll. He thought it would provide transparency and increase efficiency.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the FY21 Auditor’s management letter.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Community Compact Cabinet Municipal Fiber Grant Program

Mr. Mullen said we have received a \$210,124.00 grant to connect the Police and Fire stations with fiber. He said we have had a lot of help from the TMLP on this.

Selectman Pacheco thanked everyone who participated in getting this grant.

Mr. Mullen said it was started in early April and he, Fire Chief Maguy, Building Commissioner Aguiar, Police Lieutenant Shawn Cronin and Ken Bell from TMLP were all involved.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to send a letter to of thanks to all participants.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectmen Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the Community Compact Municipal Fiber Grant and authorize Michael Mullen to sign the contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Fire Chief Employment Contract Memorandum of Agreement Amended

Section E Compensation

\$109,732.33 payable in weekly installments. Effective July 1, 2002 \$4,000.00 and a 2.5% increase in base pay and \$4500.00 for his EMD stipend to align with union employees.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the Memorandum of Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to seconded and it was **VOTED** to take agenda item 14J. out of order.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron entered the meeting via Zoom at 7:43 p.m. He identified himself and verified that he was logged in.

Item 14 J – Establishment of a Solid Waste Committee

Chairman Hull said the establishment of a Solid Waste Committee would save the town money. He said as proposed in the packet, the committee would be made up of 9 members.

Selectman Caron thought this was a great idea. He thought Building Commissioner Jim Aguiar should participate in this committee.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to establish a Solid Waste Committee under the direction of the Board of Health and be composed of 9 members as follows:

- Board of Health Representative
- Board of Health Agent
- Board of Selectmen Representative
- Town Administrator
- Transfer Station Attendant
- Highway Superintendent
- Building Commissioner
- Two At large members

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

April 30, 2022, Massasoit Road Incident – Gate Access

Chairman Hull outlined the incident and the events that occurred on April 30, 2022.

Two letters were read into the record.

One letter from Michael Grady, 200 Manomet Avenue, trust secretary for Council Oak Estates Trust, expressed no objections to the proposal from the town to construct a gate at the end of the cul de sac on Massasoit Avenue.

Mr. Grady said we were encouraged by the town’s reaction to the most recent issues at Massasoit Avenue and Manomet Avenue. He said the offer to build a gate was very much appreciated and would curb the truck traffic in the area. He said they would do whatever necessary to help move this along.

A letter from Mr. Tim Toolin was read into the record as well. Mr. Toolin who was present, had nothing additional to add.

A letter from Kelley Smathers, 741 Council Oak Way, was read into the record which contained questions addressed to the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Hull said in reviewing the items, it is apparent that there are many questions. He said this is something that we must look at in greater detail.

Kelley Smathers came forward. Chairman Hull suggested organizing a meeting between all to discuss the issues and strategize. He said he thought that the town and the residents could put their heads together and come up with a solution.

Ms. Smathers said she chose to live in Dighton. She feels isolated more that ever. She said it has been her experience that she has not been invited in to discussions relating to issues that affect her.

She would like to have a seat at the table for the issues that affect her.

Chairman Hull asked Ms. Smathers to go to Town Hall and give the action committee's registration number to the Town Clerk.

Chief Macdonald came forward to speak about the pits and the incident on April 29, 2022. He let the residents know that if cars start to build up and things are going on, to please call the department and they would respond and do the best they can.

Chairman Hull read a letter from Jason Quinn, Council Oak Way, into the record.

Ms. Smathers requested a map of property owners.

Request for a Gate at the End of the Cul de Sac at Council Oak Way

Selectman Caron asked if there should be a committee formed to come up with the best plan or will the board of Selectmen just put the gate up.

Mr. Mullen said if there is a willingness to install a gate, we would want to check against easements on the Homeowner's Association property in the back. He said there is a small piece of property owned by the Homeowner's Association which turns into a property owned by Joe Mazzone.

Mr. Mullen said before we put a gate up, we would want to be sure that the Homeowner's Association property does not have any easements and we would need to have a conversation with Bell Farm Estates and Joe Mazzone as well.

Mr. Mullen recommended a vote and said then we would come back with a formal agreement to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Pacheco said if the Homeowner's Association is so concerned about putting up the gate, why are they not paying for it.

Tim Toolin, 1943 Massasoit Road, said we have always had ATVS but when the Water District opened up the road to look for water, that opened up the flood gates and that is why he believed that the town should pay for it.

Selectman Pacheco did not want the town to have any liability for putting up the gate and also did not think that the taxpayers should pay for it.

Selectman Caron asked what a gate would cost.

Tom Ferry said the total installation would be about \$350.00 and he thought that the solution was not to just throw up a gate. He suggested that the request be taken under advisement and also that the Town Bylaws be revised to include no parking on that cul de sac.

Selectman Caron asked if the Water Department had any responsibility in this.

Mr. Mullen said it is unclear, but he had been told that they were not involved in expanding the path, but after tonight, he would follow up on this.

Selectman Caron suggested a timetable to meet again, and come up with suggestions on what can be done.

Tom Ferry said if everyone is in agreement, he could block the egress with cement blocks and put up some “no parking signs”

Selectman Caron said he liked that idea. He thought that the jersey barriers could be a stop gap measure.

Selectman Pacheco said he would want input from the Fire Chief

Mr. Grady said the intention of the gate was to slow down the traffic, not the dirt bikes and ATVS

Mr. Toolin said it has never been about the dirt bikes, it is about stopping the car and truck traffic. The idea of the gate is that everyone can have a key.

Selectman Caron asked Mr. Mullen to get ahold of the Fire Chief tomorrow to come up with something temporary to stop the cars from going back there.

Chairman Hull suggested a motion to table until the next meeting.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to table the discussion until the June 8 meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

FY22 Formula Contract, Executive Office of Elder Affairs

Mr. Mullen said this is a regular part of business. He recommended acceptance.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the grant and authorize Anabela Powell to execute the grant.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Facilities Reservation Request – Fly Dogs – July 23

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Facilities Reservation Request for Fly Dogs, to use the Town Hall Campus for an event on July 23.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull said there is a condition by the Board of Health that if there will be food served, they will need a food permit.

Facilities Reservation Request by the Dighton Cub Scouts for a Car Wash on June 18.

Mr. Mullen said if food will be sold, they will need a food permit and if they are not using the Highway Garage they will need a porta – potty. Mr Ferry said the facility will be open.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Dighton Cub Scout Car Wash Facilities Reservation Request for June 18, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Future of the Human Rights Committee

Chairman Hull said he pledged his support to get this group formed in Dighton. He asked his colleagues to end the Human Rights Committee under the scope of the Board of Selectmen.

He also asked the former members to join him, in forming the 5013C group.

Selectman Pacheco said you have had a year to form this 5013C committee. He said the members who worked very hard on this committee. He supported the motion to dissolve the committee, but thought that this should have been done a long time ago.

Chairman Hull said his role as changed as chairman and he felt it important to bring this up. He also wanted to fulfill a campaign promise. He was looking forward to people on the Human Rights Committee and new citizens becoming involved in forming this 5013C committee.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to dissolve the Human Rights Committee under the scope of the Board of Selectmen.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Warrants

Chairman Hull said earlier this evening the warrants were not approved. He said he had concerns about one department in particular. He asked if the board would be amenable to approving the warrants with no payments for the consultant's fee.

He said he would accept a motion to approve the warrants with the exceptions of the consultant's fee payment.

No motion was made.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #46A-22 in the amount of \$109,675.19 and Warrant #46B-22 in the amount of \$608,439.31 all dated May 18, 2022.

There was no discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #47A-22 in the amount of \$115,742.24, Warrant #47B-22 in the amount of \$18,367.77 and Warrant #47C-22 in the amount of \$204,807.33 all dated May 25, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Input

None.

Adjournment

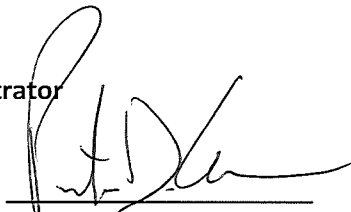
Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Executive Assistant
Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator



Leonard E. Hull, Chairman



Peter D. Caron, Clerk



Kenneth V. Pacheco, Member

Documents Reviewed:

Memorial Day Proclamation

Quarantine Guidance

Positive COVID castes by the week

Boards and Committee Vacancy

Bulky Item Pickup Flyer

Andrew Lapointe Resignation Letter

Karen Robitaille-Resignation Letter

Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2022

Roselli & Clark Auditors Report

Roselli & Clark Management Letter

Memo from Town Administrator to Board of Selectmen – Management Letter Comments

Community Compact Cabinet's Municipal Fiber Grant Contract Documents

Memorandum of Agreement Fire Chief

Memo from Town Administrator to the Board of Selectmen regarding Incident at Massasoit Road

Letter from Timothy Tooling to the Board of Selectmen requesting a gate be installed at the end of Massasoit Road

Email Chain between Kelley Smathers and Town Administrator Michael Mullen

Email from Jason Quinn regarding Gate at the end of Massasoit Road

Facilities Reservation request from Fly Dogs

Facilities Reservation Request from Dighton Cub Scouts Pack 45

Proposed Solid Waste Committee