

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:00 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Old Town Hall, 111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA**

**And via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by chairman Hull. He gave Zoom information and instructions for providing public input.

**Roll Call:**

Ken Pacheco, present.

Chairman Hull, present.

Selectman Caron, present.

TOWN CLERK  
DIGHTON, MA  
[Signature]

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**Present:** Chairman Hull, Selectman Caron, Selectman Pacheco, Town Administrator Mullen, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Building Commissioner James Aguiar, Town Assessor Stephanie Schecter, Town Accountant Janelle Vining, Police Chief Robert Mac Donald, Library Trustee Ron O'Connor, Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry, Town Treasurer Paul Reynolds, COA Director Anabella Powell.

**Also Present:** Mr. Tom Gallucci Mr, Dan Higgins

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was requested by Chairman Hull for Sandra Duarte, Emily Pacheco, Virginia Silvia and Vivian White.

**Scheduled Appointments**

Town Administrator Mullen gave an introduction for Mr. Frank Gervasio and Mr. Zachary Blake from the Division of Local Services.

**6:00 p.m. – Department of Revenue Division of Local Services**

**Dighton Financial Management Review**

Mr. Gervasio presented a Power Point Presentation regarding the scope, overview and recommendations stemming from the recent Financial Management Review that was conducted by the DOR -Division of Local Services.

Mr. Gervasio gave a brief Analysis of Dighton's Reserves and Excess Levy Capacity. He also outlined the recommendations from the Department of Revenue going forward.

Those included, converting the Treasurer/Collector to an appointed position, review and update town bylaws, define roles within the Assessing Department and development and adoption of Formal Financial Policies and a five-year Financial Forecast.

Mr. Gervasio said the full financial management review is available on the DOR website.

Chairman Hull asked about the software that the Accountant and Treasurer's Office used and if they had recommendations specific recommendations for this. Mr. Gervasio said there was room for modernization, within the payroll system by moving away from paper.

Mr. Blake said Munis is one of the top providers, but they do not comment on the qualities of the software, but rather they felt that the amount of paperwork could be reduced.

**6:30 p.m. - Anabela Powell, Council on Aging Director  
June 2022 Council on Aging Programming**

Ms. Powell said for the month of June, the COA would be having a presentation on Estate Planning for June 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

She outlined all of the programs scheduled for the months of June and July within the Council on Aging.

Mr. Mullen said the updated job descriptions for Program Manager and Office Manager had been created as part of the job classification study. He said because of the need in the vacancies, we were hoping to post the job openings and are seeking approval of the job descriptions prior to posting.

Chairman Hull asked if there were any areas of concern. Ms. Powell said she approved of the job descriptions. COA Chairman, Tom Ferry said they had approved the job descriptions and were excited to hire for the positions.

Chairman Hull asked for a timeline of events for the interviewing.

Mr. Mullen said posting would happen tomorrow. He said they would be posted for two weeks. Mr. Mullen said posting will close on June 23, that will give Anabella and her team time to screen and interview. The interviews will happen the last week of June, or first week in July and then the recommendation from the COA will be brought to the Board of Selectmen in early July.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept and post the job descriptions for the office manager and the program manager.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull aye

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

**6:40 p.m. – Police Chief Robert MacDonald  
Forest Street Speed Study Follow-Up**

Chief Macdonald said this a follow up from the last meeting. He said there was a speed study conducted in 2019. He said 85% of people travel just under 40 mph and thickly settled areas have a default speed limit of 30 mph as a statutory speed limit which can be enforced by the Police Department.

Chief MacDonald said Center Street, Cedar Street, Horton Street, Wellington Street and Forest Street were of concern. He said Sergeant Nichols was out there the other day and wrote a few citations. We are doing what we can. Chief said we do not have a right to put signs in the ground.

Chairman Hull asked how do we request the DOT to do a speed study.

Mr. Mullen said Mass DOT has a process for a speed review and SRPEDD is going to look into that process for us. He said any other streets can be included as well.

Mr Mullen said based on the 85% percentile of just under 40mph, we were told that is what Mass DOT will look at. He said if they look at that, there is a good chance, that is what the recommended speed limit will come back at (40mph.) He said based on the statutory speed limit of 30mph, we can enforce that. But if the DOT looks at the data, they would recommend a 40 mph speed limit.

Chairman Hull said the two issues that he is contacted about is the tax rate and the speeding. He said when we talk about a study that has a potential of increasing the speed limit, are there any other locations that we could take a look at that we could be reasonably sure that the limit would not increase.

Mr. Mullen agreed and said it was possible to present a few other streets in town for a speed study that would have a better chance of a reduction in the recommended speed limit.

There was discussion about different safety and speeding concerns in town.

Chairman Hull suggested a meeting between, Chief MacDonald, Lt. Cronin, Superintendent Ferry and Mr. Mullen to come up with a list of streets to request a study.

Police Chief McDonald gave the board, data that was gathered from the speed sign that had been placed on Forest Street between June 2-June 5.

Chief MacDonald read a press release that was issued today, regarding recent incidents at the D-R High School.

Chairman Hull said there had been similar issues in the past. He wants the public to hear that the School resource Officer is doing an excellent job and will be present fulltime to conclude the school year.

Chief MacDonald said officers will also be present at the Graduation on Saturday.

### **Public Input**

Mr. Ron O'Connor, 594 School Street, Chairman of Dighton Public Library Trustees thanked the board for their support at Town Meeting. He also thanked Town Administrator Michael Mullen. He said the town has his commitment going forward. He offered to help with grant writing going forward. Mr. O'Connor thanked the building commissioner. He thanked the voters that came out to vote. He said he was pleased that this project will solve that problem of accessibility for people with disabilities. He thanked the employees of the Dighton Public Library. Mr. O'Connor said he was overjoyed that we are finally giving the residents the library that they deserve.

Selectman Pacheco said he was also thankful for this project being approved.

Selectman Caron said a lot of people did a lot of work and we should be proud.

Chairman Hull thanked Mr. O'Connor for his work as well.

Nancy Goulart, 631 Gray Terrace said somewhere between 2007-2010 the town was involved in a traffic study at Main Street and Route 138. She said there should be a substantial file of things that were of concern to us.

Mrs. Goulart said August 6 – 7 was the Pan Mass Challenge and they would be passing through town. She presented a breakdown of how money raised was allocated last year for research. She said the PMC is always in need of volunteers to help with lunch, etc., and also just support as they ride through town.

Tom Gallucci, 2860 Palmer Street, said this is in direct reference to the business at the High School. He was glad there was an SRO at the High School, that is the only thing that will prevent real violence. Mr. Gallucci said there has been some resistance by the School Committee to meet regarding this. He asked for assistance in putting together this meeting.

Mr Gallucci also asked for a POS system at the Treasurer's office and also at the Transfer Station.

Bill Moore, 1835 Smith Street, said that there are reasons for what the Mass DOT does. His opinion was that the speed limits in the report were pretty spot on.

Chairman Hull said he looked forward to the recommendations that will be brought forward in July.

Jonathan Gale thanked everyone for their work on the ADA Grant which is nearing completion.

Paul Reynolds, 725 Main Street, said he was currently looking into several way to improve processes and he has been in touch with merchants to institute other payment methods.

#### **Announcements**

Regular announcements were read.

#### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Mullen said on April 12 the DESE representative sent a letter regarding the proposal from Rehoboth separate K-8 from Dighton. There will be a special meeting in August to present that question to voters.

The state department of Education has regulations regarding this. He said it takes all towns in a regional district to separate. Not just one. He said in order for any proposed separation to happen, each town must submit:

1. an educational plan as to how it will support its school populations
2. A report on how the separation will affect students.
3. Each long-range plan must address the requirements of 603CMR 41.02(2).

Mr. Mullen said 1 ½ weeks ago we heard back from the Attorney General's office regarding Article 5. The Attorney General's office struck from the bylaw, the last phrase "Town -Owned or Town Hall Land." He said the flag pole in front of town hall is the pole that this bylaw applies to and the bylaw will be implemented going forward.

Mr. Mullen said we are pursuing all grants for Pleasant Street Bridge Reconstruction. He said we have applied for a 201,000.00 grant to the One Stop Portal. This is the second grant that we have applied for with regard to the Pleasant Street Bridge.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Update on the Lions Club Bocce Court**

Building commissioner Aguiar said the lions club would like to install a Bocce Court. He went over the details. They propose to put it on the east side (rear) of the building. He said he reached out to the

abutting property to see if they had any concerns. The property owner has no concerns. He thought it would be a great addition to the property.

Selectman Pacheco said he would recuse himself, being a member of the Lions club.

Selectman Caron motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** that the town accept the gift of the Bocce Court.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, abstained.

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen give permission to Building Commissioner Aguiar to issue permit to build the Bocce Court.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco abstained.

**Homeowner's Association-Massasoit Road**

Mr. Mullen said we have been working to bring together stakeholders from the Water District, Police, Fire etc. We are looking to set up that meeting withing the next week.

**Selectmen's Reports**

Selectman Hull gave a report on the recent Water District meeting. He said there is an end coming to the water moratorium. He said it is a year off, but he cautioned town officials to start thinking about....

Mr. Aguiar said the Community Impact Fee is being worked on, and may be ready to Fall Town meeting. If not, it will be the Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Aguiar will be coming to the board with and increase in fees in the month of August.

**Dighton Industrial Development Commission**

Chairman Hull said at the last meeting two developers were discussed. He said we are hoping within the next month to have that individual come and let us know about the project. Chairman Hull also said that a developer came in from Rhode Island who is interested in doing some development along the river in Dighton.

He said one of the things that the DDIC will be doing is to reach out to developers about the possibility of coming to Dighton.

**New Business**

**Interdepartmental Transfers**

Mr. Mullen went through the transfers with the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to transfer from Workers Compensation the sum of \$4,559.16 to the Education Account.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Library**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to transfer the sum of \$1,700.00 from Library Professional and Technical Account #010-0-610-000-70-5730, Library Travel Account #010-0-610-000-70- and Library Dues account to Library Page account #010-0-610-000-50-5107

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Town Clerk**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to transfer From the Planning Board Professional and Technical Account #010-0-175-000-50-5300 in the amount of \$835.00 to the Town Clerk's Professional and Technical Account #010-0-161-0000-70-5300.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to transfer \$486.00 from the Town Accountant Professional and Technical Account #010-0-135-0000-70-5300 to the Town Clerk Elections Professional & Technical Account #010-0-1622-0000-70-5300.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Assessors**

Town Assessor, Stephanie Schecter said she was asking for a transfer because of unbudgeted retirement and separation expenses that were incurred by the department in the amount of \$7,714.45.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to transfer from Street Cleaning and Stormwater Budget Account #010-0-432-0000-50-5106 for the total amount of \$7,714.45 to the Assessor's Salary-Chairman Account #010-0-141-0000-50-5101 in the amount of \$6,822.04 and Assessor's Salary-Members account #010-0-141-0000-50-5102 in the amount of \$1,092.41.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.  
Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

**Town Reports**

Due to cost of paper rising significantly and increase in pages in the Annual Town Report.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to transfer the amount of \$349.08 from the Town Counsel #010-0-151-0000-70-5300 to Town Reports account #010-0-195-0000-70-5300

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Winter Recovery Assistance Program**

Mr. Mullen said he believed that the town has the ability to receive \$250,000.00 in additional funds for additional Chapter 90 funding. The Town needs to approve the approval of the funding so it may be applied to the town’s funding. We would have until the end of the fiscal year 2023 to expend the funds

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint the Town Administrator to enter into an agreement for the Winter assistance Recovery Program.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Dighton Industrial & Development Commission – Request for page on the town’s Facebook account as well as the LinkedIn Account**

Mr. Dan Higgins said it would be very beneficial to the Commission to have this page.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to allow the DDIC to obtain a page on the on the Town’s Facebook page and a Link’d In account

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Junkyard and Automobile Graveyard Bylaw Implementation**

Chairman Hull said he would like to work with Mr. Aguiar and Mr. Mullen to put policies in place for Junkyards.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to take this under advisement.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.  
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

**Grant Award to the Dighton Cultural Council**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the grant in the amount of \$6500.00 from the Mass Cultural Council.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Contract between Town of Dighton and Borges Brothers Trucking**

Mr. Mullen said the current contract is expiring this year. He said the new contract is \$415,000.00 in year 1, \$427,900.00 in year 2 and \$439,800.00 in year 3.

Mr. Mullen said we have a very successful and productive relationship with Borges and they provide a very valuable service to Dighton.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to renew the contract between the town of Dighton and Borges Brothers from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 as presented.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Appoint Jonathan Gale to the CPC**

The recommendation was read.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Jonathan Gale to the CPC.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Appoint Megan De Costa as Tobacco Agent**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Meagan De Costa as Tobacco Agent.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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



**Appoint Board of Selectmen member to the Solid Waste Committee**

Selectman Caron motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to appoint Peter Caron to the Solid Waste Committee.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

**Request to Advertise Board of Registrar's Vacancy**

The letter from the town clerk notifying the Board of the vacancy and terms was read by Mr. Mullen.

Mr William Moore said as treasurer of the Republican Committee, he had no knowledge of receiving any notification of the vacancy

Chairman Hull said he thought the letters should have been sent registered mail and if they were not, they should be resent.

Selectman Caron motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen defer this matter until the next meeting and take under advisement

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco abstained from the vote.

Mr. Gallucci, Chairman of the Republican party, said he did receive a letter but had not solicited anyone. He will ask for volunteers to submit an application.

Selectman rescinded his motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to advertise for the Board of Registrar's position.

**Acknowledgements**

Chairman Hull said Ms. Stephanie Schecter has joined our team in the past year. He wanted to assure Ms. Schecter that he truly appreciated her efforts and looks forward to working with her in the coming years.

**Correspondence**

The Council on Aging is holding a presentation "Planning for 65." It will be held on Monday June 13 at prime time. Please call 508-823-0095 or 508-669-6272 to let us know that you will be attending

**Minutes**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of May 11, 2022.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Finance Committee/Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of May 19, 2022.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

**Warrants**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #48A-22 in the amount of \$111,604.25, Warrant #48B-22 in the amount of \$481,324.39, Warrant #48C-22 in the amount of \$17,360.39 all dated June 1, 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 #49A-22 in the amount of \$114,763.26, Warrant #49B-22 in the amount of \$134,027.65, Warrant 49C-22 in the amount of \$4,807.39 and 49D-22 in the amount of \$ 4,159,067.25 all dated June 8, 2022.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

**Public Input**

Nancy Goulart, 631 Gray Terrace said she attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting via Zoom. One presenter enlists companies that sell mattresses to charge a fee to dispose of mattresses. They also have a program to recycle the contents of mattresses.

Mrs. Nancy Goulart asked for the slides from the presentation. They will need support from us to be sent to Senators.

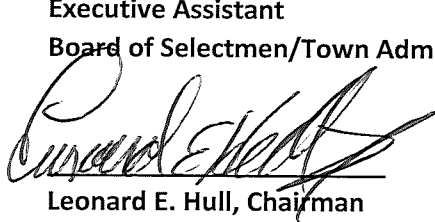
Mrs. Goulart will get the slides to Town Administrator Mullen so that the board can consider letters to our Senators to support this.

Mr. Paul Reynolds, Main Street, wanted to thank the Lions for all of the work that they did at the Cow chip festival. He also, said he supported the DDIC and their new logo. He said he would be happy to scout out recycling facilities in Amherst. Mr. Reynolds thanked the COA for the upcoming presentation on Medicare. He would be attending.

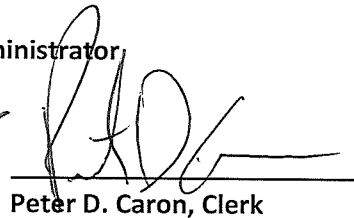
Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

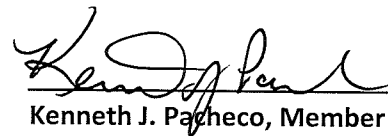
**Karin L. Brady**  
Executive Assistant  
Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator



Leonard E. Hull, Chairman



Peter D. Caron, Clerk



Kenneth J. Pacheco, Member

**Documents Reviewed:**

Town of Dighton Financial Management Review  
"Planning for Medicare Countdown to 65" Flyer  
June 2022 Monthly Happenings @ Council on Aging  
"Celebration of Seniors" Flyer  
Council on Aging Program Manager Job Description  
Council on Aging Office Manager Job Description  
SRPEDD Speed Study Report 2019  
Boards and Committee Vacancies May 2022  
Bulky Item Pickup Flyer June 10, 2022  
Strawberry Festival Flyer June 18, 2022  
Mass DESE Letter to Dr. Anthony Azar  
Flag Bylaw Approval Press Release June 1, 2022  
Letter from Attorney General's office regarding Special Town Meeting Article #5  
End of Year Budget transfers  
Town Clerk  
Assessor's Department  
Library  
Town Reports  
Education  
Winter Recovery Assistance Program Email  
Mass DOT Winter Recovery Assistance Program Contract documents  
Email from Dan Higgins regarding request for Facebook and Link d in Page Access  
Mass Cultural Council Allocation Contract Documents  
Borges Brothers Contract  
Borges Brothers Quote Document  
Email requesting Appointment of Jonathan Gale to CPC  
Volunteer Information Form -Jonathan Gale  
Request from Board of Health to Appoint Megan De Costa as Tobacco Enforcement Officer  
Board of Registry Vacancy Information

