



TOWN OF DIGHTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

RECEIVED  
Town Clerk-Dighton, MA  
AUG 28 2023

Time: 9:56 AM  
By: S.C.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.  
Hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and In-Person at  
Old Town Hall - 1111 Somerset Avenue

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81862287772?pwd=dU5pUXdhZkhLRTBpSnZDVU9FVktTdz09>

Meeting ID: 818 6228 7772

Passcode: 239427

Phone: 309 205 3325

This meeting is being recorded. "The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law".

The Regular Session was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Caron

Present: Chairman Peter Caron,  
Selectman Nicole Mello, Clerk,  
Selectman Leonard Hull, Jr., Member  
Town Administrator Michael Mullen and Administrative Assistant Leanne Kerwin

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Scheduled Appointments:**

**Proclamation – Richmond Tripp**

Chairman Caron read the Town of Dighton Proclamation to Mr. Tripp in honor of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday as well a Citation from the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Both were presented to Mr. Tripp and his family.

Raphael Delfin, Vice Chair of the Dighton Historical Commission presented him with a Certificate of Honor.

Patrick Menges, former Dighton Selectman, spoke in honor of Mr. Tripp and read a passage from a Report of the Board of Selectmen in 1945 at the end of WWII.

**Review/Discuss/Act: Transfer Station Attendant/Laborer Recommendation – Connor Marks**

Mr. Thomas Ferry spoke to the Board and recommended Connor Marks. Chairman Caron asked if the hours of the Transfer Station would be changing. Mr. Ferry explained that he will be changing the hours of the Transfer Station to Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. starting in August.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Connor Marks as the Transfer Station Attendant/Laborer pending successful completion of a background check and physical.

CREV 11/11/12

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**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Review/Discuss/Act: Class I Operator Recommendation – Dakota Reardon-Bartel

Thomas Ferry speaks to the Board and recommends Dakota Reardon-Bartel.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Dakota Reardon-Bartell as the Highway Department Class 1 Operator pending successful completion of a background check and physical.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Town Clerk Position Interviews**

**Candidate - Stephanie Buzzell**

The Selectmen each asked several questions of Ms. Buzzell. She expressed interest in working for the town as she has had positive experiences each time she has come into town hall; she felt her banking experience and prior work experience would make her a good fit for the position; she realizes it is going to be a challenge, but she thinks she is up for it; she is current with computer software skills; she is willing to run in a general election.

**Candidate - Shara Costa**

The Selectmen each asked several questions of Ms. Costa. She stated that she is excited about the opportunity to work for the town and is looking for work/life balance; she feels her analytical skills would fit with the position; she is aware that she has big shoes to fill; she understands that there would be a lot for her to learn; she feels her attention to detail and analytical skills would be helpful; she is current with software skills; she is comfortable with records management; has had management experience as well as training experience; she is comfortable with running in a general election.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to take Agenda Item 8A 'Review/Discuss/Act: Appointment of Town Clerk' out of order.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Review/Discuss/Act: Appointment of Town Clerk

All three Selectmen expressed that both candidates were excellent overall.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Shara Costa as the Interim Town Clerk.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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



## Announcements

Announcements were read by Selectman Mello.

## Administrator Mullen Reports

Administrator Mullen explained that, according to regulations, we have until Monday, July 17, 2023 to get all of our books together for end of Fiscal Year 2023. He then praised the efforts of the Town Accountant, Sirena Amaral.

## Selectmen's Reports:

### *Peter D. Caron, Chairman –*

Historical Commission – Mr. Caron explained that a time capsule was discussed. The time capsule will be put at the new Library inside a plexiglass cabinet. He also discussed the wrist bands for the Firecracker Festival.

### *Leonard E. Hull, Jr., Member –*

School Committee – Selectman Hull attended a school committee last evening that was in Executive Session. They are continuing contract negotiations with the Custodians.

Water District – The Water District met on July 11<sup>th</sup> and they voted to spend \$221,000 for a 1-1/2inch overlay on Main Street. Paving will be done late July/early August. In August, work will begin on upgrading the three culverts on Main Street. The Water District will begin the contractor bidding process for the \$700,000 replacement of the Cedar Street 1A well. They have a 19-hour per week summer laborer vacancy. There will be a Special Election on August 14th to fill a commissioner vacancy from Noon – 7:00 PM at the William's Street Office. There is only one candidate, John Harris, who will be on the ballot.

### *Nicole L. Mello, Clerk –*

Trails Committee – They presented a map for Broad Cove for the west entrance. They spoke about setting up a table at the Firecracker Festival. They are planning an August 8<sup>th</sup> walk-through behind town hall with DCR to see where the area goes towards Bristol Aggie. Administrator Mullen explained what the town is exploring and what the grant is for. This would allow trail heads here at the town hall campus instead of disturbing Sandpiper Way.

## Old Business:

### Review/Discuss/Act: Appointment of Fence Viewers

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to re-appoint William Moore as Fence Viewer for the 2023/2024 year.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to re-appoint Nancy Goulart as Fence Viewer for the 2023/2024 year.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to re-appoint Eric Easterday as Fence Viewer for the 2023/2024 year.



**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**New Business:**

Review/Discuss/Act: Recommendation to Appoint Laura Smith to the Dighton Development and Industrial Committee

Daniel Higgins spoke about Laura's ability to bring a great deal of experience to this role.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Laura Smith to the Dighton Development and Industrial Committee.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Review/Discuss/Act: Letter to National Grid re: Dighton Municipal Fiber Line

Administrator Mullen explained that, last June, the town received a \$201,000 grant from the state to establish a fiber line, but that we are having a challenge with National Grid. He has been working with an attorney over the past few weeks. This attorney has worked with towns to recommend letters to assert a town's rights in a 'softer' way. Administrator Mullen hopes, based on our working relationship with National Grid, that they would be able to see the very strong position that the town is making. He stated that we are diplomatically trying to assert the rights we have had since 1947.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to send a letter to National Grid in regards to our concerns with the cost of its aerial license agreement.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Review/Discuss/Act: Extension of Memorandum of Understanding – Clerk's Office

Administrator Mullen explains that the Memorandum of Understanding for the former Senior Clerk expired at the end of June, but her work to assist the Town Clerk went to the end of the day yesterday (July 11, 2023). He is asking the Selectmen to extend this Memorandum of Understanding from June 30, 2023 through the end of the business day of July 11, 2023.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Dighton, Rebecca Mello and Dighton Clerical, Library, and Council on Aging from June 30, 2023 through the close of the work day of July 11, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

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Review/Discuss/Act: Extension of Memorandum of Understanding – Assessor’s Office

Administrator Mullen explained that there is an employee in the Assessor’s office using paid time off. Administrator Mullen recommended that the Board extend the Memorandum of Understanding for Lisa Tetreault from June 30, 2023 through the end of September 2023.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to extend the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Dighton, Lisa Tetreault and the Dighton Clerical, Library, Council on Aging from June 30, 2023 through September 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Review/Discuss/Act: Appoint Rebecca Mello, Assistant Town Clerk, as Interim Public Records Officer  
Selectman

Administrator Mullen explained that Rebecca Mello has agreed to serve as Interim Public Records Access Officer for the town.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Rebecca Mello, Assistant Town Clerk, as Interim Public Records Officer.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Approval of Warrants:**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the Warrant paid July 1, 2023 of: 1A-24 \$1,203,026.60

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the Warrants paid on July 6, 2023: 53A-23 \$119,809.08; 53B-23 \$110,586.98; 2A-24 \$5,840.37 and 2B-24 \$24,002.23.

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the Warrants paid July 13, 2023 54B-23 \$116,474.18; 54C-23 \$11,819.06; 3A-24 \$135,539.09 and 3B-24 \$46,296.95.

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

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**Acknowledgements:**

Letter from Mark Pacheco, Town Clerk – Appointment of Assistant Town Clerk.

Letter dated Jul 5, 2023 from Mark Pacheco (former Town Clerk) was read into record by Chairman Caron.

**Correspondence:**

Letter from Ptlm. Tyler Hazel re: Resignation from the Police Department

Letter dated July 10, 2023 is read into record by Chairman Caron.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the letter of resignation of Tyler Hazel from the Dighton Police Department with sincere thanks.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Selectman Hull, aye

**Minutes:**

Approval of the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Selectman Hull, aye

Approval of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2023

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2023

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Selectman Hull, aye

Approval of the Board of Selectmen Emergency Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2023

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Emergency Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Selectman Hull, aye

**Public Input:**

None

**Executive Session:**

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

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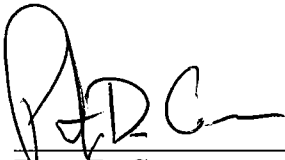
**Roll Call Vote:**

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

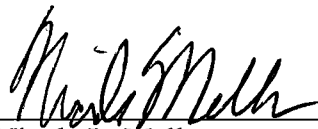
Regular meeting concluded at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

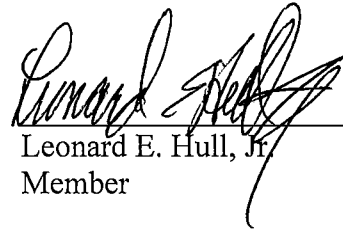
Leeanne Kerwin  
Administrative Assistant  
Board of Selectmen's Office



Peter D. Caron  
Chairman



Nicole L. Mello  
Clerk



Leonard E. Hull, Jr.  
Member

**Documents:**

Application dated June 5, 2023 – Connor Marks  
Application dated June 9, 2023 – Dakota Reardon-Bartel  
Application dated June 28, 2023 – Stephanie Buzzell  
Application dated June 28, 2023 – Shara Costa  
Narcan Training Flyer  
Butler Hospital Flyer  
Dighton Public Library Flyer – Knock on Wood  
Letter dated July 10, 2023 – Request to Appoint Laura Smith to DDIC  
Letter dated July 10, 2023 – Town of Dighton Municipal Fiber Project  
Memorandum of Understanding dated March 9, 2023 – Ms. Rebecca Mello  
Memorandum of Understanding dated March 9, 2023 – Ms. Lisa Tetreault  
Letter dated July 5, 2023 – Mark Pacheco re: Appointment of Assistant Town Clerk  
Letter dated July 10, 2023 – Ptlm. Tyler Hazel re: Resignation from position as Patrolman  
Draft Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2023  
Draft Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2023  
Draft Board of Selectmen Emergency Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2023

