

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Regular Meeting**

October 12, 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 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Hull.

Chairman Hull gave Zoom login instructions and directions for providing public input.

**Present:** Chairman Hull, Selectman Pacheco, Town Administrator Michael Mullen, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Police Chief Shawn Cronin, Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry,

Selectman Caron was absent.

**Also Present:** Sister Marie William Lapointe, Tara Shaffer-Dighton Cultural Council,

**Roll Call:**

Chairman Hull, present.

Selectman Pacheco, present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Moment of Silence**

Chairman Hull requested a moment of silence for Jillian Courcy and Frances MacDonald.

**Scheduled Appointments**

**6:05 p.m. Al Galvin National Grid – Pole Hearing to Relocate 19 JO poles on Williams Street.**

Mr. Galvin explained the purpose for the relocation of the poles on Williams Street.

Town Administrator Mullen recommended approval.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the relocation of 19 JO poles on Williams Street as presented on the schematics tonight.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**6:10 p.m. Certificate of Recognition – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Sr. Marie William Lapointe**

Chairman Hull and Selectman Pacheco congratulated Sr. Marie William Lapointe on her 67 years of service as a Dominican Sister and her recent 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Certificate of Recognition for Sr. Marie William Lapointe was read by Chairman Hull.

Sr. Marie said that everyone is welcome at the Dominican Sisters residence at 3012 Elm Street.

TOWN CLERK  
DIGHTON, MA

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Nancy Goulart said the Dominican Sisters residence is an international headquarters location and that is special for a little town like Dighton.

**6:15 p.m. Police Chief Shawn Cronin-Presentation on the Status of the Police**

Chief Cronin said the Dighton Police Department's fleet is aging. He said we typically get one cruiser per year. Chief Cronin said the challenge recently with COVID has been getting parts and the vehicle that was approved at the last Town Meeting was still not in. Chief Cronin said we are in real need of another car and time is of the essence when ordering cars.

Chairman Hull said he planned to support the request.

Mr. Mullen asked, "When we take delivery of the new cruiser, will there be one in the fleet that will become surplus?"

Chief Cronin said Cruiser #572 would be demoted to a detail car or sight deterrence for motorists. He said right now everything they have is useable to its extent.

**6:20 p.m. Susana Medeiros-Invitation to Tree Lighting Ceremony**

Chairman Hull said Susana Medeiros was unable attend this evening.

**Public Input**

Chairman Hull said public input should be limited to five minutes and he asked for respect from the public when addressing issues.

Nancy Goulart, 631 Gray Terrace, said this morning was an Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting on Energy and the Environment. She said today they worked on legislation that they planned to support with regard to getting clarification on stormwater fees, what can be collected and how they could be spent.

She said in the past, there have been fuzzy areas. She said they would be supporting clarification on what the money could be spent on.

Ms. Goulart said this year will be the first live trade show for Massachusetts Municipal Association in a few years.

She said the Stormwater Committee would be attending the Lions Arts Festival and also the Tree Lighting Ceremony in town.

Tom Gallucci, 2086 Palmer Street, said he and his group was in favor of the Police getting their cruiser. He said we have seen supply chain issues and some parts are difficult to get. He thought the majority of the RTC was in favor of the Police getting a cruiser.

Jonathan Gale, 22 Waterford Circle, thanked everyone in town, all members of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Michael Mullen and the Highway Department for their efforts in putting together the playground design. He also mentioned that the playground being accessible was a big plus for our community.

**Announcements**

Announcements were read by Selectman Pacheco.

### **Committee/Commission Spotlight – Dighton Cultural Council**

Tara Shaffer – 1730 Wellington Street said the Dighton Cultural Council is funded through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She said the council meets once a year to discuss any applicants who would like to apply for funding. Ms. Shaffer said we make sure that we consider a range of interests. She said the amount of money varies from year to year and applicants need to apply by October 15.

Ms. Shaffer said the Council will meet in November to award funds. She said some of the events that we have funded were for Prime Time, Library, D-R Marching Band and Parks and Recreation.

Selectman Hull asked how much money they have. She said it varies from year to year but this year it was \$7,300.00.

Chairman Hull asked what type of groups could apply. Ms. Shaffer said it should be for arts, studies, exhibitions and performances.

Chairman Hull asked if the group would send an announcement for the deadlines to apply for next year.

Ms. Schaffer said she would.

### **Town Administrator and Town Accountant Report**

Mr. Mullen said it has been a very busy month. We have transitioned a new Town Accountant and one of the first things she had to do was to close out FY22. He said Ms. Amaral was here tonight to talk about the FY22 closeout and with that comes the certification of Free Cash. He thanked Ms. Amaral for all of her efforts with this. He said the certification had been the quickest in three years.

### **Town Accountant Sirena Amaral – Overview of Free Cash Certification**

Ms. Amaral gave an overview of Free Cash, revenues and expenditures in a Power Point Presentation.

Chairman Hull thanked Ms. Amaral and asked Mr. Mullen to elaborate with regard to the 1.2 million in E&D and what the possible uses would be for that money.

Mr. Mullen said the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen would be meeting jointly tomorrow night to make recommendations on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. He said in terms of available Free Cash, we will be proposing to put \$800,000.00 into stabilization accounts and another \$90,000.00 into OPEB. Mr. Mullen said in addition to that, in Article 3, we have an important priority every year to fund the police station debt service. He said the town and town officials do everything to prevent that debt service from hitting the tax rate and in the past five years it hasn't. Mr. Mullen said in Article 3, we are proposing to fund the cost of the debt service in the amount of \$367,000.00 and in addition to that, to appropriate another \$230,000.00 to reduce the tax rate which is very significant.

Mr. Mullen said we really understand the financial pressures on our residents.

### **Old Business:**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Proposed Junk Dealer Licensing Guidelines**

Mr. Mullen went over the changes to the latest version of the guidelines.

Pointing out the change under "Purpose" in the first paragraph, proposing that a holder of Class One, Two and Three licenses would not have to apply for an additional Junk Dealer License.

Also, we were originally proposing that the term of license would begin on January 1, but there is a statute on Massachusetts General Law which governs that the licensing begins on May 1, and that change was made accordingly.

Chairman Hull thanked Mr. Borges of Borges Foreign Auto parts for his input into crafting these guidelines.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the proposed Junk Dealer Guidelines.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**Selectman's Report**

Selectman Pacheco had no report.

Chairman Hull said at the School Committee Meeting last night it was announced, the faculty and students at Dighton Elementary and Dighton Middle schools were named Feinsein Schools of Excellence. He thanked Mr. Baxter and Mr. Runey for their efforts.

**Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant – Contract to Install Fiber for Dighton Municipal Buildings.**

Mr. Mullen recommended that the board table this item.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to table Agenda Item 11A.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**Warrant for 2022 State Election**

Mr. Mullen said the board will have to approve the Warrant for the November State Election.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the Warrant for the November 8, 2022 State Election.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**Request to Appoint Ron Smith to the Historical Commission**

Selectman Pacheco said the Historical Commission met on September 13 where the Historical Commission interviewed Mr. Smith and recommended his appointment.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to appoint Mr. Ron Smith to the Dighton Historical Commission.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

Chairman Hull stated the agenda item for the "Update on Special Town Meeting Warrant" was inadvertently skipped.

There was discussion of the Special Town Meeting Warrant and the procedure for making recommendations.

Mr. Mullen said he recommended that both the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen vote to make their recommendations for the proposed articles at tomorrow evening's joint meeting.

Mr. Mullen said there are a couple of articles that were still a work in progress. He said Article 4 related to Dighton Dispatchers and Article 22 which deals with local property tax exemptions for blind persons and widows, will be ready for recommendations tomorrow evening.

The board returned to regular business.

**Rescind Field Driver Appointments**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to rescind the Field Driver appointments for Nancy Goulart, Eric Easterday and William Moore.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**Change Name of the Community Garden to the James Briggs Garden**

Selectman Pacheco said the voted to change the name of the Community Garden to the James Briggs Garden.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to change the name of the Community Garden to the James Briggs Garden.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**Green Seal Environmental LLC – Professional Engineering Services at Tremont Street Landfill**

Mr. Mullen said this is done on a yearly basis at a cost of \$12,075.00 for each of the three years.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the three-year contract with Green Seal Environmental for \$12,075.00 per year.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Chairman Hull, aye.

**Acknowledgements**

Rachel, Susan, Kevin Smith and ...for their efforts on the North Dighton Playground Project. The ribbon cutting ceremony was great.

Selectman Pacheco said Dave Rosa was also in attendance and he thanked everyone as well.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Minutes**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting of September 28, 2022.

**Warrants**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #14A-23 in the amount of \$128,563.29 and Warrant #14B-23 in the amount of \$132,518.90 both dated October 5, 2022.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.  
Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #15A-23 in the amount of \$113,434.65 and 15B-23 in the amount of \$298,107.84, both dated October 12, 2022.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Selectman Pacheco, aye.  
Chairman Hull, aye.

**Public Input**

None.

**Executive Session**

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Chairman Hull stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3)

3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

a. Dighton Town Clerical, Library and Council on Aging Union, Laborers Local 272

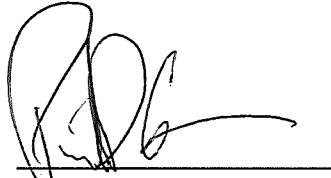
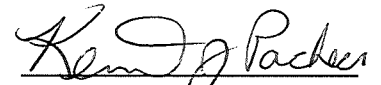
He said the board would not be returning to open session.

the regular meeting ended at 7:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karin L. Brady**  
**Executive Assistant**

**Board of Selectmen**

  
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**Leonard E. Hull, Chairman**  
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**Peter D. Caron, Clerk**  
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**Kenneth J. Pacheco, Member**

**Documents Reviewed:**

- Pole Petition National Grid**
- Certificate of Recognition**
- Dighton Police Cruiser listing**
- Dighton Historical Flyer "King Philip's Indian War"**
- COVID 19 Vaccine/Booster Clinic Flyer**
- West Dighton Congregational Church "Fall Family Olde Time Fair" Flyer**
- Bristol County Agricultural High School Fall Show Flyer**
- Dighton Police Drug Take Back Day Correspondence**
- Dighton Library - Preschool Halloween Flyer**
- Town of Dighton Licensing Guidelines: Junk Dealers**
- Special Town Meeting Warrant DRAFT**
- Warrant for 2022 State Election**
- Historical Commission Recommendation to appoint Ron Smith**
- Green Seal Environmental LLC – Proposal for Landfill and Transfer Station Monitoring**