



A Message from your Town Administrator

August 2018

SHARPS DISPOSALS, TRASH BAGS, & RECYCLING STICKERS NOW SOLD AT THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Residents will now purchase their sharps containers, trash bags, and recycling stickers at the Board of Health (1111 Somerset Avenue). The hours remain the same as Town Hall: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Closed Fridays.

SAVE THE DATE: SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Board has called for a Special Town Meeting on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 15** at **7:00 p.m.** at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School.

I've worked in local government for almost 10 years and I always think the summer will be a time to catch up on work, but it was as busy as ever this year! Over the last month, the Town has welcomed a new part time harbormaster, Mr. Elliot Burroughs, and a new Ambulance Billing Clerk, Ms. Rebeca Moss. Ms. Moss beat out 37 applicants to fill this newly-created role to assist Chief Maguy to returning ambulance billing to the department rather than continue with a third-party vendor. Welcome to both Elliot and Rebeca!

WE GOT A GRANT!

I am thrilled to report that the Town received a \$92,346 grant from the Division of Ecological Resources for field data analysis and design and engineering work for the upgrade and replacement of the Briggs Street culvert over Sunken Brook. This is an area that has been subject to repeated washout and erosion for many years. Thanks to the help of DER, the Town is able to move forward with designing a better system that will be beneficial not only to wildlife and the environment but to the roadway and public safety as well. Special thanks to Highway Superintendent Thomas Ferry for his help in applying for the grant. This project is out for bid for proposals from qualified engineers.

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS

At the August 21 Special Town Meeting, 113 voters came together to approve \$804,000 to be expended by the School Committee for the purchase of modular units to be placed at Dighton Elementary School. The units will serve as six new classrooms to help alleviate severe overcrowding at the Elementary School. The School Department has pledged to set up a

MUNICIPAL FINANCE FUN FACT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

New Growth: The additional tax revenue generated by new construction, renovations and other increases in the property tax base during a calendar year. It does not include value increases caused by normal market forces or by revaluations, but rather is calculated by multiplying the assessed value associated with new construction, renovations and other increases by the prior year tax rate. The additional tax revenue is then incorporated into the calculation of the next year's levy limit, or the total value of all properties in the Town.

committee to study all five schools in the district and to seek funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for assistance in school building construction and assessments.

BURBIO.COM – A COMMUNITY EVENTS APP

The Dighton Public Library is a happening place! To organize their many events, as well as events happening all throughout the community, they have recently launched a community calendar partnership designed to improve communication with residents. Burbio.com is a free platform for non-profits and residents that streams library, school, and non-profit event information for communities all in one place. Residents can access Burbio through a free app or website which will allow them to personalize which events they see, add events to their personal digital calendar, and be notified when things change. Want to learn more? Call the library! Or visit Burbio.com.

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

The Selectmen and I did a lot of housekeeping this month. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy which mandates that Town vehicles be energy efficient whenever possible. This will help us not only improve the environment but save on gasoline and energy costs. Certain departments are exempt however, such as the Fire Department, because energy efficient models do not currently exist. This policy was adopted as part of the effort for the Town to become a Green Community. Such a designation opens up a wide variety of opportunities for grants and other funding sources.

I was able to convene with the Policy Review Board, a group made up of Union representation which serves to help the Town craft fair employment policies. Two policies are currently before this board and upon agreement by all parties we will bring them to the Board of Selectmen for adoption.

The Selectmen established a Ribbon Cutting Committee which is charged with planning a small reception to observe the grand opening of Old Town Hall. Though the office space on the bottom floor has been open and active for some time, the meeting room on the top floor is still undergoing construction. The expected date of completion is October 2018.

Perhaps the biggest change occurring this month is the Selectmen's new meeting schedule. The Board opted to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, rather than weekly. The Town Clerk and Town Treasurer offices are only open on these nights as well, as these offices have traditionally followed the Selectmen's meeting schedule.



THE BIG CHEESE!

This month's Big Cheese is Treasurer/Collector Mary Hathaway! Mary rolled out a new initiative for us employees helping us stay fit and healthy. Mary received a grant from the Town's health insurance group to develop a walking challenge. She used the funds to purchase pedometers for participants as well as prizes for those who walk the most steps each week. Thank you, Mary, for recognizing the *whole* employee and making Dighton a little bit more of a great place to work.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 3 – *Labor Day*

Town Hall Closed

September 4 – *Primary Election*

September 8 – *Touch a Truck at Manheim Auto Auction (hosted by the Dighton Fire Association)*

September 12 and 26 – *Selectmen's Meetings*

September 17 – *Taste of Dighton, (hosted by the Friends of the Library)*