



A Message from your Town Administrator

July 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.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Board has called for a Special Town Meeting on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School. The meeting is upon the request of the School Committee for funds to purchase modular units at Dighton Elementary.

I can't believe how far along we are into the summer already! It has been a quick month since I've written last and a lot has kept me busy. But first, a warm welcome to our newest Selectmen, Ken Pacheco. Ken was elected via Special Election at the end of June and has already weighed in on a variety of critical matters. I look forward to working with him over the next two years. The Town also welcomes a new call firefighter, Mr. Justin Flannery who will begin in August. Welcome Justin!

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERTS

The Board of Health has issued a few Public Health Alerts. Hormel foods has issued a recall for canned chicken and pork products for metal contamination. Ritz Cracker sandwiches and Ritz Bits have been recalled as well due to possible salmonella. Additionally, there have been reports of two rabid racoon bites in Town. Residents should know that racoons have no fear of people and are occasionally seen during the day. This does not mean they are rabid, but you should still take caution.

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MUNICIPAL FINANCE FUN FACT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Tax Levy: the total amount that a Town can tax to, equating to the full value of the Town. This is akin to a credit limit.

Debt Exclusion: An action taken by a community through a referendum (ballot) vote to raise the funds for a particular project against the tax levy but over the limits of Prop. 2^{1/2}. Through the vote, the Town receives special permission from the people to raise taxes by more than 2.5% for this particular project. However, once the project is paid for, it is removed from the tax rolls.

overcrowding in Dighton Elementary School. We hope to see you there. For more information, watch the July 25 Selectmen's Meeting during which the School Department made a presentation and gave other important updates relative to the School District.

BARN PERMITS

The Board of Health issues barn permits, which are \$10, for anyone who owns and shelters animals on their property. This permit is issued for anyone erecting, occupying or using a barn, coop or shelter as a facility for animals. The Animal Control Officer conducts annual inspections of said property to ensure animal safety and cleanliness. Anyone building a barn would also need a building permit issued by the Building Commissioner. Please note, this is not for horse owners as they fall under the Stable Application.

DIGHTON FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 4332

The Firefighters Union is accepting applications for their first annual EMT-Basic scholarship. Qualified applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 24, committed to pursuing a career in emergency medicine and must be a resident of the Town of Dighton. Applications are due on August 17, no later than 5:00 p.m. Visit their Facebook page for further information. I commend the firefighters for their commitment to education and for investing in members of our community. Thank you!

JULY ACTIVITIES

The Town was updated on the SRPEDD study of Somerset and Tremont Avenue and issued a series of recommendations. Some of these have already been put in place to help make the lanes and intersection more visible and structured. These include repainting stop lines at the end of Tremont Street and also repainting the yellow lines in the center of the street. The Highway Department will be raising the signs that face traffic on Tremont Street so that they are more in view of a driver. Nearby vegetation has been controlled and cut, and signage has been added so that the Stop signs are more prominent and more visible. Further studies will take place as part of a larger conversation of assessing roadways throughout the Town for speed, width and other characteristics. We thank SRPEDD for their diligence and hardwork assessing this intersection and providing recommendations.

I formally submitted a list of recommendations to improve functionality and efficiency in the Board of Selectmen's office as well as townwide. The Board has already acted on some of these recommendations, including moving the sale of trash bags, sharps disposals, etc, to the Board of Health, addressing the way Passports are processed in the Town, and moving to a bi-weekly meeting schedule rather than meeting every week. The Selectmen are continuing their review of these recommendations and I thank them for their willingness to review them and take action.



THE BIG CHEESE!

For the first time, the Big Cheese award was given to an entire department. The Board of Health is the most recent recipient of the Big Cheese Trophy. Specifically, all members of the department banded together and worked as a cohesive team to address a resident complaint very quickly and orderly. Due to the coordinated response and due diligence of all members of the department, the situation was handled expeditiously. They are also doing a fabulous job of managing a basically new department as the Board separates completely from the Selectmen. Further, in their not-so-quiet time, the Board of Health has been diligently working to establish emergency preparedness regulations and systems.

Well done to Animal Control Officer Stacey Ferry, Health Agent Todd Pilling, Office Manager Rosalind Grassie, and Board of Health Members Tom Pires (Chairman), Kevin Bernardo, and Matt Tanis. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 21 – Special Town Meeting

August 8 & August 22 – Selectmen's
Meetings

September 3 – Labor Day

Town Hall Closed