



A Message from your Town Administrator

June 2018

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Selectmen recently made their annual appointments. I'd like to take this time to thank our volunteers serving on town boards and committees. The Town could not operate as well, nor as richly without you. You are what helps make Dighton so great!

If you'd like to volunteer on a board of commission, visit http://www.dighton-ma.gov/i_want_to/volunteer.php.

SPECIAL ELECTION JUNE 28, 2018

The election is to fill a vacated Selectmen's seat for a term of 2 years. There are four candidates.

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Voters can report to the Dighton Elementary School.

It's a hectic, yet exciting time! Dighton has said goodbye to long-time employee Jimmy Howland who is retiring after many years of service, both under Fire and Rescue and as a Communications Dispatcher. We thank you for your many years of service to the Town, Jimmy!

We have also welcomed a new addition: John Boulay has joined us in the Accounting Department as an intern over the summer as he is on break from college. He has fully immersed himself in municipal accounting and we are thrilled to help him as he launches his career! Welcome, John!

TOWN MEETING

We are also thrilled to report that Town Meeting had many participants this year. Thank you! Over the course of two nights, voters heard spending articles and debated a variety of By Law amendments, including creating a Medical Marijuana Overlay District from 0 – 200 Williams Street, becoming a Right to Farm community, establishing an Agricultural Commission, adopting the Stretch Energy Code, and adopting a leash law for domestic animals.

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The Town voted in favor of the \$20 million fiscal year 2019 budget, placed an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on 20.6 acres of land on Elm Street, approved the purchase of a police cruiser, two snow plows, a new ambulance, a new vehicle for the Fire Chief, and new equipment for the Cable Television Committee, made the final payment on the Rescue Pumper, expended funds to pave the basketball court at the North

MUNICIPAL FINANCE FUN FACT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Raise and Appropriate: the funding source will come from taxation. The Town cannot increase its budget by more than 2.5% year over year without a vote for an override. An override requires a vote at a Town Meeting AND at the polls.

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Dighton Playground, and more. Most notably, the Town voted to expend funds to go toward the purchase and installation of modular units at the Dighton Elementary School to alleviate the crowded classrooms. The Town also adopted a 3% excise tax to be imposed on the retail sale of adult-use marijuana.

Lastly, a special thanks to the Cable Television Committee for their tireless efforts during both nights of Town Meeting running microphones to the speakers.

JUNE ACTIVITIES

One of my favorite things took place earlier this month: the Cow Chip Festival! I was honored to be a judge for this awesome tradition and my boys and I had an absolute blast. Thank you to the Lions Club for putting on this incredible event each year and congratulations on its continued success. I can't wait to go again!

This month I was also able to join members of our Police and Communications Departments to tour the inside of the new police station. Tower Construction and Pomroy Associates have accomplished so much in such a little time. The new station will boast a large foyer with two display cases, a conference room available for public use as well as all the other amenities necessary for a 21st century police station. I would like to thank the members of the Police Station Study Committee for their continual hardwork and guidance as the Town has worked toward making this new station a reality.

As we embark on the summer months, I will work alongside representatives of each union as well as a representative from the non-union employees to review the Town's employment policies. I am looking forward to working with these individuals and learning about how to make the Town an even better place to work through their perspective. The Board of Selectmen will also enter into their summer schedule, meeting every other week.



THE BIG CHEESE!

It was truly a tough race for the Big Cheese this month. What a great problem to have! Honorable mentions this month go to Jennifer Luiz, the Town Accountant, for her hard work and extra efforts during the FY19 budget process assisting myself, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee; and to Town Clerk Sue Medeiros who always works with a smile despite having a very well-attended Town Meeting, moving her set up to an alternate location, coordinating for a second-night of Town Meeting, and putting together a special election on the heels of the Annual Town Election. Ultimately, the award goes to Library Director Jocelyn Tavares! Not only has Jocelyn done an excellent job keeping up with modern library services with limited room to grow at the present location, but she explores new programming constantly. Jocelyn is looking to start a Dighton 101 program for residents new and old to visit with Town officials and learn what you need to know about Dighton. Jocelyn also volunteered to serve on the Policy Review Board representing non-union personnel, she has assisted me in appealing to State Representative Patricia Haddad for financial assistance for a new library and exploring the Library's options. She is also exploring new technology that would coordinate all calendars for municipal and community events into one app that residents and other interested parties can use to keep up with the many activities going on around Town. Thank you for your hard work, Jocelyn!

IMPORTANT DATES

June 28 – Special Town Election

July 1 – New Fiscal Year

July 4 – Happy Independence Day!

July 11 – Board of Selectmen's Meeting

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