



A Message from your Town Administrator

June 2020

New Pilot Program for Seniors

The Town is trying out a new program for seniors! Those aged 60 and over who are seeking to purchase a single trash bag rather than a whole roll can do so. Purchases may be made at the Council on Aging. Small bags are \$1.00 each; Large bags are \$2.00. Bags can be purchased between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Please wear a mask for the safety of the public and our employees. Contact the Council on Aging for more information at 508-823-0095.

TOWN HALL SERVICES

We continue to promote our services online and through remote means. However, if you need to visit town offices, please call and make an appointment with the office you are looking to visit.

can be found [here](#). There were 564 voters, both in person and mail in, participating in this year's election. Mr. Ken Pacheco was re-elected to his second term on the Board of Selectmen. Under reorganization, the Board of Selectmen Chairman is Brett Zografos, Clerk is Nancy Goulart, and Member is Kenneth Pacheco. Elected to a vacant seat on the Board of Assessors was Eric Easterday, and elected to a seat on the Sewer Commission was Robert Woods. Ms. Carol Beaugard did not seek reelection to the Commission. Mr. Jeffrey Carvalho was

June seemed like a "normal" month as we began to reopen our doors by appointment, held a few in-person meetings for boards and committees, held our Annual Town Election, and our Annual Town Meeting. The normalcy was a huge sense of reprieve. I'd like to thank everyone who came out to vote at the Town Meeting. The sense of relief I felt upon the passage of a FY21 budget was immense! It answered many of the "what ifs" that were circling through my head, and we couldn't do it without our voters. Selectman Goulart shared words of thanks with the crowd at the beginning of the meeting, and she is absolutely correct about our need for voters to weigh in on our decisions for us to be able to continue our work. Thank you for coming out to Town Meeting so that we could enter Fiscal Year 2021 with renewed vigor.

*We are so
thankful to our
voters to be able
to continue our
work and
welcome in the
new fiscal year.*

Though Town Meeting looked much different this year with masks, plastic partitions, pink tape blocking rows, and even a boom mic for participation, it was a successful event. Voters approved the purchase of various vehicles, passed some by laws, accepted General Law provisions for tax exemptions for veterans and speed control measures, and also set aside \$150,000 as the Town's grant

match for the replacement and reconstruction of the Briggs Street Bridge. I sincerely thank for the voters for this appropriation. Originally, we were granted from the Division of Ecological Resources over \$92,000 for field data collection, engineering, design and permitting in advance of this next step of construction. The Town has applied for federal funds and state funds to construct the culvert, with this appropriation from Town Meeting as a "Plan B" in the event one of those grants do not pan out. We are hopeful for positive results and anticipate construction in the Spring of 2021.

Town Affairs

The Annual Town Election was rescheduled from its normal April date to June 6, 2020 due to concerns over Coronavirus transmission. Town Clerk Sue Medeiros and her team successfully pulled off a contact-less Annual Town Election. A video of how it was set up with residents' safety in mind

elected to Planning Board, filling the seat vacated by long-time member and former Chair Tom Pires. Mr. Scott Dingus was a write-in candidate for Moderator. The article linked above lists all results of the election. I congratulate the candidates on their election and re-election and look forward to working with all of them.

The Town remains on a spending freeze for discretionary spending as we cautiously wade through Phase 2 of Governor Baker's reopening plan. The Board did vote on specific expenditures requested by various department

heads as we neared the end of the fiscal year. This vote was taken as the financial picture for FY20 was clearer and we were able to move forward to FY21 after a voted budget. That being said, there were still limits placed upon those requested expenditures and the freeze remains in place until further notice.

Community Events

The Town was also able to host, through the Board of Health, a Household Hazardous Waste Day on June 23 at the Transfer Station. It was very successful with a record-number of stickers purchased in advance. The Board of Health also hosted, with the Animal Control Officer, a Rabies Vaccination Day on June 27, at the newly built Animal Shelter. It was a great success, with the Town Clerk also present issuing dog licenses. We thank the public for their efforts in making these successful worthwhile programs. Thank you to all involved in organizing and setting up these events.

The Town of Dighton's Business Guide is available for review. You can access it on our website [here](#). If you have any suggestions, edits, or questions, please feel free to email them to me at maronstein@dighton-ma.gov. The idea behind this guide is to provide a roadmap to permitting throughout our community. There are many different boards, all with their own respective purviews for siting a new or expanding business. The guide is meant to break down these processes into a simple step-by-step process to assist new or prospective businesses from locating in our Town. I hope you find it useful! We are still amassing some edits and it will be revised upon receipt of those.

Upcoming Projects

The Town has two on-going grants that are enabling us to work on various projects. These are the Complete Streets grant and the Green Communities grant. Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry will oversee the implementation of bicycle signage town-wide, which will also provide for bike lanes on various roadways throughout the Town. Mr. Ferry will also oversee sidewalk installation and intersection improvements at Somerset Avenue and Center Street and at Pearl Street and Spring Street. Work will begin later this summer with anticipated completion for both by October 2020. The Green Communities projects are designed to enhance energy efficiency. Upcoming later this summer and early fall, the Town will be installing energy efficient light fixtures, improving building weatherization, and the installing wi-fi thermostats in various municipal buildings. Upon completion, the Town will then be eligible for future grants as a designated Green Community. More information on the various grants awarded to the Town and their development and end results can be found on our [website](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

July 8, 22 – Scheduled Selectmen Meetings

July 2 – Town Hall, Old Town Hall closed

July 4 – Independence Day

July 18 – Dighton Food Bank Distribution, Town Hall