

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**JUNE 3, 2019**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

The Annual Town Meeting held on June 3, 2019, at the Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School, was called to order at 7:00PM by William E. McKeon, Jr., Moderator. **Salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Girl Scout Color Guard Troop 76116.** The checkers were Irene Bilodeau, Eleanor Boegler, Theresa Carpenter, Maureen Dutra, Margaret Mullen, Elizabeth Silvia, Glenna Smith and Joan Ready, Warden. Total attendance was 115.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Articles and that reference to them be made by number and content.

VOTED: On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded to consider adjournment at 11:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 1. VOTED: On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded to hear reports of the Town Officials and the Capital Outlay Committee.

Kenneth Pacheco, Chairman, Board of Selectmen read the following statement:

**Report of the Board of Selectmen - Annual Town Meeting – June 3, 2019**

Good evening. The Board of Selectmen would like to welcome you to our Annual Town Meeting. It is always nice to see our citizens take the time out of their busy schedule to help decide the future of our town. We will be voting on 37 articles.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the budget with the Finance Committee. In your warrant, you will see our recommendations. If approved by you tonight, these recommendations will keep our taxes within the tax levy, meaning, we will not need an override. We feel that it is important that we spend your tax dollars wisely and we believe our recommendations do that. This warrant is comprised of proposed purchases that are necessary to meet the level of services required to make Dighton the great community that it is.

FY-2019 has been a busy year. Let us bring you up to date on several items:

1) The new Police Station is complete and is presently being used. We hope that you have had an opportunity to get a tour. We would like to thank the New Police Station Committee with their Chairman, Denis Maguy for all the hard work that it took to make this happen.

2) The town purchased 6 modular units for the Dighton Elementary School. They are also up and running and came out very nice.

3) The Old Town Hall has been renovated and is in use. We would like to thank our Building Commissioner, Jim Aguiar as well as the Highway Dept. for all the work they did to preserve the old character of the building.

4) We have become a Right to Farm Community as well as a Green Community and I would like to thank Selectman Brett Zografos and others for all they did to make this happen.

Thank you.

**Edward Swartz, Chairman of the Finance Committee read the following statement:**

Mr. Moderator, BOS, Madam Administrator, Madam Clerk, Town Council, Members of the Finance Committee and fellow Residents of Dighton.

Welcome to Annual Town meeting: My name is Ed Swartz (Chairman of the Finance Committee)

Let me begin by thanking the Departments Heads, Town Administrator, Town Accountant, BOS Administrator Karin Brady for their assistance in preparing tonight's Warrant.

The Financial Stability of our Town is strong. The Budget presented this evening is balanced and meets all the thresholds to stay within the Prop. 2 ½ Levy.

It provides for a strong Commitment to the Services that we as townspeople expect. The Finance team began the process with Budget request in excess of 1.4 million over the Levy Limit. As you will note tonight some Special Articles were either deferred until the fall or not recommended.

The Committees recommendation on the operating Budget reflects an approximate \$132,000.00 reduction from the Departments requests. These reductions were necessary to assure we continue to keep our finances strong.

Let me review a few highlights:

**Public safety:**

Recommended purchase Alice Kits  
Annual Police cruiser Purchase

**Highway:**

Purchase of additional plow and truck

**Education:**

**Fully Funded Operating increase to the DR School District, Bristol Plymouth and Bristol Aggie**

**In closing the FinCom met extensively with all involved to develop the recommendations in front of you and ask for your support of these recommendations.**

**Thank you again for your attendance at this important Annual Meeting and we welcome all comments and questions along the way.**

Carol Beauregard, Chairman of the Board of Assessors stated the Board of Assessors had no report.

Dr. Anthony Azar, Superintendent of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District thanked the Town officials, Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen for their continued support to the district. He is very humble in what the Town of Dighton does for the district and the children. Dighton always continues to support the budget through thick and thin. The new modulars at the elementary school has given breathing space at the school. He stressed that Dighton is a great place to work and has a great school district. He stated that he has a fantastic relationship with Dighton where communication is great with his monthly meetings with our Town Administrator Mallory Aronstein. He looks forward to a building capacity study being put together in the next couple of months to study the next 4 to 5 years of capacity at the schools. In his 5 years as Superintendent of the Dighton Rehoboth school district he is very grateful for the support from the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and Finance Committee and looks forward to meeting with them going forward.

Capital Outlay Committee: No report

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the reports of Town Officials be accepted as read and as published in the book of Annual Town Reports.

ARTICLE 2. VOTED: On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded that the Board of Selectmen to appoint all necessary Town Officials and Town Committees not otherwise provided for by statute, or act thereon.

ARTICLE 3. VOTED AS AMENDED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town establish the salaries of elected Town Officials for Fiscal Year 2020 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws.

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Chairman	\$ 83,925.79
Members (2) Each	\$ 4,855.50
Total	\$ 93,636.79

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Chairman	\$ 5,000.00
Member	5,000.00
Member	5,000.00
Total	\$ 15,000.00

<b><u>TREE WARDEN</u></b>	\$ 258.65
<b><u>MODERATOR</u></b>	\$ 585.15

<b><u>TOWN CLERK</u></b>	\$ 79,965.75
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<b><u>TOWN COLLECTOR</u></b>	\$ 41,112.43
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<b><u>TOWN TREASURER</u></b>	\$ 41,112.44
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**PLANNING BOARD**

Chairman	\$ 2,195.16
Members (4) Each	\$ 2,195.16
Total	\$ 10,975.80

**SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

Chairman	\$ 3,230.00
Members (2) Each	\$ 2,143.00
Total	\$ 7,516.00

DEFEATED: On motion of Carol Beauregard and seconded that the salary figures of the Board of Assessors and Sewer Commissioners be amended.

DEFEATED: On motion of Tom Pires and seconded that the salaries of the Planning Board be amended to include that the Chairman and the 4 members all receive the same salary of \$2195.16.

VOTED: On motion of Robert Woods and seconded that the Moderator call for a hand count vote for the defeated motion of Tom Pires for change in Planning Board salaries.

VOTED: Hand count passes: Yes 47; No 36

ARTICLE 4. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town raise by taxation and/or transfer from available funds the appropriations necessary to defray Town Charges and Assessments as considered by the Finance Committee and printed in the Article 4 of the June 3, 2019 annual town meeting warrant.

**TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET  
For the Fiscal Year 2020**

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to General Government accounts as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$1,662,990.02 for fiscal year 2020.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-113 TOWN MEETING  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Town Meeting Account and \$1,300.00 for the Expenses of the Town Meeting Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-114 MODERATOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$585.15 for the Personnel Expenses of the Moderator Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-122 BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$77,288.85 for the Personnel Expenses and \$72,850.00 for the Expenses of the Board of Selectmen Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-124 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$152,643.55 for the Personnel Expenses and \$9,550.00 for the Expenses of the Town Administrator Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-131 FINANCE COMMITTEE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$3,595.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$699.55 for the Expenses of the Finance Committee Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-132      RESERVE FUND  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the Expenses of the Reserve Fund.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-135      ACCOUNTANT  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$183,980.35 for the Personnel Expenses and \$23,600.00 for the Expenses of the Accountant Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-141      ASSESSORS  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$179,891.91 for the Personnel Expenses and \$12,140.00 for the Expenses of the Assessors Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-145      TREASURER  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$88,918.06 for the Personnel Expenses and \$40,400.00 for the Expenses of the Treasurer Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-146      COLLECTOR  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$90,118.05 for the Personnel Expenses and \$21,365.00 for the Expenses of the Collector Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-151      LAW (TOWN COUNSEL)  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the Expenses of the Law (Town Counsel) Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-155      DATA PROCESSING  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$59,062.28 for the Expenses of the Data Processing Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-158      TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$16,000.00 for the Expenses of the Tax Title Foreclosure Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-161      TOWN CLERK  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$147,716.19 for the Personnel Expenses and \$5,200.00 for the Expenses of the Town Clerk Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-162      ELECTIONS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$6,700.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$14,500.00 for the Expenses of the Election Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-163      REGISTRATION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$600.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$4,500.00 for the Expenses of the Registration Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-171      CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$4,800.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$1,350.00 for the Expenses of the Conservation Commission Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-175      PLANNING BOARD  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$51,082.23 for the Personnel Expenses and \$23,197.35 for the Expenses of the Planning Board Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-176      BOARD OF APPEALS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$35,106.50 for the Personnel Expenses and \$12,750.00 for the Expenses of the Board of Appeals Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-189      DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the Expenses of the Development and Industrial Commission Account
- 010-192      PUBLIC BUILDINGS & PROPERTIES MAINTENANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$161,000.00 for the Expenses of the Public Buildings and Properties Maintenance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-193      BUILDING INSURANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$55,000.00 for the Expenses of the Building Insurance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-195      TOWN REPORTS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Expenses of the Town Report Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED:      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from the Ambulance Fund to Public Safety accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$3,758,690.37 for fiscal year 2020.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-210      POLICE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,576,767.27 for the Personnel Expenses and \$208,572.44 for the Expenses of the Police Department Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-215      COMMUNICATION CENTER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$360,388.34 for the Personnel Expenses and \$27,453.75 for the Expenses of the Communication Center Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-220      FIRE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$556,438.91 for the Personnel Expenses and \$97,900.00 for the Expenses of the Fire Department Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-231      AMBULANCE SERVICES  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$324,638.91 for the Personnel Expenses and that the Town transfer from the Ambulance Fund \$245,800.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$129,200.00 for the Expenses of the Fire Department Ambulance Services.  
Finance Committee Recommends



- 010-241      BUILDING INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$126,930.50 for the Personnel Expenses and \$26,680.00 for the Expenses of the Building Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-242      GAS INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Gas Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-243      PLUMBING INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$0.00 for the Expenses of the Plumbing Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-244      WEIGHTS AND MEASURES  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,200.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$370.00 for the Expenses of the Weights and Measures Account.  
Finance Committee Recommend
- 010-245      ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$20,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Electrical Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-292      ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$21,096.15 for the Personnel Expenses and \$7,600.00 for the Expenses of the Animal Officer Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-294      FORESTRY  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$454.10 for the Personnel Expenses of the Forestry Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-295      HARBORMASTER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$4,700.00 for the Expenses of the Harbormaster Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-299 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$4,500.00 for the Expenses of the Disaster Committee Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Education assessments, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, the sum of \$11,466,031.00 for fiscal year 2020  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-300-5690 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$10,353,473.00 for the Operating Assessment and \$401,795.00 for the Capital Assessments from the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-300-5691 BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$39,389.00 for the Bristol County Agricultural High School Operating Assessment.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-300-5692 BRISTOL PLYMOUTH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$657,163.00 for the Operating Assessment and \$14,211.00 for the Capital Assessment for the Bristol Plymouth Regional High School.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Highway accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 annual town meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of the Highway department as therein provided, the sum of \$959,684.12 for fiscal year 2020.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-422 HIGHWAY  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$561,419.74 for the Personnel Expenses and \$152,500.00 for the Expenses of the Highway Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-423        SNOW REMOVAL  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$13,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$37,000.00 for the Expenses of the Snow Removal Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-429        DIGHTON BERKLEY BRIDGE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$0.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$1,500.00 for the Expenses of the Dighton-Berkley Bridge Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-432        STREET CLEANING/STORMWATER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$120,464.38 for the Personnel Expenses and \$73,800.00 for the Expenses of the Street Cleaning/Storm water Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED :        On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to the Sanitation account, to wit, Waste Collection and Disposal, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said department as therein provided, the sum of \$593,877.69 for fiscal year 2020.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-433        WASTE COLLECTION DISPOSAL  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$8,368.74 for the Personnel Expenses and \$585,508.95 for the Expenses of the Waste Collection and Disposal Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Ed Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Other Environmental accounts, to wit the Cemetery account, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 annual town meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said department as therein provided, the sum of \$19,700.00 for fiscal year 2020.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-491        CEMETERIES  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$19,700.00 for the Expenses of the Cemeteries Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED: On motion of Ed Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Human Services accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$456,425.73 for fiscal year 2020.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-510 BOARD OF HEALTH - REGULATIONS & INSPECTIONS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$57,750.25 for the Personnel Expenses and \$1,000.00 for the Expenses of the Health (Regulation) Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-519 BOARD OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$69,918.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$4,200.00 for the Expenses of the Health (Administration) Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-541 COUNCIL ON AGING  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$90,343.10 for the Personnel Expenses and \$20,529.00 for the Expenses of the Council on Aging Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-542 PRIME TIME  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$71,409.50 for the Personnel Expenses of the Prime Time Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-543 VETERANS SERVICES  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$48,450.88 for the Personnel Expenses and \$92,825.00 for the Expenses of the Veterans Services Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

DEFEATED: On motion of Tom Pires and seconded to amend account# 519 by increasing the Personnel Expenses to \$74,430.60.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from PEG Access and Cable related fund to Culture & Recreation accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$308,989.71 for fiscal year 2020.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-610      LIBRARY  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$189,225.71 for the Personnel Expenses and \$70,874.00 for the Expenses of the Library Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-630      PARKS & RECREATION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$21,000.00 for the Expenses of the Recreation Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-690      TOWN HISTORIAN  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$250.00 for the Expenses of the Town Historian Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-691      HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,500.00 for the Expenses of the Historical Commission Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-698      CABLE COMMISSION  
That the Town transfer from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund \$14,040.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$12,100.00 for the Expenses of the Cable Commission Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED:      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from Title V account to Debt Service accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4 and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$413,537.00 for fiscal year 2020.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-710      RETIREMENT OF DEBT  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$235,000.00 and transfer from (Title V) \$10,362.00 for the Expenses of the Retirement of Debt Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-751      INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$168,175.00 for the Expenses of the Interest on Long-Term Debt account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- VOTED:      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Employee Benefits accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$1,955,072.40 for fiscal year 2020.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-911      RETIREMENT AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$742,843.00 for the Expenses of the Retirement and Pension Contributions Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-912      WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$55,000.00 for the Expenses of the Workman's Compensation Insurance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-914      GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,047,629.40 for the Expenses of the Group Health Insurance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-915      LIFE INSURANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$600.00 for the Expenses of the Life Insurance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-916      EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$70,000.00 for the Expenses of the Employer Contributions for FICA and Medicare.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-919      OPEB  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$35,000.00 for the Expenses of the OPEB account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-920      TUITION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 for the Expenses of the Tuition Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Liability Insurance accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$130,000.00 for fiscal year 2020.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-945      LIABILITY INSURANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$130,000.00 for the Expenses of the Liability Insurance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

**TOTAL BUDGET ARTICLE 4: \$21,724,998.04**

ARTICLE 5. VOTED: On motion of Scott Dingus and seconded that the Town will vote to approve the following sums to be expended under the direction of the Board of Sewer Commissioners for the maintenance of the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2020:

<b><u>Direct Costs:</u></b>	
Salaries:	\$110,357.40
Expenses:	\$174,650.00
Capital Expenses	\$ 25,000.00
 Indirect Costs Total	 \$ 44,933.87

The above appropriations will be funded as follows:

\$280,000.00 through sewer receipts and \$74,941.27 transferred from Sewer Enterprise retained earnings totaling \$354,941.27.

ARTICLE 6. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Scott Dingus and seconded that the Town will, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E½ as most recently amended, establish fiscal year limitation on expenditures from the revolving funds established by the Town of Dighton General Bylaws, Section XXXVI, "Departmental Revolving Funds", with such limitations for FY20, as follows:

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>FY20 Spending Limit</b>
Trustees of the Dighton Public Library Copying, Faxing and Printing Services	\$5,000.00
Trustees of the Dighton Public Library Fines and monies collected For overdue, lost or damaged materials	\$8,000.00
Council on Aging Board Fees, Charges and Receipts for Services Rendered by Prime Time	\$150,000.00

ARTICLE 7. VOTED: On motion of Brett Zografos and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to sell at public auction, and further allow the Board of Selectmen to sell through the sealed bid process according to MGL Ch. 30B, Section 16, all properties which the Town has legally acquired by Tax Title, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Brett Zografos and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2019 in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds from Mass Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2020 for the purpose of expending funds for capital improvements of local roads under "Transportation Bond Issue" (Chapter 90) \$302,762.00 or take any action relative thereto.



ARTICLE 10. VOTED: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town will vote to grant to the Board of Selectmen the authority to obtain whatever parcels or easements as necessary, to make changes in grade, take land by purchase or eminent domain and to settle damages from land taken in conjunction with highway maintenance or road or bridge reconstruction projects, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town will vote to make changes in grade, take land by purchase or eminent domain, and to settle damages from land taken in conjunction with the Fiscal Year 2020 Highway Program under Chapter 90, and the Town road improvement program, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Brett Zografos and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, to dispose of used items returned to them, by sale to highest bidder, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual reserves in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the committee administrative expenses, Community Preservation projects and other expenses in the fiscal year 2020, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2020 estimated revenues for the Committee Administrative expenses  
\$5,000.00

Reserves:

From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Historic Resources: \$10,000.00  
From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$10,000.00  
From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Open Space \$10,000.00  
From FY 2020 estimated revenues for budget reserve \$65,000.00.

ARTICLE 14. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate \$15,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund balance reserved for Open Space and \$47,500.00 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund balance for a total sum of \$62,500.00 to be expended by the Community Preservation Commission for new lighting and fencing at the North Dighton Playground located at 0 Prospect Street, North Dighton, MA, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15. NO MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$75,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund reserved for Community Housing and \$61,281.00 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund balance for a total sum of \$136,281.00 to be expended by the Dighton Housing Authority to replace the electrical main panels for eight (8) buildings at the Dighton Housing Authority, 300 Lincoln Avenue, North Dighton, MA, or take any action thereto.

ARTICLE 16. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town will vote to make changes in grade, take land by purchase or eminent domain and to settle damages from land taken in conjunction with the Pleasant Street/Boat Ramp Road Project, or take any action thereto.

ARTICLE 17. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate \$15,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund balance reserved for Open Space, and \$35,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund balance, for a total not to exceed \$50,000.00 to be expended by the Board of Selectmen for land takings and easements associated with the Pleasant Street/Boat Ramp Road Project, specifically 29,831 square feet located at 2815 Pleasant Street, Map 24, Lot 64-01, and 720 square feet located at 2753 Pleasant Street, Map 25, Lot1.

CPC Recommends

ARTICLE 18. NO MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$15,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Open Space and \$35,000.00 from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund balance, for a total sum not to exceed \$50,000.00, to be expended by the Community Preservation Commission to purchase a parcel of land located at 0 County Street, Dighton, MA, Assessor's Map #24, Lot #48 consisting of 243,936 square feet or 5 acres, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate \$15,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Open Space, and \$25,000.00 dollars from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund balance, for a total sum not to exceed \$40,000.00, to be expended by the Community Preservation Commission for the purchase of property located at 0 Brook Street, Dighton, MA, Assessor's Map #13, Lot #92 consisting of 1.9 acres, or take any action relative thereto.

CPC Recommends

ARTICLE 20. NO MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$10,000 to be expended by the Planning Board for the purchase, installation, and service coverage of a new plan copier and scanner, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21. VOTED AS AMENDED: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings a sum not to exceed \$75,000 to be expended to study the expansion of sewer services, or take any action relative thereto.

No Recommendation by the Finance Committee

VOTED: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town vote to amend Article 21 to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings a sum not to exceed \$75,000.00 to study the expansion of sewer services.

ARTICLE 22. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from the Ambulance Fund a sum not to exceed \$18,000 to be expended by the Police and Fire Departments to purchase 16 Active Shooter kits, each consisting of 1 level IV Ballistic Vest, 1 Ballistic Helmet and a carry bag, and two Ballistic shields, and any other necessary equipment, or take any action relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 23. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of \$6,000.00 for the purchase of 6 new patrol rifles and accessories, or take any action thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 24. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum not to exceed \$60,700.00 for the purchase of one fully equipped police vehicle including computer, firearms (patrol rifle and shotgun) radio, antenna and any accessories relative thereto, or take any action thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 25. NO MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000.00 to be expended by the Animal Control Officer for the purchase of a pickup truck with an 8-foot bed and any related accessories, or take any action thereto.

ARTICLE 26. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from Capital Stabilization a sum not to exceed \$149,000.00 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent to purchase a new six-wheel dump truck with sander, plow and related equipment, or take any action relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 27. NO MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$45,000.00 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent to purchase a new one-ton pickup truck and any related equipment, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28. NO MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$28,035.00 to be expended by the Board of Selectmen for the installation of sidewalks along Center Street, Somerset Avenue, Pearl Street and Main Street, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 29. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town will vote to make changes in grade, take land by purchase or eminent domain and to settle damages from land taken in conjunction with the Miller's Lane Project, or take any action thereto.

ARTICLE 30. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum not to exceed \$150,000.00 to be expended by the Board of Selectmen for land takings and drainage upgrades to complete the Miller's Lane Project.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 31. NO MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$10,000.00 for materials to upgrade drainage needs on Williams Street or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 32. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Donald Hirschy and seconded that the Town of Dighton residents will vote to approve of applying the annual Cost of Living Allowance to MA Department of Revenue local property tax exemptions for veterans and/or surviving spouses under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F, per Section 5 of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, or take any action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 33. KENNEL, COMMERCIAL – ZONING BYLAW**

**VOTED TO TABLE:** To see that the Town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaw Section VI, Definitions by deleting the existing Kennel, commercial definition in its entirety and replacing it with the following, to add a new definition to be known as Kennel, Residential, and to amend Appendix A (Table of Use) to conform to said changes, or take any other action relative thereto, as follows:

**SECTION VI. DEFINITIONS.**

**Kennel, Commercial:** A commercial establishment in which more than three (3) dogs or domesticated animals are housed, groomed, bred, boarded, trained or sold located on at least 5 acres of land. This includes a commercial boarding or training kennel, commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation kennel, or veterinary kennel as defined in M.G.L. C 140 Sect. 136A.

**Kennel, Residential:** A pack or collection of not more than 5 dogs owned or kept under single ownership for personal use and enjoyment may be allowed on no less than 1 acre of land in the residential or business districts by a special permit. This also includes a personal kennel as defined in M.G.L. C 140 Sect. 136A.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Brett Zografos and seconded that Dighton's Town Administrator, Mallory Aronstein be allowed to address the residents of Dighton at the Annual Town Meeting.

**Town Moderator called a recess of the Annual Town Meeting at 9:10PM. Meeting called back to order at 9:13PM.**

**VOTED:** On motion of Robert Woods to Table Article 33.

## **ARTICLE 34. RETREAT LOTS – ZONING BYLAW**

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaw Section 5090. RETREAT LOTS by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following, or take any other action relative thereto:

### **5090. RETREAT LOTS**

#### 5091. Purpose.

The purpose of this section 5090 is to allow the creation of reasonable and safe residential use of backland in a manner which allows for the preservation of the streetscape and rural nature of the town while preserving open – space but enhancing the value of land within the community.

#### 5092. Special Permit Granting Authority.

The Planning Board shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority hereunder.

#### 5093. Procedure.

The applicant shall file five (5) copies of the proposed Form A land division plan as well as all other materials required for an application for Special Permit as set forth in section 5300 of this bylaw. At a minimum the Form A shall show:

- a. Property owner
- b. Name of Registered Professional Land Surveyor and stamp
- c. Zoning district
- d. Lot area
- e. Lot dimensions
- f. Regularity factor or buildable area notation
- g. Locus
- h. Notation: “The retreat lot depicted on this Form A shall never be further divided.” The plan shall also comply with the standards for Form A plans detailed in the Town of Dighton Subdivision Rules and Regulations and M.G.L. Chapter 41, §81K-GG.

#### 5094. Requirements.

A Special Permit shall not be granted unless the Planning Board determines that the following conditions have been met:

- a. Said lot shall be entirely within a residential zoning district.
- b. Said lot shall have a minimum street frontage of forty (40) feet and a width of not less than Twenty (20) feet at all points.

- c. The area of said lot shall be 8(+) acres with at least 1 acre being contiguous upland.
- d. A driveway length greater than 100 linear feet shall provide a hammer head or other method of reversing the direction of a vehicle as approved by the Planning Board.
- e. Not more than one single family dwelling shall exist on a single Retreat Lot.
- f. The Retreat Lot shall not be further subdivided. It shall be a condition of the special permit that there is a prohibition against further subdivision. A deed restriction preventing further subdivision (enforceable by the Town of Dighton) shall also be recorded with the plan. No building permit shall issue without proof that the restriction has been recorded.
- g. The following notes shall be placed on the Plan: "The Retreat Lot shown on this plan shall not be further subdivided" and "No building permit shall be issued for the Retreat Lot on this plan until a copy of the recorded deed restriction and special permit is delivered to the Planning Board.
- h. Said lot shall not be further divided. The Form A plan submitted to the Planning Board for endorsement after grant of the special permit pursuant to this section. Prior to granting of the special permit, the proponent shall provide a covenant, in a form acceptable to the Planning Board, prohibiting further division of said retreat lot in perpetuity.
- i. Access from the frontage of said lot to the principal structure on said lot shall be within the boundary lines of said lot and shall not be via a right-of-way or any public or private easement over an adjacent lot.
- j. Frontage of said lot shall be situated entirely on a public way.
- k. Said lot shall comply with the Dighton Zoning Bylaw and Subdivision Rules and Regulations except as indicated in this bylaw.
- l. Existing drainage patterns shall not be disrupted by the construction of a driveway on the Retreat Lot. A grading plan showing existing and proposed conditions may be subject to appropriate conditions or safeguards if deemed necessary by the Planning Board.
- m. Underground utilities shall be provided on retreat lots, unless the Planning Board makes findings in open meeting that underground utilities are not practical due to extreme topographical or environmental constraints and/or safety issues. Above ground utilities shall not be allowed solely for the convenience and/or preference of a petitioner.

- n. The house number of the retreat lot shall be clearly visible at the street.
- o. In the event the distance from the public way to the house exceed 500 feet, the application shall be accompanied by a letter from the fire chief certifying that the location of the home will comply with public safety and fire safety.

5095. Additional Criteria.

No special permit shall issue hereunder until the Planning Board has determined that the Application satisfies the Special Permit criteria set forth in Section 5320 hereof.

5096. Creation of the Lot.

- a. A Form A plan identifying a buildable retreat lot may be endorsed by the Planning Board after the issuance of a special permit by the Planning Board in accordance with this Section.
- b. After the grant of a Special Permit hereunder and the endorsement of a Form A plan by the Planning Board, the Applicant shall provide the Planning Board with recorded copies of the Form A plan and the deed restriction. The recorded plan and deed restriction must be received prior to the issuance of any building permit hereunder.

Planning Board Recommends

**ARTICLE 35. GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS – ZONING BYLAW**

**VOTED TO TABLE:** To see if the that the Town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaws by amending Section 4650, by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following, or take any other action relative thereto,:

**4650. Design Standards.**

The following standards shall apply to any Large-Scale Ground -Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation.

**4651. Lighting.** Lighting of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as accessory structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall not cast measurable light onto adjacent properties or into the night sky. Lighting of the solar photovoltaic installation shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

**4652. Signage.** Signs on such installations shall comply with the Town’s sign by-law. The following signs shall be required:

- a. Those necessary to identify the owner, provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number, and warn of any danger.
- b. Educational signs providing information about the facility and the benefits of renewable energy.
- c. Installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the facility.

4653. Utility Connections. The Planning Board may require as a condition of site plan approval that all utility connections from the solar photovoltaic installation shall be underground, after considering soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

4654. Screening. The large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic facility, including all accessory structures and appurtenances, shall be visually screened so as not to be visible from abutting streets and properties. All accessory structures and appurtenances shall be architecturally compatible with each other and the surrounding neighborhood. Structures shall be shielded from view and/or joined and clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts. The adequacy of such screening and shielding shall be determined by the Special Permit Granting Authority in its sole discretion. Methods such as the use of landscaping, natural features, berms and fencing shall be utilized. The Special Permit Granting Authority may, at the applicant's expense, engage the services of a Registered Landscape Architect in order to create a landscaping/screening plan for said facility which satisfies this bylaw, as determined by the Special Permit Granting Authority in its sole discretion.

- a. Tree plantings shall be adequate height at time of planting to visually screen the completed project. Shrubs shall be a minimum of four (4) feet in height at time of planting;
- b. The owner and/or operator shall be responsible for replacement of all landscape plantings over the course of the operation of the facility. Should any plantings die or not meet the requirements of Sec. 4654 a. above, they shall be replaced by the owner and/or operator of the facility;
- c. Landscaping shall consider deer and disease resistant species;
- d. The applicant shall provide the Special Permit Granting Authority with a Landscaping and Maintenance Bond (separate from the Decommissioning Bond) in an amount satisfactory to the Special Permit Granting Authority in order to secure compliance with Section 4654;

4655. Accessory Structures. All accessory structures to Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements. All building set backs shall be in conformance with Appendix B. All such accessory structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other.



4656. Dimensional and Density Requirements; Setbacks.

a. For Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, front, side and rear setbacks for system components shall be as follows:

I. Front yard. The front yard depth shall be at least 75 feet and shall be measured from the roadway right of way center line; provided, however, that where the lot abuts a Residential district, the front yard shall not be less than 100 feet.

II. Side yard. Each side yard shall have a depth at least 30 feet; provided, however, that where the lot abuts a Residential district, the side yard shall not be less than 50 feet

III. Rear yard. The rear yard depth shall be at least 30 feet; provided, however, that where the lot abuts a Residential district, the rear yard shall not be less than 50 feet.

IV. Abutting properties shall be visually screened to mitigate impacts to the abutting properties. The screening shall consist of any one or combination of the following; distance, location, plantings, existing vegetation and/or fencing.

b. For Small-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, front, side and rear setbacks for system components shall be in accordance with the setbacks required for accessory structures within the district in which it is located, but in all events shall be at least 100 feet from any dwelling on another parcel.

c. Waivers: Notwithstanding the aforementioned setback requirements, the Planning Board, as appropriate, shall have the authority to waive setback requirements based on site-specific conditions, and only after review of substantial evidence, including but not limited to detailed engineering reports or product engineering certification, which demonstrate that safety concerns have been minimized and that setbacks have been complied with to a reasonable extent.

4657. Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts. Given the nature of the need for no shadowing and maximum exposure of the solar panels to the sun, clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.

**VOTED:** On motion of Tom Pires and seconded that Article 35 be tabled.

**ARTICLE 36. SITE PLAN REVIEW – ZONING BYLAW**

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaws by amending Section 5460, by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following, or take any other action relative thereto, as follows:

5460. Minor Site Plan.

Applications for permits to build, alter or expand any nonresidential building, structure or use in

any district where such construction will not exceed a total gross floor area of 2000 square feet, and will not generate the need for more than 10 parking spaces, shall be deemed a minor site plan. For the purposes of computing the total gross floor area of a minor site plan, the Planning Board shall aggregate all such applications made within the five (5) previous calendar years. Unless otherwise waived at the request of the applicant per §5450, minor site plans shall set forth all of the information required by §5440; provided, however, that the scale of the site plan may be 1" = 80', and the plan may depict topographical contours at intervals available on maps provided by the United States Geological Survey, and need not be prepared professionally.

Planning Board Recommends

**ARTICLE 37.** The Moderator appointed the following members to the Finance Committee for FY 2020.

- Edward B. Swartz
- Christopher M. Wilcox
- Peter J. Roache
- Kevin J. Perry
- Gary Scott Dingus
- Robert G. Rendon

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 9:35PM.

ATTEST:   
SUSANA MEDEIROS  
TOWN CLERK