

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 21, 2001

The Annual Town Meeting, held on May 21, 2001 at the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School, was called to order at 7:06 PM by William E. McKeon, Jr., Moderator. Salute to the flag was given. Checkers were Joan Ready and Alice Souza. Total attendance was 164.

VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa to dispense with the reading of the Warrant.

VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa to dispense with the reading of the Articles and reference to them be made by number and content.

VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa to consider adjournment at 11:00 P. M.

ARTICLE 1. **VOTED:** On motion of Frank Costa to hear a report of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and a statement of the Board of Assessors, and the School Committee regarding tonight's warrant and that the reports of the Town Officials as printed and published in the Annual Town Report Book be accepted.

For the Board of Selectmen, Gene Nelson asked for a moment of silence for all residents who passed away during the past year. He asked voters to support the budget proposals and the article regarding the sale of two town-owned properties. He thanked all the appointed and elected officials and the Finance Committee for their services.

Peter Caron, Finance Committee Chairman, pointed out the change in the printed format of the departmental budgets in the Warrant. He stated that by not printing every budget line item, the town saved on warrant printing costs and by voting separately on personnel services and Expenses, department heads would have greater flexibility within their budgets. He explained that the Finance Committee's duty is to determine a balanced budget and that if voters did not support their proposals, the town would be in danger of exceeding the levy limit.

David Long, for the Board of Assessors, stated that the budget presented would result in an increase to the tax rate of \$1.58. He explained that of that figure, \$1.23 is the result of the addition to the Dighton Elementary School and the construction of the Middle School. He stated that he does not support using Stabilization funds to lower the tax rate.

Superintendent Dr. Connor, speaking on behalf of the School Department, urged voters to support the increase of \$725,000.

ARTICLE 2. **VOTED:** On motion of Frank Costa that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to appoint all necessary Town Officers and Town Committees not otherwise provided for by statute.

ARTICLE 3. No Motion (Five-Year Capital Outlay Committee)

ARTICLE 4. VOTED: On motion of Gene Nelson that the salaries of elected Town Officials as appropriated within department Accounts be established for the Fiscal year ending June 30, 2002.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Chairman	\$ 3,803.63
Members (2)	\$ 3,436.34
each	\$ 6,872.68 Total

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Chairman	\$ 8,132.00
Member	\$ 6,208.00
Member	\$ 4,966.00

<u>TREE WARDEN</u>	\$ 173.00
<u>MODERATOR</u>	\$ 373.00
<u>TOWN CLERK</u>	\$ 14,848.00
<u>TOWN COLLECTOR</u>	\$ 14,848.00
<u>TOWN TREASURER</u>	\$ 14,848.00

PLANNING BOARD

Chairman	\$ 1,985.00
Members (4)	\$ 1,323.00
each	\$ 5,292.00 Total

SEWER COMMISSION

Chairman	\$ 2,437.00
Members (2)	\$ 1,617.50
each	\$ 3,235.00 Total

ARTICLE 5. VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate and or transfer monies by account for the FY ending June 30, 2002.

ARTICLES UNDER ARTICLE 5

TOWN MEETING

VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$100 for the Town Meeting Account.

MODERATOR

VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$100 for the Moderator Account.

01-122

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$55,627.66 for the Personnel Services and \$21,840.00 for the Expenses of the Board of Selectmen Account. Of this amount \$100.00 to be set aside for the out of state travel.

01-131

FINANCE COMMITTEE

VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$2,731.00 for the Personnel Services of the Finance Committee Account.

01-132

RESERVE FUND

VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$15,000.00 for the Reserve Fund.

01-135

ACCOUNTANT

VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$43,522.00 for the Personnel Services and \$3,695.00 for the Expenses of the Accountant Account.

01-141

ASSESSORS

VOTED AS AMENDED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$82,505.30 for the Assessors Account.

VOTED: On motion of David Long amend by eliminating the wording "\$70,270.51 for the Personnel Services and \$7,250.00 for the Expenses of the Assessors Account" and replacing with "\$82,505.30 for the Assessors Account".

01-145

TREASURER

VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate \$32,208.00 for the Personnel Services and \$12,085.00 for the Expenses of the Treasurer Account.

01-146

COLLECTOR

VOTED AS AMENDED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$32,208.00 for the Personnel Services and \$13,775.00 for the Expenses of the Collector Account.

VOTED: On motion of Brenda Herbeck to amend by changing "\$10,085.00" to "13,775.00" for Expenses of the Collector Account.

01-151

LAW (TOWN COUNSEL)

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$27,000.00 for the Law (Town Counsel) Account.

01-155

DATA PROCESSING

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$10,400.00 for the Data Processing Account.

01-158

TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$17,000.00 for the Tax Title Foreclosure Account.

01-161
TOWN CLERK

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$36,943.00 for the Personnel Services and \$2,132.00 for the Expenses of the Town Clerk Account.

01-162
ELECTIONS

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$910.00 for the Personnel Services and \$1,430.00 for the Expenses of the Election Account.

01-163
REGISTRATION

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$600.00 for the Personnel Services and \$2,710.00 for the Expenses of the Registration Account.

01-171
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$925.00 for the Expenses of the Conservation Commission Account.

01-175
PLANNING BOARD

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$21,187.00 for the Personnel Services and \$7,700.00 for the Expenses of the Planning Board Account.

01-176
BOARD OF APPEALS

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$160.00 for the Expenses of the Board of Appeals Account.

01-192
PUBLIC BUILDINGS

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$36,780.00 for the Expenses of the Public Buildings Account.

01-193
BUILDING INSURANCE

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$38,850.00 for the Expenses of the Building Insurance Account.

01-195
TOWN REPORTS

VOTED: On motion of Joseph Pacheco that the Town raise and appropriate \$4,500.00 for the Expenses of the Town Report Account.

01-210
POLICE

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$537,305.61 for the Personnel Services and \$63,500.00 for the Expenses of the Police Department Account.

01-215
COMMUNICATION CENTER

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$116,700.00 for the Personnel Services and \$ 700.00 for the Expenses of the Communication Center Account.

01-220

FIRE

VOTED AS AMENDED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$351,711.00 for the Personnel Services and \$72,725.00 for the Expenses of the Fire Department Account.

VOTED: On motion of Shawn Urban to change "\$70,525.00" to \$72,725.00" for Expenses of the Fire Department Account.

01-241

BUILDING INSPECTOR

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$33,520.75 for the Personnel Services and \$1,560.00 for the Expenses of the Building Inspector Account.

01-242

GAS INSPECTOR

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$1400.00 for the Expenses of the Gas Inspector Account.

01-243

PLUMBING INSPECTOR

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,000.00 for the Expenses of the Plumbing Inspector Account.

01-244

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$861.00 for the Personnel Services of the Weights and Measures Account.

01-245

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,000.00 for the Expenses of the Electrical Inspector Account.

01-291

CIVIL DEFENSE

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$733.00 for the Personnel Services and \$720.00 for the Expenses of the Civil Defense Account.

01-292

DOG OFFICER

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$14,650.00 for the Expenses of the Dog Officer Account.

01-294

FORESTRY

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$310.00 for the Personnel Services of the Forestry Account.

01-295

HARBORMASTER

VOTED: On motion of Richard Hegeman that the Town raise and appropriate \$200.00 for the Expenses of the Harbormaster Account.

01-300-5690 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$5,065,931.00 for the operating and capital assessments of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District.

01-300-5691 BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$14,209.16 for the Bristol County Agricultural High School operating assessment.

01-422 HIGHWAY

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$286,631.00 for the Personnel Services and \$110,460.00 for the Expenses of the Highway Account.

01-423 SNOW REMOVAL

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$13,000.00 for the Personnel Services and \$22,000.00 for the Expenses of the Snow Removal Account.

01-429 DIGHTON BERKLEY BRIDGE

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$1,017.00 for the Personnel Services and \$ 50.00 for the Expenses of the Dighton-Berkley Bridge Account.

01-433 WASTE COLLECTION DISPOSAL

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$5,968.00 for the Personnel Services and \$368,565.00 for the Expenses of the Waste Collection and Disposal Account.

01-440 SEWER COMMISSION

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$5,672.00 for the Personnel Services of the Sewer Commission Account.

01-491 CEMETERIES

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$6,000.00 for the Expenses of the Cemeteries Account.

01-510 HEALTH (REGULATIONS)

VOTED: On motion of Neil MacDonald that the Town raise and appropriate \$20,372.00 for the Personnel Services and \$12,500.00 for the Expenses of the Health (Regulation) Account.

01-519 HEALTH (ADMINISTRATION)

Motion that the Town raise and appropriate \$4,750.00 for the Expenses of the Health (Administration) Account.

01-529

MOSQUITO CONTROL

\$400.00 for the Expenses of the Mosquito Control work in accordance with Ch. 112, Acts of 1931,
M.G.L.

01-541

COUNCIL ON AGING

\$47,061.35 for the Personnel Services and \$5,950.00 for the Expenses of the Council on Aging
Account.

01-543

VETERANS SERVICES

\$17,000.00 for the Personnel Services and \$40,600.00 for the Expenses of the Veterans Services
Account.

01-610

LIBRARY

\$70,694.00 for the Personnel Services and \$32,548.00 for the Expenses of the Library Account.

01-630

RECREATION

\$5,800.00 for the Expenses of the Recreation Account.

01-690

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

\$100.00 for the Expenses of the Historical Commission Account.

01-692

MEMORIAL DAY

\$400.00 for the Expenses of the Memorial Day Account.

01-698

CABLE COMMISSION

\$100.00 for the Expenses of the Cable Commission Account.

01-699

ARTS COUNCIL

\$0.00 for the Expenses of the Arts Council Account.

01-710

RETIREMENT OF DEBT

\$1,900.00 for the Expenses of the Retirement of Debt Account.

01-751

INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT

\$33.00 for the Expenses of the Interest on Long Term Debt Account.

01-752 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron the Town raise and appropriate
\$47,591.00 for the Expenses of the Interest on Short Term Debt Account.

01-911 RETIREMENT AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate
\$198,322.00 for the Expenses of the Retirement and Pension Contributions Account.

01-912 WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate
\$17,850.00 for the Expenses of the Workman's Compensation Insurance Account.

01-914 GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate
\$167,000.00 for the Expenses of the Group Health Insurance Account.

01-915 LIFE INSURANCE
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate
\$700.00 for the Expenses of the Life Insurance Account.

01-916 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate
\$20,000.00 for the Expenses of the Employer Contributions for FICA and Medicare.

01-920 TUITION
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate
\$2,000.00 for the Expenses of the Tuition Account.

01-945 LIABILITY INSURANCE
VOTED: On motion of Peter Caron that the Town raise and appropriate
\$38,350.00 for the Expenses of the Liability Insurance Account.

ARTICLE 6. No Motion (Prior Year's Bills)

ARTICLE 7. VOTED: On motion of William Costa that the following sums be
expended under the direction of the Board of Sewer Commissioners:
SALARIES: \$ 58,789.00
EXPENSES: \$148,650.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY \$ 32,500.00

\$239,939.00
The \$239,939.00 to be raised as follows:

\$199,000.00 to be raised through sewer receipts and \$40,939.00 to be transferred from Sewer
Enterprise Retained Earnings.

ARTICLE 8. VOTED: On motion of Jeff Allie that the town vote to transfer from the Ambulance Fund the sum of \$70,000.00 for a 5 year Lease Purchase Agreement for a new Emergency Rescue/Pumper for the use of the Dighton Fire Department.

ARTICLE 9. VOTED: On motion of Jeff Allie that the town vote to transfer from the Ambulance Fund the sum of \$14,000.00 to pay the salary of the Administrative Assistant for the Fire Department.

ARTICLE 10. VOTED: On motion off Jeff Allie that the Town vote to transfer from the Ambulance Fund the sum of \$6,000.00 to purchase medical equipment and supplies.

ARTICLE 11. VOTED: On motion of Jeff Allie that the Town vote to transfer from the Ambulance Fund the sum of \$10,000.00 to purchase heavy duty rescue equipment for the Fire Department.

ARTICLE 12. No Motion (M.G.L., Ch. 40, S. 21d. Non-criminal methods of disposition)

ARTICLE 13. VOTED: On motion of Alice Souza that the Town vote to establish a revolving fund into which shall be paid all fees, gifts, and donations received by the Dighton Council on Aging for services rendered by "PRIME TIME" (Adult Supportive Day Care). Said fees to be expended from said revolving account by the Council on Aging Board for the purpose of providing for salaries, office supplies, equipment repairs and maintenance, and any other related expense, or take any action thereon. Spending shall be capped at \$60,684.29.

ARTICLE 14. VOTED: On motion of Gene Nelson that the Town vote to appropriate from available funds \$70,073.19 from the Massachusetts Department of Public Works for the purpose of expending funds for capital improvements on local roads under the "Transportation Bond Issue".

ARTICLE 15. VOTED: On motion of Lynn Dupont that the Town vote to re-establish a revolving fund into which shall be paid all overdue fines and monies collected by the Dighton Public Library for overdues, lost and/or destroyed materials; said monies to be expended from said revolving account by the Trustees of the Public Library for the replacement of lost and/or destroyed materials or take any action thereon. Spending shall be capped at \$5,000.00.

ARTICLE 16. VOTED: On motion of David Long that the Town vote to re-establish a revolving fund for the Dighton Planning Board into which shall be paid all money collected through the sale of subdivision rules and regulation's, zoning by-law booklets and zoning maps. In addition, all fees submitted to the Planning Board accompanied with Form A's, Preliminary Plans, and Definitive Plans filed in accordance with the M.G. L. Ch. 41, and the Town of Dighton Sub-Division Rules & Regulations. Said monies to be expended from said revolving fund by the Dighton Planning Board for the advertising and certified mailings of public hearing notices, engineers' fees, attorney's fees, amendment changes, zoning changes, long and short term planning purposes and related research, with a cap of \$30,000.00 (thirty thousand dollars).

ARTICLE 17. VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa that the Town vote to appropriate \$200,000.00 for the purpose of financing the following water pollution abatement facility projects: repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with the Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in S. 1 of Ch. 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$200,000.00 and issue bonds or notes therefor under G.L.Ch. 111, S.127B ½ and/or Ch. 29C of the General laws; that project and financing costs shall be repaid by the property owners, in accordance with those agreements, but such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust established pursuant to Ch. 29C and in connection therewith to enter in a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; and that the Board of Selectmen, Board of Public Works or other appropriate local body or officials is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects.

ARTICLE 18. VOTED: On motion of Gene Nelson that the town vote to repay up to Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$7,500) dollars during FY 02 to the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust for the Title V Septic Loan Program. Funds to be taken from loan repayments made to the town from town residents that received Septic Loan Program Funds (Account 24-330-510-3300-309-40).

ARTICLE 19. DEFEATED: On motion of Gene Nelson that the town vote to change the Zoning Map of the Town of Dighton, as amended June 17, 1998, as follows: A petition was received from 107 registered voters from the Town of Dighton and certified by the Town Clerk. Under M.G.L.Ch. 40A S. 5, the Board of Selectmen reviewed and referred the petition to the Dighton Planning Board on December 6, 2000 so a public hearing could be held. On February 7, 2001 a public hearing was held to gather input from interested parties on the following proposed changes:

1. That the zoning district on Cedar Street from Williams Street to the Dighton town line be changed from business to residential for a depth of 400 feet on both sides of the roadway except for land owned by the Dighton Water District.
2. That the zoning district on Lewis Street from Cedar Street to the Dighton town line be changed from business to residential for a depth of 400 feet on both sides of the roadway.
3. That the zoning district on Smith Street northerly from Cedar Street for a distance of 2,500 feet, for a depth of 400 feet on the westerly side, and depth of 1,000 feet on the easterly side, be changed from business to residential.

After review by the Dighton Planning Board, a vote was taken, the results as follows: 0 votes in favor of the petition, 3 votes against the petition, 1 vote to abstain. The Dighton Planning Board therefore disapproves any change to the Dighton Zoning Map at this time.

YES 25 NO 94

ARTICLE 20. VOTED: On motion of Pamela Waller that the Sewer Department research the cost and the best possible funding for the installation of sewerage lines on Center Street, Karen Road, Cheryl Road, Rebecca Road and Susan Road and have an article on the next town meeting.

DEFEATED: On motion of William Costa to table.

YES 77 NO 43 (needed 86 to pass)

ARTICLE 21. VOTED: On motion of Lynn Dupont that the town vote to continue a revolving fund into which shall be paid all fees collected by the Dighton Public Library for copying and printing services, said monies to be expended from said revolving account by the Trustees of the Public Library for supplies or take any action thereon. Spending shall be capped at \$5,000.00

ARTICLE 22. VOTED: On motion of Gene Nelson that the Town vote to allow the Board of Selectmen pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 30B, the Uniform Procurement Act, to sell two parcels currently owned by the Town. The properties are as follows: a parcel located on Spring Street, Map 4, Lot 470 containing 321 square feet, more or less, and a parcel located on Somerset Avenue, Map 5, Lot 96 containing 1.81 acres, more or less.

ARTICLE 23. VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into contract for the expenditure of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth and/or Federally-aided programs for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of Town roads.

ARTICLE 24. VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa that the Town 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 2001 Highway program under Chapter 90, and the Town road improvement program.

ARTICLE 25. No Motion (Police Department Revolving Account)

ARTICLE 26. VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa that the Town vote to raise and appropriate in the Treasury \$7,000.00 to perform an audit for FY 02.

ARTICLE 27. VOTED: On motion of David Long that the Town vote to adopt new local options provisions, G.L. Ch. 59 s/s 5 (17e) and (41d), which allows cities and towns to increase the income and asset limits that apply to surviving spouses, minors, or elderly persons seeking a real estate exemption.

ARTICLE 28. VOTED: On motion of Brenda Herbeck that the Town vote to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to sell at Public Auction all properties, which the Town has legally acquired by Tax Title.

ARTICLE 29. VOTED: On motion of Gene Nelson that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, to dispose of used materials returned to them by sale at Public Auction.

ARTICLE 30. VOTED: On motion of Lynn Dupont that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000.00 to replace computer equipment at the Public Library.

ARTICLE 31. VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa that the Town vote to permit the Selectmen to set aside town owned land for the purpose of constructing any new municipal facilities.

The Moderator appointed the following members of the Finance for FY 2002:

Peter Caron
Joseph Pacheco
Neil MacDonald
Richard Hegeman

ARTICLE 32. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of James Digits that the Town vote to accept the by-laws as printed in the handout for the Dighton Conservation Commission, or act thereon.

VOTED: On motion of Frank Costa to dissolve meeting at 10:23 PM.

ATTEST:

Brenda A. Herbeck
Town Clerk