



Town of Dighton

Annual Town Meeting

Warrant

Monday, June 5, 2023
7:00 PM

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium
2700 Regional Road
North Dighton, MA 02764



Town of Dighton
979 Somerset Avenue
Dighton, MA 02715

May 18, 2023

Dear Residents of Dighton:

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I am pleased to submit the accompanying Town of Dighton Annual Town Meeting Warrant. This year's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium**, located at 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton.

First and foremost, the accompanying Annual Town Meeting Warrant includes the Town's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget. The Town's operating budget development process is carefully-constructed and shaped by meetings between the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, the Town's financial team, and developed in partnership with department heads, boards and committees, and input from Dighton residents.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Overview

Efforts to plan for the next fiscal year have centered on a conservative, zero-base justified budget framework initiated by the Board of Selectmen and extended to all departments, boards and committees. Similar to the current fiscal year, we are continuing to adapt to fiscal challenges shaped by a variety of outside factors that have required thoughtful and careful attention.

The guiding approach in our zero-base budget framework began with the starting point for next year's budget at zero, with proposed departmental requests and appropriations being rationalized and justified to the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee at each part of the budget development process. **The proposed Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget is a fiscally-responsible, structurally balanced budget plan which continues investments in education and core public safety and municipal services.**

Of note, next year's budget has been built with a cautious approach to revenue and expenditure forecasting. This is especially important with Fiscal Year 2024 being the first year of Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School (B-P) building project debt service being assessed to Dighton in the amount of \$254,000 with a projected increase to nearly \$900,000 during the next five years. These increases are anticipated as we also continue to absorb approximately \$149,000 a year in Bristol County Agricultural High School (Bristol Aggie) capital debt service costs on top of typical enrollment-based educational assessment costs for the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District, Bristol Aggie, and B-P.

From a strictly financial standpoint, we are now beginning to see a slippery slope where education and educational capital assessment budgets will further crowd out our ability to fund core Town government functions and deferred capital needs. We anticipate that the development of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget will be even more of a challenge. As we approach the next fiscal year, we do so with these challenges at the forefront in order for us to address them head-on.

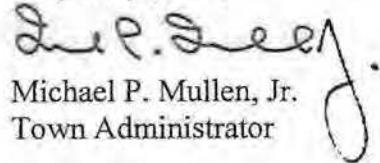
Proposed Capital Articles

As you review the proposed Warrant, you will note various proposed capital funding requests which have been reviewed, ranked, and prioritized by Dighton's re-established Capital Outlay Committee. These are accompanied by respective funding recommendations from the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Article 14, one of the two proposed Warrant Articles to fund necessary building improvements at the Dighton Public Library's planned new home at Smith Memorial Hall at 207 Main Street, has been recommended by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC).

Along with proposed library building and school security funding, \$300,000 in initial funding for the Main Street roadway reconstruction, repaving and sidewalk construction project is another proposed funding priority as outlined in Article 20. The Main Street reconstruction project is being planned as a multi-year, phased project during the next two (2) to three (3) years that leverages various funding streams, including state Chapter 90 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. In the coming weeks, Town officials plan to make a \$250,000 ARPA funding request to the Bristol County Commissioners to fund necessary Main Street drainage and stormwater improvements related to the project.

We look forward to seeing you at Dighton's June 5, 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Please feel free to reach out to the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator's Office at (508) 669-6431 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


Michael P. Mullen, Jr.
Town Administrator

Town of Dighton
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT LIST
June 5, 2023

<u>Article</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Reports	Town Officials & Capital Outlay	N/A
2	Appointments	Appoint Officials & Committees	N/A
3	Prior Year Bills	To Pay Prior Year Bills	\$ 14,493.95
4	Town Officials	Salaries	N/A
5	Budget Appropriations	Annual FY2024 Appropriations	\$ 25,494,267.75
6	Sewer Enterprise Fund	Annual FY2024 Appropriations	\$ 495,311.23
7	Various	Authorize New Revolving Funds	N/A
8	Various	Revolving Spending Limits	N/A
9	Highway	Land	N/A
10	Board of Selectmen	Land	N/A
11	Assessor	Exemptions	N/A
12	Accountant	Deficit Accounts	\$ 10,667.00
13	Community Preservation	Annual FY2024 Appropriations	\$ 130,000.00
14	Community Preservation	207 Main Street	\$ 323,000.00
15	Library	207 Main Street	\$ 404,000.00
16	Fire	2 nd of 7-year Fire Engine Lease	\$ 106,146.76
17	Fire	1 st of 3-year Ambulance Lease	\$ 23,533.06
18	Highway	4 th of 5-year Sweeper Lease	\$ 50,561.92
19	Board of Selectmen	Legal & Related Complaints	\$ 50,000.00
20	Highway	Main St. Road Reconstruction	\$ 300,000.00
21	Highway	Briggs St. Bridge Analysis	\$ 28,000.00
22	Fire	CPR Compressor	\$ 34,000.00
23	D-R Regional School District	Security & Access Controls	\$ 100,000.00
24	Cable Committee	Technology Studio Upgrades	\$ 60,000.00
25	Board of Selectmen	Amend D-R Agreement	N/A
26	Citizen Petition	Amend Bylaw Article I	N/A
27	Open	Other Lawful Business	N/A



Town of Dighton
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Warrant
June 5, 2023

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Dighton in the County of Bristol,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Dighton qualified to vote in elections and Town Affairs to meet in the Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium on Monday, the fifth day of June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.; then and there to act on the following articles, viz.

ARTICLE 1. To hear reports of the Town Officials and the Capital Outlay Committee and act thereon.

ARTICLE 2. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint all necessary Town Officials and Town Committees not otherwise provided for by statute, or act thereon.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the amount of \$14,493.95 to pay prior year bills, or take any other action relative thereto.

Prior Year Bills	Department	Amount
OSR Wash Corp	Highway	\$153.50
National Grid	Town Offices	\$1,598.09
Police Details	Town Clerk	\$2,381.08
Police Details	Highway	\$5,696.42
Central Square	Police	\$4,037.25
Police Details	Town Offices	\$627.61
	Total	\$14,493.95

***Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Free Cash
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Free Cash***

ARTICLE 4. To act relative to establishing the salaries of Town Officials for Fiscal Year 2024 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, or act thereon.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

	Finance Committee Recommendations	Board of Selectmen Recommendations
Chairman	\$4,952.55	\$4,952.55
Members (2) Each	\$9,905.10	\$9,905.10

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

	Finance Committee Recommendations	Board of Selectmen Recommendations
Chairman	\$5,100.00	\$5,100.00
Member	\$5,100.00	\$5,100.00
Member	\$5,100.00	\$5,100.00

TREE WARDEN \$269.10 \$269.10 \$269.10

MODERATOR \$500.00 \$500.00 \$510.00

TOWN CLERK \$77,250.00 \$76,500.00 \$76,500.00

TOWN COLLECTOR \$39,000.00 \$38,760.00 \$38,760.00

TOWN TREASURER \$39,000.00 \$38,760.00 \$38,760.00

PLANNING BOARD

Chairman	\$2,386.14	\$2,239.06	\$2,239.06
Members (2) Each	\$9,544.56	\$8,956.25	\$8,956.25

SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Chairman	\$3,360.49	\$3,360.49	\$3,360.49
Members (2) Each	\$4,460.17	\$4,460.17	\$4,460.17

ARTICLE 5. To see if the town will vote to raise by taxation and/or transfer from available funds the appropriation necessary to defray Town Charges and Assessments as considered by the Finance Committee or act thereon.

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
113	TOWN MEETING				
	Personnel	\$2,700.00			
	Expenses	\$1,500.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
114	MODERATOR				
	Personnel	\$500.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
122	BOARD OF SELECTMEN				
	Personnel	\$99,392.80			
	Expenses	\$77,050.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$176,442.80	\$192,980.66	\$192,980.66	\$192,980.66
124	TOWN ADMINISTRATOR				
	Personnel	\$160,700.00			
	Expenses	\$9,560.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$170,260.00	\$180,971.00	\$180,971.00	\$180,971.00
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE				
	Personnel	\$3,595.00			
	Expenses	\$405.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
132	RESERVE FUND				
	Expenses	\$55,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
135	TOWN ACCOUNTANT				
	Personnel	\$139,382.48			
	Expenses	\$27,150.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$166,532.48	\$172,958.60	\$172,958.60	\$172,958.60
141	BOARD OF ASSESSORS				
	Personnel	\$191,111.92			
	Expenses	\$27,550.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$218,661.92	\$220,042.85	\$220,042.85	\$220,042.85

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
145	TOWN TREASURER				
	Personnel	\$77,625.80			
	Expenses	\$39,700.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$117,325.80	\$109,475.80	\$109,235.00	\$109,235.00
146	TOWN COLLECTOR				
	Personnel	\$77,725.80			
	Expenses	\$25,60000			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$103,325.80	\$102,075.80	\$101,835.00	\$101,835.00
151	TOWN COUNSEL				
	Expenses	\$40,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$40,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
155	DATA PROCESSING				
	Expenses	\$71,706.28			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$71,706.28	\$71,733.33	\$71,733.33	\$71,733.33
158	TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE				
	Expenses	\$10,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
161	TOWN CLERK				
	Personnel	\$143,504.20			
	Expenses	\$9,450.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$152,954.20	\$178,053.20	\$174,647.60	\$174,647.60
162	ELECTIONS				
	Personnel	\$18,000.00			
	Expenses	\$15,900.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$33,900.00	\$36,229.00	\$31,501.40	\$31,501.40
163	REGISTRATION				
	Personnel	\$600.00			
	Expenses	\$5,100.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$5,700.00	\$8,552.00	\$8,552.00	\$8,552.00
171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION				
	Personnel	\$59,198.00			
	Expenses	\$4,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$63,198.00	\$80,183.00	\$69,539.56	\$69,539.56

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
174	DIGHTON TRAILS COMMITTEE				
	Expenses	\$1,600.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,600.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
175	PLANNING BOARD				
	Personnel	\$43,545.40			
	Expenses	\$18,503.97			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$62,049.37	\$63,045.59	\$62,310.20	\$62,310.20
176	BOARD OF APPEALS				
	Personnel	\$29,022.40			
	Expenses	\$11,950.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$40,972.40	\$39,861.92	\$39,861.92	\$39,861.92
179	AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION				
	Expenses	\$2,695.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$2,695.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
189	DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION				
	Expenses	\$1,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
192	PUBLIC BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
	Expenses	\$187,740.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$187,740.00	\$201,740.00	\$201,740.00	\$201,740.00
193	BUILDING INSURANCE		MOVED INTO		
	Expenses	\$45,000.00	DEPT. 945		
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$45,000.00	-0-	-0-	-0-
195	TOWN REPORTS				
	Expenses	\$2,200.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$2,200.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,736,964.05	\$1,802,502.75	\$1,777,509.12	\$1,777,509.12

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
	PUBLIC SAFETY				
210	POLICE DEPARTMENT				
	Personnel	\$1,732,576.03			
	Expenses	\$172,500.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,905,076.03	\$1,952,934.68	\$1,946,724.68	\$1,946,724.68
215	COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT				
	Personnel	\$361,995.45			
	Expenses	\$32,020.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$394,015.45	\$410,488.13	\$410,488.13	\$410,488.13
220	FIRE DEPARTMENT				
	Personnel	\$668,526.77			
	Expenses	\$101,552.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$770,078.77	\$760,732.67	\$760,732.67	\$760,732.67
231	AMBULANCE SERVICES				
	Personnel	\$677,491.59			
	Expenses	\$130,050.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$807,541.59	\$796,786.26	\$796,786.26	\$796,786.26
241	BUILDING INSPECTION				
	Personnel	\$133,104.00			
	Expenses	\$38,130.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$171,234.00	\$170,711.20	\$170,711.20	\$170,711.20
242	GAS INSPECTION				
	Personnel	\$8,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$8,000.00	\$6,750.00	\$6,750.00	\$6,750.00
243	PLUMBING INSPECTION				
	Personnel	\$8,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$8,000.00	\$7,750.00	\$7,750.00	\$7,750.00

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
244	WEIGHTS AND MEASURES				
	Personnel	\$1,200.00			
	Expenses	\$200.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,400.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
245	ELECTRICAL INSPECTION				
	Personnel	\$20,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
292	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER				
	Personnel	\$45,000.00			
	Expenses	\$10,750.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$55,750.00	\$58,150.00	\$58,150.00	\$58,150.00
294	FORESTRY				
	Personnel	\$263.82			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$263.82	\$269.10	\$269.10	\$269.10
295	HARBORMASTER		MOVED		
	Personnel	\$2,000.00	INTO		
	Expenses	\$7,800.00	DEPT. 210		
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$9,800.00	-0-	-0-	-0-
299	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE				
	Expenses	\$8,500.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$8,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$4,159,659.66	\$4,191,572.04	\$4,185,362.04	\$4,185,362.04
300	EDUCATION				
	DIGHTON-REHOBOTH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL				
	Capital	\$375,616.00	\$357,962.00	\$357,962.00	\$357,962.00
	Operating	\$10,993,641.00	\$11,438,692.00	\$11,438,692.00	\$11,438,692.00
	BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL				
	Expenses	\$147,146.56	\$239,916.50	\$239,916.50	\$239,916.50

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
	BRISTOL-PLYMOUTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL				
	Expenses	\$1,081,809.00	\$1,468,434.00	\$1,468,434.00	\$1,468,434.00
	TOTAL EDUCATION	\$12,598,212.56	\$13,505,004.50	\$13,505,004.50	\$13,505,004.50
	HIGHWAY				
422	HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE				
	Personnel	\$618,004.30			
	Expenses	\$162,150.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$780,154.30	\$820,895.91	\$820,895.91	\$820,895.91
423	SNOW AND ICE CONTROL				
	Personnel	\$13,250.00			
	Expenses	\$36,750.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
429	DIGHTON-BERKLEY BRIDGE				
	Expenses	\$1,500.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
432	STREET CLEANING/STORMWATER				
	Personnel	\$57,748.10			
	Expenses	\$102,160.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$159,908.10	\$162,474.61	\$162,474.61	\$162,474.61
	TOTAL HIGHWAY	\$991,562.40	\$1,034,370.52	\$1,034,370.52	\$1,034,370.52
	SANITATION				
433	WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL				
	Personnel	\$9,240.66			
	Expenses	\$838,026.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$847,266.66	\$769,500.00	\$769,500.00	\$769,500.00

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
435	TRANSFER STATION				
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	NEW	\$96,516.73	\$96,516.73	\$96,516.73
	TOTAL SANITATION	\$847,266.66	\$866,016.73	\$866,016.73	\$866,016.73
	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL				
491	CEMETERY				
	Expenses	\$24,700.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$24,700.00	\$25,840.00	\$25,840.00	\$25,840.00
	TOTAL OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL	\$24,700.00	\$25,840.00	\$25,840.00	\$25,840.00
	HUMAN SERVICES				
510	BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS AND INSPECTIONS				
	Personnel	\$76,936.40			
	Expenses	\$1,500.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$78,436.40	\$161,485.56	\$160,665.56	\$160,665.56
519	BOARD OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION		MOVED INTO		
	Personnel	\$74,527.00	DEPT. 510		
	Expenses	\$4,900.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$79,427.00	-0-	-0-	-0-
541	COUNCIL ON AGING				
	Personnel	\$96,037.00			
	Expenses	\$19,625.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$115,662.00	\$167,325.42	\$167,325.42	\$167,325.42
542	PRIME TIME		MOVED		
	Personnel	\$92,763.41	DEPT. 541		
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$92,763.41	-0-	-0-	-0-
543	VETERANS' SERVICES				
	Personnel	\$41,782.00			
	Expenses	\$76,825.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$118,607.00	\$90,892.01	\$90,892.01	\$90,892.01

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
549	COMMISSION ON DISABILITY				
	Personnel	\$3,000.00			
	Expenses	\$2,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$5,000.00	\$5,060.00	\$5,060.00	\$5,060.00
	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	\$489,895.81	\$424,762.99	\$423,942.99	\$423,942.99
	CULTURE AND RECREATION				
610	PUBLIC LIBRARY				
	Personnel	\$227,930.10			
	Expenses	\$72,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$299,930.10	\$306,580.60	\$306,580.60	\$306,580.60
630	PARKS AND RECREATION				
	Expenses	\$20,200.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$20,200.00	\$20,500.00	\$20,500.00	\$20,500.00
691	TOWN HISTORIAN	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION				
	Expenses	\$1,600.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,600.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
698	CABLE COMMISSION				
	Personnel	\$20,000.00			
	Expenses	\$12,100.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$32,100.00	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00
	TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$354,080.10	\$364,730.60	\$364,730.60	\$364,730.60
	DEBT SERVICE				
710	MATURING PRINCIPAL ON LONG TERM DEBT				
	Expenses	\$241,668.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$241,668.00	\$241,668.00	\$241,668.00	\$241,668.00

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
751	INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT				
	Expenses	\$132,925.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$132,925.00	\$121,175.00	\$121,175.00	\$121,175.00
752	INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
	TOTAL DEBT	\$374,593.00	\$362,843.00	\$362,843.00	\$362,843.00
	STATE & COUNTY CHARGES				
820	STATE ASSESSMENTS & CHARGES	\$76,737.00	\$78,496.00	\$78,496.00	\$78,496.00
830	COUNTY ASSESSMENTS & CHARGES	\$119,582.00	\$121,192.00	\$121,192.00	\$121,192.00
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$196,319.00	\$199,688.00	\$199,688.00	\$199,688.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
911	RETIREMENT & PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS				
	Expenses	\$897,957.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$897,957.00	\$1,048,324.00	\$1,048,324.00	\$1,048,324.00
912	WORKERS COMPENSATION		MOVED		
	Expenses	\$45,000.00	DEPT. 945		
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$45,000.00	-0-	-0-	-0-
914	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE				
	Expenses	\$1,312,436.25			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$1,312,436.25	\$1,332,436.25	\$1,332,436.25	\$1,332,436.25
915	GROUP LIFE INSURANCE				
	Expenses	\$950.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$950.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
916	EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS				
	Expenses	\$84,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$84,000.00	\$88,000.00	\$88,000.00	\$88,000.00

TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET
For the Fiscal Year 2024

#	Department	Current Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 2024 Request	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Finance Committee	Fiscal Year 2024 Recommendation By Board of Selectmen
919	OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)				
	Expenses	\$35,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
920	TUITION				
	Expenses	\$10,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,508,760.25		\$2,508,760.25	\$2,508,760.25
	SETTLEMENTS AND COURT JUDGEMENTS				
940	SETTLEMENTS				
	Expenses	-0-			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
941	COURT JUDGEMENTS				
	Expenses	-0-			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
	TOTAL SETTLEMENTS AND COURT JUDGEMENTS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
945	LIABILITY INSURANCE				
	Expenses	\$135,000.00			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$135,000.00	\$240,200.00	\$240,200.00	\$240,200.00
	TOTAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$135,00.00	\$240,200.00	\$240,200.00	\$240,200.00
	GENERAL FUND TOTALS	\$24,097,277.49	\$25,526,291.38	\$25,494,267.75	\$25,494,267.75

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following sums to be expended under the direction of the Board of Sewer Commissioners for the operation and maintenance of the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2024, or take any action relative thereto.

Direct Costs

Finance Committee Board of Selectmen

		Recommendations	Recommendations
Salaries	\$131,561.73	\$131,561.73	\$131,561.73
Expenses	\$193,850.00	\$193,850.00	\$193,850.00
Capital Expenses	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
<u>Indirect Costs</u>	<u>\$ 19,899.50</u>	<u>\$19,899.50</u>	<u>\$19,899.50</u>

The above appropriations will be funded as follows:

\$302,000.00 through sewer receipts and \$193,311.23 transferred from Sewer Enterprise retained earnings totaling **\$495,311.23**.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 7. To see if the town will vote to amend the town bylaws Article XXXVI, Section 5, Authorized Revolving Funds to add and establish the following revolving funds, or take any other action relative thereto:

Department Fund	Department, Board or Committee Authorized to spend	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Fees, Charges or Other Receipts Credited to Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable to Fund	Other Requirements Reports	Fiscal Years
Police Department Detail Cruiser Usage Fund	Dighton Police Chief	Fuel and Maintenance of Police Fleet	3 rd Party Detail fees			Fiscal Year 24 and Subsequent Years
Police Department Firearms Training Range Outside Usage	Dighton Police Chief	Purchase of Ammunition, Range Supplies and Firearms related Materials	3 rd Party Use of Range Fees			Fiscal Year 24 and Subsequent Years
Police Department Youth and Community Policing Engagement Fund	Dighton Police Chief	Programs and Engagements (Youth Police Academy, Coffee with a Cop, Riverfront 5k	Tuition, Donations and Other Revenue			Fiscal Year 24 and Subsequent Years
Parks and Recreation Field Usage	Parks and Recreation	Field and Equipment Maintenance/Repairs and Replacement, Support Recreational Programs	Fees Charged and Monies Received for Field Use, Recreational Programs			Fiscal Year 24 and Subsequent Years

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will, pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 as most recently amended, establish fiscal year limitation on expenditures from the revolving funds established by the Town of Dighton General Bylaws, Article XXXVI.

"Departmental Revolving Funds", with such limitations for FY24 as follows:

Revolving Fund		FY24 Spending Limit
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
Police Department Detail Cruiser Usage Fund	Revenue from Detail Cruiser Usage Fees	\$25,000.00
Police Department Firearms Training Range Outside Usage	Revenue from the Outside Usage of the DPD Firearms Training Range	\$15,000.00
Police Department Youth and Community Policing Engagement Fund	Donations and Other Revenue	\$15,000.00
Parks and Recreation Field Usage	Fees Charged and Monies Received for Field Use, Recreational Programs	\$15,000.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 9. To see if 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 2024 Highway Program under Chapter 90, and the town road improvement program, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 10. To see if 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 and action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Ch. 126 of the Acts of 1988, amending Sec. 4 of Ch. 73 of the Acts of 1986 to allow an additional exemption which shall be for all exemptions and none of which shall exceed 25% of said exemption for which they qualify in Fiscal Year 2023, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds an amount of \$10,667.00 in order to close out overdrawn accounts or accounts deemed uncollectible for FY23, or take any other action relative thereto.

Shared Streets	\$10,301.00
Complete Streets	366.00
Total	\$10,667.00

***Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Free Cash
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Free Cash***

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act 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 2024, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, or take any action relative thereto.

Appropriations:

From FY 2024 estimated revenues for the CPC Administrative expenses: \$6,500.00

Reserves:

From FY 2024 estimated revenues for Historic Resources: \$13,000.00
From FY 2024 estimated revenues for Community Housing: \$13,000.00
From FY 2024 estimated revenues for Open Space: \$13,000.00
From FY 2024 revenues for budget reserve: \$84,500.00

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$20,000.00 from the Historic Resource Fund and \$303,000.00 from the CPA undesignated/unreserved fund to be expended by the Community Preservation Committee for the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of the Historic Smith Memorial Hall located at 207 Main Street, as presented by the Library Building Committee including HVAC, electrical, carpentry, and ADA compliance Improvements, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds an amount of money not to exceed the amount of \$404,000.00 to fund Dighton Public Library building and property improvements and related upgrades at 207 Main Street or take any action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Available Funds
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Available Funds*

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$106,146.76 to be expended by the Fire Chief as the second payment of a seven-year lease to purchase of a new fire engine and any necessary accessories or take any action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Free Cash
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Free Cash*

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the amount of \$23,533.06, to be combined with \$122,000.00 in funds already approved in Article 21 of the June 6, 2022 Annual Town Meeting for a total of \$145,533.06 to fund the first years payment on a 3-year lease to purchase of a new ambulance and any necessary accessories relative thereto, or take any action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Ambulance Fund
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Ambulance Fund*

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,561.92 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent as the fourth-year lease to purchase payment on the 2020 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper voted in Article 22 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant of June 15, 2020, or take any action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Free Cash
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Free Cash*

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000.00 to be expended by the Planning Board for legal and related expenses regarding complaints filed against the Planning Board, the Town of Dighton and/or relevant town officials, or take any action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends Raise and Appropriate
Finance Committee Recommends Raise and Appropriate*

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow and/or transfer from available funds the amount of \$300,000.00 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent to fund Main Street road reconstruction, repaving, sidewalk construction and related work, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Free Cash

Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Free Cash

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the amount of \$28,000.00 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent to have an Alternatives Analysis Report conducted on the closed bridge over the Segregansett River on Briggs Street, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Free Cash
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Free Cash

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the amount of \$34,000.00 to be expended by the Fire Chief for the purchase of one CPR compressor and any associated accessories related thereto, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Ambulance Fund
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Ambulance Fund

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 to be expended by the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District for the purchase and installation of access controls, related school security and public safety upgrades to the Dighton Elementary School and Dighton Middle School, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from Available Funds
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from Available Funds

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$60,000.00 from the Cable Committee Peg Access & Cable Related Fund, Account #240-330-698-3300-3022-40 to furnish the new Channel 9 Studio with audio and video equipment, furniture and a TV, upgrade cable workstation and server and add editing software for Channel 9 operations, upgrade audio visual recording technology and equipment at Old Town Hall and the Police Department Community Room, or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends Transfer from PEG Access Fund
Finance Committee Recommends Transfer from PEG Access Fund

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to approve the amended Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District Agreement by deleting the text shown with a strikethrough, and inserting the text shown in *italics*, or highlighted/underlined as printed below, or take any other action relative thereto.

By amending section III – Location of the Regional District Schools, Subsection B., paragraph 4 on Page 5 as follows:

Pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the Town of Rehoboth is hereby

authorized to lease to the Regional School District the premises, facilities and buildings presently known as:

NAME AND LOCATION OF SCHOOL

1. Anawan Elementary School
Baystate Road, Rehoboth, Mass
2. 1. Palmer River Elementary School
Winthrop Street, Rehoboth, Mass
3. 2. D.L. Beckwith Middle School
Winthrop Street, Rehoboth, Mass

By amending Section X – Budget, Section B. Tentative Capital and Operating Budget, Paragraph 1 on Page 12 as follows:

Thereafter on or before January 15 March 1st in each year, the Committee shall annually prepare a tentative capital and operating budget and estimated assessments for the ensuing fiscal year, including therein provision for any installment of principal or interest to become due in such year on any bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of the District and any other capital costs to be apportioned to the member towns in such year. The said budget shall be in reasonable detail, including the amounts payable under the following classification of expenses or such other classifications as may be necessary:

By amending Section XVI – Transition, paragraphs 1 & 2 on Pages 16-17 as follows:

This amended Agreement shall take full effect in accordance with its terms upon the affirmative votes of the Towns of Dighton and Rehoboth at Town Meetings held in each such town and shall thereupon supersede the District Agreement executed as of April 15, 1958, as amended on July 1, 1987, as heretofore amended. All obligations under contracts and agreements binding upon the member towns with respect to schools for the grades kindergarten through eight shall be assumed and carried out by the Committee on and after July 1, 1987 2023 to the extent that such obligations would remain in effect on July 1, 1987 2023 and be paid from sums included in the District budget for the fiscal year commencing on that date.

The foregoing Amended Agreement was duly accepted and approved (1) by vote of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional District School Committee, duly adopted at a meeting of said Committee, duly called and held on February 14, 1987 February 14, 2023; (2) by vote of the Town of Dighton duly adopted under Article 10 of the Warrant under Article 25 at its Town Meeting duly called and held on May 4, 1987 June 5, 2023; and (3) by a vote of the Town of Rehoboth duly adopted under Article 324 of the Warrant at its Town Meeting duly called held on June 22, 1987 May 9, 2023.

By amending the signature blocks on Page 17 as follows:

TOWN OF DIGHTON

(TOWN SEAL) I hereby certify that the above amended agreement was voted at the Annual Town Meeting in Dighton on May 4, 1987June 5, 2023.

Attest: _____

Town Clerk

By: _____

Board of Selectmen

TOWN OF REHOBOTH

(TOWN SEAL) I hereby certify that the above amended agreement was voted at the Annual Town Meeting in Rehoboth on June 22, 1987May 9, 2023.

Attest: _____

Town Clerk

By: _____

Board of Selectmen

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 26. CITIZEN PETITION:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General By-Laws, Article 1 Town Meeting by inserting in place a new subsection Moderator- "The Moderator shall be elected for a three year term at the regular Annual Town Election, beginning at the 2024 Annual Town Election and every three years thereafter.

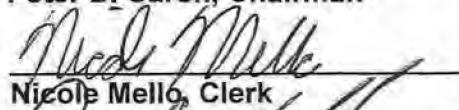
ARTICLE 27. To act upon any other business that lawfully may be introduced at said meeting. Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 10th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four, and of the independence of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the two hundred and forty seventh.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Peter D. Caron, Chairman



Nicole Mello, Clerk

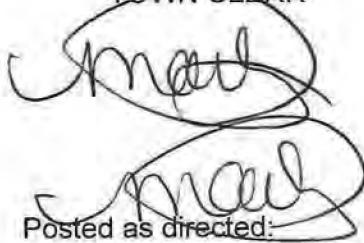


Leonard E. Hull, Jr., Member

A true copy

Attest:

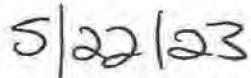
TOWN CLERK



Posted as directed:

CONSTABLE

Date:



****** IMPORTANT NEWS UPDATE FROM THE TOWN OF DIGHTON ******

Town of Dighton Shares Changes to Mattress, Box Spring and Textile Recycling Per New State Requirements

The Board of Selectmen, together with the Board of Health and Solid Waste Committee, would like to share changes to Dighton's textile, mattress and box spring recycling programs following recently implemented Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) solid waste ban regulations.

Late last year, in accordance with MassDEP's 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan objective to reduce disposal statewide by 30% by the year 2030, MassDEP established new rules requiring that mattresses, box springs and textiles be kept out of the trash so they can be recycled or donated for reuse.

Town officials and Solid Waste Committee volunteers have been working during the past few months to implement the changes required under the new state regulations. These mandates and the current challenges of the solid waste industry require us to look at how Dighton will adapt to these issues, some of which remain outside of our control.

At the recommendation of the Town's Solid Waste Committee, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health implemented an updated Transfer Station Fee Schedule in December 2022. The Town also entered into agreements with new textile and mattress recycling program providers.

New Dighton Textile Recycling Program

Building on the success of Dighton's 'Pink Bag' Textile Recycling Program, in November 2022, town officials contracted with CMRK's Big Brother Big Sister Program to perform textile recycling services for town residents.

Residents now have the ability to conveniently schedule Curbside Textile Pick-Up of textiles and small household items at their home by pre-registering for a pickup in the following ways:

Visit www.bbbsfoundation.org/schedule-a-pickup to schedule a pick-up;

Call CMRK's Big Brother Big Sister Program Voice Mail Box at 508-466-4590 and leave a message with your name, phone number and address. A scheduling representative will call back within two business days to confirm your appointment.

Text 'PICKUP' to 508-466-4590 with your name, phone and address.

Registered residents will receive a notification the day prior to the pick-up service. They will also receive a reminder notification on the day of pick-up.

The following are textiles and household items accepted for curbside pick-up:

- Bagged Items that are Accepted for Curbside Pick-Up:
- All types, sizes of clean clothing (women, men, children)
- Household Textiles (blankets, towels, curtains)
- All Shoes and Sneakers
- Accessories (purses, backpacks, belts, jewelry, hats, gloves and more)

Boxed Items that are Accepted for Curbside Pick-Up

- Kitchen Accessories (pots, pans, dishes, microwave, glasses)

- Small Décor Items (vases, picture frames, paintings)
- Small Musical Instruments
- Books and DVDs
- Bicycles

Textile and Book Recycling Bins Now Available at the Dighton Transfer Station

Residents can drop off clean unwanted clothing, shoes and books in drop boxes located at the Transfer Station, 865 Tremont St., during the Transfer Station's regular hours of operation.

Requirements of New Mattress and Box Spring Recycling Program at Dighton Transfer Station

We also encourage residents to take advantage of retailer haul-away options when purchasing new mattresses and box springs as well as utilizing state resources like MassDEP's [Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory](#). Town officials have also contracted with Ace Mattress Recycling to provide residents with the ability to properly dispose of unwanted mattresses and box springs at the Dighton Transfer Station.

Through its partnership with the town, Ace Mattress dismantles recycled mattresses and box springs to redistribute or reuse 95% of the material.

The cost for Dighton residents to dispose of unwanted, suitable mattresses and box springs at the Transfer Station is currently \$40. Residents who plan to recycle an unwanted mattress or box spring at the Transfer Station must keep the mattress or box spring indoors, dry, and free from any contaminants prior to delivering it to the Transfer Station. Mattresses and box springs will be screened by the Transfer Station attendant.

The fee for those deemed unacceptable and not suitable to be recycled is \$125. The \$125 fee is the cost to the Town to dispose of unacceptable mattresses and box springs. Those that are deemed as unacceptable and not suited for recycling by the Transfer Station Attendant include those that are:

- Wet or frozen
- Severely twisted, punctured or crushed.
- Infested with bed bugs or other living organisms.
- Soiled or moldy

Please note:

An annual Transfer Station Sticker or one day pass is required to dispose of unwanted textiles, mattresses, box springs and books at the Dighton Transfer Station. Stickers cost \$15.00 per calendar year. Stickers may be purchased at the Transfer Station. Checks only please, we cannot accept cash at this time.

Residents with any questions about these changes are encouraged to contact the Dighton Health Department at 774-872-0943.

For additional information on how and where to recycle, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/how-where-to-recycle#recycling-in-your-community-> or go to: <https://recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search/>

The Selectmen, the Board of Health and the Solid Waste Committee are working diligently to find ways to cost effectively meet your needs while complying with State mandates. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

NOTES

Town of Dighton
Dighton, Massachusetts 02715

Important
Official Notice of:
2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Taunton, MA
Permit No. 612

******* ECRWSS *******
Residential Customer
Dighton, MA 02715

*Please bring this Warrant with you to the
Annual Town Meeting*

Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium
2700 Regional Road
North Dighton, MA 02764
Monday, June 5, 2023