

The following Meeting was video and audio recorded for Airing on Channel 9

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Chairman Hull. He gave Zoom login information and instructions for providing public input.

Roll Call:

Chairman Hull, present.

Selectman Pacheco, present.

Selectman Caron, present.

Present: Chairman Leonard Hull, Selectman Peter Caron, Selectman Kenneth Pacheco, Town Administrator Michael Mullen, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Board of Health members Paul Pacheco and Patrick McGovern, Building Commissioner James Aguiar, Board of Assessor Member William Moore and ADA Coordinator Jonathan Gale.

Also Present: Colonel Robert Perry, Attorney Matthew Costa (Gay and Gay), Nancy Goulart

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Executive Session

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)

2. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

a. ADA Coordinator

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Return to Open Session

Regular meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was requested by Chairman Hull for David Clark, George Hart, Margaret Mendonca and Arthur Morton.

RECEIVED

Town Clerk-Dighton, MA

MAY 04 2023

Time: 8:20 am

By: [Signature]

Scheduled Appointments

7:30 p.m. Board of Health

Proposed Restructuring Plan

Mr. Pacheco read a letter from the Board of Health to the Board of Selectmen recommending a reduction in the hours of the Health Agent from 35 hours to 25 hours.

Board of Health Agent Todd Pilling thought the current hours were necessary to get the job done. He said it would be nice to have someone in the Board of Health with a degree in order to advance the Board of Health.

Selectman Caron asked who would fill the hours that were being cut.

Mr. Paul Pacheco, Board of Health member, said they would advertise for a part time position to manage and oversee the office, schedule inspections and handle the day-to-day operations. He said the person would handle the day-to-day questions, but would not be there for a full day.

Selectman Caron asked if they would have a degree.

Mr. Pacheco said that had not been determined yet.

Chairman Hull asked if there were placeholders in the budget.

Town Administrator Mullen said the budget was the next logical step in the plan.

Chairman Hull said he would like to have some deadlines set to finalize the job description and other things.

Mr. Paul Pacheco said he did not want to comment or make any promises for the board. He said the Board of Health could put it on an agenda to come up with some deadlines.

Board of Health member Patrick McGovern, said if he could find a way to avoid reducing the hours, that would be great and there needed to be someone accountable for day-to-day operations.

Mr. McGovern said he was provided with information for the Health Agent's job description last week and would be working on that. He said the Board of Health had gone through so many changes and had not been able to keep up. Mr. McGovern said he agreed that residents and employees were at stake with projects and their livelihood.

The April 26 Board of Selectmen's meeting was discussed as a deadline.

Veterans Agent Ray Hague and Colonel Robert Perry

Medal of Honor Plaque Presentation

Colonel Robert Perry came forward to speak regarding Dighton's Medal of Honor. Colonel Perry presented and gave an overview of the three framed documents that would be added to the Medal of Honor display at the Police station.

Mr. Matthew Costa Esq. – Gay & Gay, P.C.

Retainer Agreement with Town Counsel

Chairman Hull read the agreement between the Town and Gay and Gay PC.

Mr. Mullen said the value of having an updated engagement and agreement as Attorney Costa mentioned, reflects the commitment of Gay and Gay to the Town. He said he valued the relationship and strongly recommended approval of this document.

Selectman Pacheco said he was in agreement.

Selectman Caron said he also agreed.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** for the town of Dighton to enter into an agreement with the Law firm of Gay and Gay for a period of three years.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

William Moore, Board of Assessors

Tax Exemption Update

Mr. Moore said historically we have been applying the COLA to the income part of this exemption, but not to the assets portion. He said the Board of Assessors was not proposing to put anything on the warrant, but would research what the correct number for the assets should be and would propose a change for next year.

There was discussion of a warrant article and it was decided it was not necessary to create one, but it would be an automatic adjustment each year.

Mr. James Aguiar, Building Commissioner

Library Building Project Update

Building Commissioner Aguiar said the exterior renovations are 90% complete and would be done in about two weeks. Mr. Aguiar said the front porch columns had been removed and the town would work with the Historical Commission to come up with a way to reinstall them and make them as close to original as possible. He said they were also working on plans for the outdoor ramp. Mr. Aguiar said that will bring us to a point where the exterior renovations will be complete. He said we are pursuing grants for the interior and coming up with a number that would involve more work being done by the town and save the taxpayers some money. Mr. Aguiar said that figure would be ready in a couple of weeks.

Selectman Pacheco said the board would like a true figure. He thanked Mr. Aguiar and Mr. Mullen for their work.

Mr. Aguiar said the biggest expense for the interior would be the installation of the HVAC units.

Chairman Hull said the Capital Outlay meeting provided a number of \$175,000.00 for furnishings in the library. He said, we as a town, should work together to create a capital fundraiser to raise that money.

Chairman Hull said one question had been raised related to fire suppression. Mr. Aguiar gave an overview of what the work would entail to install sprinklers in the existing building.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to take agenda item 12E. out of order the Appointment of Allisha Wilson out of order.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Request to Appoint Allisha Wilson as an At-Large Member of the Community Preservation Committee

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Attorney Allisha Wilson as an At-Large Member of the Community Preservation Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Spotlight Jonathan Gale

ADA Coordinator -Commission on Disability

ADA Coordinator, Jonathan Gale came forward to give an overview of the Commission on Disability and some of the projects that they have been involved in recently such as a ramp and sidewalks at the Middle School. He said they have also been working on a project to bring resources to people with disabilities and substance abuse.

Mr. Gale said he has received calls related to matching people with available disability resources. He said the Commission has been in existence for two years, and had finally separated duties from the Commission on Disability.

Selectman Pacheco thanked Mr. Gale for his work in the town.

Chairman Hull asked if the Commission on Disability could work more closely with you with regard to grant writing.

Mr. Gale said the Commission on Disability could use a couple more members.

Announcements

Announcements were read by Selectman Pacheco

Selectmen’s Reports

Chairman Hull

Chairman Hull said the Water District was still looking for a Water Superintendent and they were accepting applications. He said the Annual Election of the Board of Commissioners would be May 15, at their headquarters.

Chairman Hull said he was not able to attend the Dighton-Rehoboth District School Committee meeting, but said there was over a 3 million dollar increase in expenses in their recent budget. He said Bristol County Agricultural High School and Bristol Plymouth’s increases were nowhere near that number and there would be great scrutiny of the energy numbers.

Selectman Caron

Selectman Caron said the Solid Waste Committee met and Selectman Caron said he was elected the new Chairman. They discussed the point-of-sale system and hoped to have it up and running before June.

Selectman Caron said the committee lost Jonathan Lawrence and, as of right now, he was being replaced by Highway Department workers at the transfer station.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Mullen said the Massachusetts One Step Grant Program begins in January and runs through June. He said the One Step Program has pulled together all infrastructure and housing grants into one portal. He said we did submit an expression of interest with the final grant due at the beginning of June for a townwide zoning assessment. Mr. Mullen said this was our first priority and the second priority is the update of our Housing Production Plan.

Mr. Mullen said he wanted to bring these two priorities to the attention of the board.

There was discussion of the MBTA and Southcoast Railroad.

Mr. Mullen said we will try to restructure our planning efforts so we can easily adapt to any requirements of the MBTA.

Mr. Mullen said we began budget review with the Finance Committee last night. All the presentations will be updated to the Town of Dighton's website on the finance page as we move to the June 5th Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Mullen said that Congressman Auchincloss' office was having a luncheon at Bristol Plymouth.

Capital Outlay Committee Update

Mr. Mullen said the Capital Outlay Committee met on Monday and had their first look at the FY24 Capital Outlay Requests. They will meet next on Tuesday, April 4.

Facilities Use Request from Fathers House Family Church

Mr. Mullen said the request was to extend the use of the Old Town Hall on Sundays for services.

Selectman Pacheco said he has heard no complaints and he supported this request.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board approve the request of Father's House Family Church for use on Sunday through July 31 and waive the associated fee.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Lions Club Yard Sale

Selectman Caron motioned, Selectman Pacheco seconded and it was **VOTED** to allow the Lions Club to use the Highway Department parking lot on May 6 for the yard sale.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco abstained. (member of Lions)

Request to Appoint Diane Heath as Special Agent for Tobacco Enforcement

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Diane Heath as Special Agent for Tobacco Enforcement.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Request to Appoint Banhnha Solomon as Special Agent for Tobacco Enforcement

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Banhnha Solomon as Special Agent for Tobacco Enforcement.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Request to Appoint Brand Cedrone as an At-Large Member of Community Preservation Committee

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Brand Cedrone as an at large member of the Community Preservation Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Common Victualler License-Jesse's Diner, 2035 Winthrop Street, North Dighton, MA

Chairman Hull said he received a phone call from an abutter. He said Mr. Bill Mariano gave his blessing for this business and thought it would be great addition in town.

Selectman Caron said good luck.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Common Victualler's License for Jesse's Diner, 2035 Winthrop Street Dighton, MA.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.

Selectman Caron, aye.

Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Public Input

Chairman Hull gave information and general rules for providing public input.

Nancy Goulart, 631 Gray Terrace, as Chairman of the Stormwater Committee said the Stormwater Committee was working on some information with Mr. Newton Tedder of the Department of Environmental Protection regarding Stormwater. She asked the board if they would be interested in hearing from Mr. Tedder via Zoom at a future meeting.

Warrants

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #37A-23 in the amount of \$109,247.36 and Warrant #37B-23 in the amount of \$210,357.49 both dated March 16, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #38A-23 in the amount of \$112,291.23, Warrant #38B-23 in the amount of \$231,485.90 and Warrant #38C-23 in the amount of \$75.45 dated March 23, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Correspondence

Chairman Hull read a letter from Fire Chief Christopher Maguy re: appointment of Sarah Silveira to the Call Firefighter/EMS ranks.

Chairman Hull also read a letter from Fire Chief Christopher Maguy regarding the appointment of Ruben Jacob to the Call Firefighter/EMS ranks.

Chairman Hull read a letter of Resignation from William Pruitt from the Historical Commission and the Dighton Community Preservation Committee.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of William Pruitt from the Historical Commission and the Dighton Community Preservation Committee with thanks.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Minutes

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee Special meeting of February 2, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting minutes of March 8, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

Executive Session

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2)(7)

2. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

a. Fire Chief

7. to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

a. Executive Session Minutes: Board of Selectmen’s Executive Session of March 8, 2023.

Adjournment

Selectman Pacheco motioned, Selectman Caron seconded and it was **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Hull, aye.
Selectman Caron, aye.
Selectman Pacheco, aye.

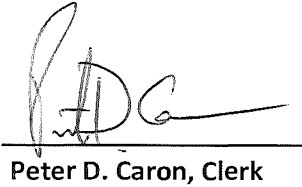
Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Executive Assistant

Board of Selectmen



Leonard E. Hull, Chairman



Peter D. Caron, Clerk

Kenneth J. Pacheco, member

Documents Reviewed:

- Letter from Board of Health regarding Restructuring
- Retainer Agreement between Town of Dighton and Gay and Gay, PC
- Dighton Highway Parking Ban Notice
- Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School Theatre Company Flyer for “Head over Heels”
- Dighton Historical Society “Believe in Forever” Flyer
- Absentee Ballot Notice 2023 Annual Town Election
- Letter from Sewer Commissioners Regarding Sewer Commissioner Vacancy
- Expression of Interest for One Stop Grant
- Town of Dighton Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Overview and Recommendations
- Email from Our Father’s Family Church Regarding Use of Old Town Hall Extension
- Facility Reservation Request Form – Our Father’s Family Church
- Schedule of Rental Fees
- Letter from Donald Herbeck of Dighton Lions for Use of the Town Garage Parking Lot
- Facility Reservation Request for Use of Town Garage Parking Lot for the Dighton Lions Yard Sale
- Letter from Board of Health to Appoint Diane Heath as Special Agent for Tobacco Enforcement
- Letter from Board of Health to Appoint Banhnha Solomon as Special Agent for Tobacco Enforcement
- Letter from the Community Preservation Committee to Appoint Brand Cedrone and Alish Wilson as members
- Letter from Administrative Assistant Leeanne Kerwin to request a new Common Victualler’s License for Jessie’s Diner, 2035 Winthrop Street, Dighton, MA
- Letter from Fire Chief Christopher Maguy Requesting the Appointment of Sarah Silveira to the Call Firefighter/EMS Ranks
- Letter from Fire Chief Christopher Maguy Requesting the Appointment of Ruben Jacobs to the Call Firefighter/EMS Ranks
- Resignation Email from William Pruitt from the Dighton Historic Commission
- Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting with the Finance Committee of February 2, 2023
- Minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s Regular Meeting of March 8, 2023