

RECEIVED

Town Clerk-Dighton, MA

JUL 13 2023

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

Time: 8:55 am

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

By: [Signature]

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Caron.

He stated that the meeting was being recorded and gave instructions for providing public input.

Present: Chairman Peter Caron, Selectmen Leonard Hull, Selectman Nicole Mello, Town Administrator Michael Mullen and Executive Assistant Karin Brady.

Also Present: Charles Mello, Kevin Smith-2461 Maple Samp Road, Nancy Goulart-631 Gray Terrace

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was requested by Selectman Hull for Francis Rose, Robert Clarke, David Demello, Peter Torres, Dorothy Boynton and Ernesto Dinis.

Scheduled Appointments

Proclamations

Charlie Mello

Proclamation for Charlie Mello was read by Chairman Caron

Arthur Morton

Proclamation for Arthur Morton was read by Selectman Nicole Mello.

Pamela Waller-Tenglin

The Proclamation for Pamela Waller Tenglin was read by Selectman Hull.

Shawn Cronin-Police Chief

Recommendations for Appointments of Part-Time Dispatchers

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to table this agenda item.

Announcements

Announcements were read by Selectman Mello.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Mullen said that he wanted to thank Ms. Tenglin for her many years of service to the Town of Dighton and said that she was an extremely dedicated employee.

Mr. Mullen also announced that the Town Clerk's position would soon be vacant as well. He recommended that the board agree to post an anticipated notice of vacancy, leave the position open for two weeks and then the board would have the ability to conduct interviews.

Chairman Caron asked about the term. Mr. Mullen said the legal guidance states that the board would appoint someone to fill the term until the next election.

Mr. Mullen said we have a job posting, the job description is written into Mass General law and in the updated posting we will be sure to reference the statute.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to post an anticipated notice of vacancy for the position of Town Clerk.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectmen's Reports

Chairman Peter Caron

Parks and Recreation has a new member who will be appointed at the next meeting and has some things to report to the board at the next meeting. Historical Commission has acquired a map that dates back to the 1800s and they have accepted it and will put it in the Town Hall vault.

Selectman Nicole Mello

Mr. Mullen said the board heard a presentation on the Sweets Know Trail Project. He said based on the feedback from residents, the state went back to the drawing board and came up with a plan for an access point behind Town Hall rather than at Sandpiper way as originally anticipated. Mr. Mullen said he was excited to announce that the town, in conjunction with the Trails Committee, has been awarded a grant for this project. We will have the ability to work with a consultant at Horsley Witten Group on a feasibility study that we received a grant for from the Taunton River Stewardship Council as well. He said this is a continuation of all of our efforts.

Selectman Mello said that the Commission on Disability met on June 1. She said ADA Coordinator Jonathan Gale received requests that closed captioning be instituted at all meetings. She suggested we reach out to boards and committees and let them know of this request.

Selectman Leonard Hull

Dighton Water District – wonderful news. The Dighton Water District will work with Mr. Ferry to provide a skim coat on Main Street. He said Mr. Cloonan has developed a very good working relationship with Mr. Ferry, Mr Mullen and the Town of Somerset.

Selectman Hull said The Town of Rehoboth voted to accept Freetown into the Bristol-Plymouth District and that will take effect in September of 2024.

Selectman Hull mentioned that the within the School Department, June is a time of awards and congratulations. He said the he and Selectman Mello attended the D-R Regional graduation and it was a beautiful ceremony.

Selectman Hull said at the meeting last night, the committee announced that the softball team finished first and track team finished second in the state. He said they elected a new student liaison to the school committee and she had some concerns that she presented to the committee. Selectman Hull said there was also a grant writer appointed at last night's meeting.

Selectman Nicole Mello asked about the Water District and the PFAS results. Selectman Hull said right now the PFAS number was 20, which was an acceptable number.

Selectman Hull said the Healy administration originally presented a number of 3, which was met with opposition and then eventually came back with a number of 4, which is still unacceptable to most towns. This would result in billions of dollars in expenses to towns to upgrade filtration systems. The auditor's office said they would develop a grant program to deal with this. There is a lot of work to do on this. Dighton is talking to their legislators and the voice of the communities will be heard.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Update on the Sweets Knoll Project

This subject was already addressed in the Selectmen's Reports.

Year End Budget Transfers

Mr. Mullen said he was presenting a total of five year-end transfers. He went over the reasoning for each transfer.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** that board accept the transfer for account #122, Selectmen for FY23.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board accept the year end transfer for account #135, Accounting for FY23.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded for and it was **VOTED** that the board accept the year end transfer for account #161 Town Clerk for FY23.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board accept the year end transfer for account #432 Highway Department.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board accept the year end transfer for account # #945 Liability insurance.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Clarification of Board of Health Terms

Mr. Mullen said at the end of the FY22 appointment process, one of the discussions that we had, was that appointment terms be changed, so that they do not come up at the same time.

Mr. Mullen said, since then, we realized that according to the vote taken, each member of the board of health is to be appointed annually, so Mr. Mullen wanted to bring that to the attention of the board. He said at the next meeting when we present the appointments to the board, appointments for the Board of Health will be added to the list.

Mr. Mullen noted that the article was adopted at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Mullen said no vote was required. He just wanted the board to be aware.

Letter of Engagement

Mr. Mullen was requesting an approval of the letter of engagement from Ferriter, Scobbo and Rodophele with regard to the attachment of municipal Fiber for municipal use to utility poles jointly owned by National Grid and Verizon.

Mr. Mullen said that National Grid argues that the town would be responsible for extreme costs to complete this project.

Mr. Mullen said we are proposing to engage the services of this law firm. The Town of Rehoboth also used this firm to gain access to space on their poles. Mr. Mullen said he was optimistic that it would be successful, but we need the services of specialized council for this matter.

Selectman Hull asked about the fee of \$2,500.00 and if it was a retainer.

Mr. Mullen said it is a "not to exceed" number, rather than a retainer.

Selectman Hull asked who would be the signatory agent for the town. Mr. Mullen said he would recommend that the authorization come from the chairman of the board.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen enter into a contract with the law firm of Ferriter, Scobbo and Rodaphele for a sum not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that Chairman Peter Caron be the signatory agent for the contract with Ferriter, Scobbo and Rodaphele.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Mr. Mullen said this was voted at the last town meeting and the responsible bidder was Northeast Document Conservation Center.

He mentioned that this would be funded through the CPC appropriation.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board authorize Michael Mullen to enter into the contract for the town with Northeast Document Conservation Center in the amount of \$47,500.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye

Facilities Request for the D-R Soccer Team Car Wash

Mr. Mullen recommended approval

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the request of the Dighton Rehoboth Soccer team to hold a car wash at the town garage on June 24, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Rules for Use of the Spratt Field and the Amphitheater

Selectman Hull said that he received calls from concerned citizens regarding people riding bikes, and making grooves in the track and also riding on the amphitheater which is a danger.

Selectman Hull would like to see a policy made to prevent such activities.

Mr. Mullen said there is a provision in the policy manual which states that pets are not allowed, except for service animals. He said what is not addressed in the policy is the use of the amphitheater.

Mr. Kevin Smith said he went to the field the next day, he did not see any ruts from bicycles, but did see the danger of skateboarding on the stairs of the amphitheater. He did think that the track was an appropriate place to teach young kids how to ride a bike and that was more of what we see on a regular basis.

Mr. Smith also did not see the reason that the Spratt field should be under the purview of the Board of Selectmen. He thought maybe a joint meeting could be held to determine the policy and/or signage to be placed at the site

Open Meeting Law Complaint from Patrick Higgins dated June 6

Mr. Mullen said we received an Open Meeting Law Complaint from Mr. Patrick Higgins regarding the joint meeting that was held to conduct interviews for the Board of Health members.

Mr. Mullen said that he felt that the meeting time could be determined based on the times of the interview.

Mr. Mullen said it is true that we did not have the time at the top of the agenda, and the only thing being asked is that we put the times on the agendas going forward. He recommended that the board vote to say that they acknowledge and have received the complaint and designate the town administrator to respond on behalf of the board.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board acknowledge the complaint and designate Town Administrator Mullen to respond to the complaint on behalf of the board.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Warrants

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #48A-23 in the amount of \$122,819.41, Warrant #48B-23 in the amount of \$77,239.25, Warrant #48C-23 in the amount of \$1,421,295.56 and Warrant #48D-23 in the amount of \$7,194.84, all dated June 1, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #49A-23 in the amount of \$111,814.83, Warrant #49C-23 in the amount of \$25,947.64 and Warrant #49C-23 in the amount of \$25,947.64 all dated June 8, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve Warrant #50A-23 in the amount of \$124,971.67 and Warrant #50B-23 in the amount of \$218,748.03, both dated June 15, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Acknowledgements

None.

Correspondence

Charles Mello Resignation

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Charles Mello from the Conservation Commission with sincere thanks and appreciation.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Todd Pilling as Health Agent.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello motioned, Chairman Caron stepped down to second and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Kevin Smith from the Open Space Commission and the Commission on Disability.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Andrew Horton from the Fire Station Building Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Minutes

Selectman Mello motioned, Selectman Hull seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the minutes of May 24, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.
Selectman Hull, aye.

Public Input

Kevin Smith, said he appreciated that the board asked him to reconsider his resignation, but said he would not reconsider at this time.

He did not think he would resign from the COD, but he looked forward to see what kind of procedures that the board would come up with at their retreat in July.

Nancy Goulart, reported that the Pan Mass Challenge Ride Through would take place on August 5th and 6th of this year. She said they are in need of volunteers for the event. She said Dighton is always very supportive. She said that anyone could go online to PMC Jimmy fund to donate to the cause.

Mrs. Goulart also wished everyone a Happy Flag Day.

Mrs. Goulart also wished to add some information about PFAS numbers that she got from the Mass Municipal Association meetings. She said Dighton is Okay. Mrs. Goulart said we are not near the EPA number. She said the Town of Mansfield has spent a lot of money to clean up their water supply.

Mrs. Goulart thanked Mr. Charlie Mello and Mr. Todd Pilling for serving on the Stormwater Committee.

Mrs. Goulart said we are waiting to find out from the EPA regarding post-construction stormwater management. She said 50% of towns will be receiving letters that we are out of compliance.

There was discussion about Stormwater.

Mrs. Goulart also mentioned paint recycling, and personal wipes recycling legislation. She said the legislation will require labeling.

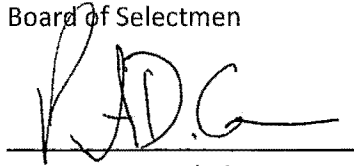
Adjournment

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to adjourn 8:15 p.m.

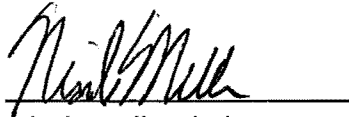
Respectfully submitted,

Karin Brady
Executive Assistant

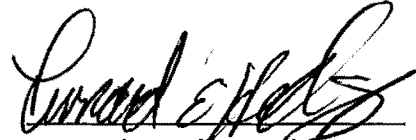
Board of Selectmen



Peter Caron – Chairman



Nicole Mello, Clerk



Leonard E. Hull, Member

Documents Reviewed:

Proclamations:

Charles Mello

Arthur Morton

Pamela Waller-Tenglin

Recommendation from Chief Cronin regarding appointment of part-time dispatchers

Proposed Department Year End Budget Transfers for FY23

Article from 2017 ATM voted Terms of Board of Health Members

Letter of Engagement for Legal Services of Ferriter, Scobbo, Rodaphele

Town of Dighton Contract for Services for Northeast Document Conservation Center

Facility Reservation Request – D-R Softball Car Wash at Town Garage

OML Complaint-Patrick Higgins dated June 6, 2023.

Resignation Letter of Charles Mello from the Conservation Commission

Resignation Letter of Todd Pilling from the Board of Health

Resignation Letter of Kevin Smith from the Commission on Disability and the Open Space Committee

Resignation Letter of Andrew Horton from the Fire Station Building Committee

Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of May 24, 2023