

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

RECEIVED

Town Clerk-Dighton, MA

AUG '28 2023

Time: 9:57 AM

By: S.C.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chairman Caron

Roll Call:

Chairman Caron, present.

Selectman Hull, present.

Selectman Mello, present.

Present: Chairman Caron, Selectman Hull, Selectman Mello, Town Administrator Mullen, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Chief George Nichols and Parks and Recreation Chairman Kevin Smith.

Also Present: Members of the Lions Club, Karen MacDonald and Mary Smith of the HEALing Community Study.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was requested for Robert Beauregard, Joan Creighton, Sharon Enos, Cecile Laflamme and Dorothy Costa.

Scheduled Appointments

6:30 p.m. Karen MacDonald – HEALING Community Study

There was a discussion of Narcan and the importance of making it available to community members. She spoke of installation of NALOX boxes in and around town in order to normalize NARCAN.

Ms. Mary Smith said the HEALS study is being funded by NIH (National Institute of Health) out of Boston Medical Center and includes Berkley, Dighton and Freetown. She said we chose this area because there is not enough access.

Mary Smith of Boston Medical Center said she works with Berkley and Dighton as the facilitator for this project.

There was discussion about where the boxes would be located. Ms. Macdonald said it should be close to doors, in insulated bags and some communities provide houses, if the boxes are located outdoors.

There was discussion about how to get the word out. Nurse Nicole Mello could assist with that. Ms. MacDonald said conversations could be happening regarding this.

Selectman Hull asked how many the town could have. Ms. Smith said it is based on what the community wants and designated areas.

Ms. MacDonald said they would work closely with the town and see what the coalition would agree on. She said the NIH (National Institute of Health) is a federal government agency working with our government on this addiction study. She said it is happening in four different states and Boston Medical Center was picked to run the study.

There was discussion of disposable medication bags.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board designate Town Administrator Mullen to coordinate with the Health Initiative Coalition for the acquisition of the NARCAN kits in the town buildings.

Selectman Mello said we have opioid funds coming down and could be used for this. Mr. Mullen said he could think of no better purpose for the funding.

Ms. MacDonald said there are agencies for the sustainability piece of the study. Ms. Smith said there is a community Naloxone Purchasing Program which is free of charge and she could help set that up as well.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectmen Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to include the Dighton Board of Health in his previous motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Kevin Smith

Lions Club

Mr. Smith said Darlene Araujo of the Lions Club reached out and asked if Parks and Recreation could use any equipment. Mr. Smith said Parks and Recreation sent the Lions club two options for needed equipment.

Mr. Smith said one piece of equipment requested by Parks and Recreation was a merry-go-round and one was an accessible picnic table. He said the grass mats that the town has could be utilized to make a pathway to these pieces of equipment.

Mr. Smith thanked the Lions Club for their donation.

Chairman Caron also thanked the Lions Club.

Mr. Smith said plaques would be produced stating that the picnic tables were donated from the Lions Club.

Selectman Hull echoed Chairman Carons' thoughts and Selectmen Mello said she was grateful for the donation.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the donation from the Lions Club in the amount of \$8,324.59 for the purchase of two accessible picnic tables and a Tippy Carousel.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Firecracker Festival

Mr. Smith said the festival would be expanded this year to allow vendors. He said anyone who is selling goods they would be charged \$50.00 per table to help support the event and some of the other activities. Mr. Smith said performers and food vendors have been lined up as well.

Chairman Caron asked about the charges for vendors and if that would apply to town boards and committees. Mr. Smith said no and non-profits would also not be charged for the event.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the board approve the request of Mr. Smith for the Annual Firecracker Event to be held at Spratt Memorial Field on September 9, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Chief Nichols

Said that there were 12 children that took part in the recent Dighton Youth Police Academy. He said they participated in CPR training and simulating traffic stops behind the station.

Chief Nichols said the Mass State Police Drone Unit came to the station and conducted a presentation. He said the mounted unit also come down. Chief Nichols said Fairhaven and Rehoboth came down with their K-9 dogs. He also said that Fairhaven and Dartmouth came down to see observe.

Chief Nichols said SRO Bennett and Hathaway both did an amazing job and it was a huge success.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to take agenda Item 11 and 12 out of order of business.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Acknowledgments

11a. Acknowledge Chief George Nichols for his FBI LEEDA trilogy Award

Mr. Mullen said it was a nine-day program built for supervisors and management to improve skills and to prepare law enforcement leaders for command positions. He said Chief Nichols continues to

demonstrate a thirst to ensure that the Dighton Police Department continues to excel. Now the LEEDA Trilogy Group sees this as well. He is known and respected and his network is huge. Selectman Hull said Chief Nichols has also developed a strong relationship with Taunton.

Selectmen Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to draw up a letter of commendation to be placed in Sgt Nichols file.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to take Public Input out of order.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mrs. Nancy Goulart came forward to recognize Chief Nichols and presented him with a package of Oreos.

Acting Chief of Police Appointment

Mr. Mullen said this appointment came as a result of the meeting on June 29th. Mr. Mullen read the letter of appointment to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Mullen thanked the Chief for all the work he is continuing to do.

Announcements

Selectman Mello read the announcements.

She added an announcement regarding the new hours of the transfer station.

Nancy Goulart mentioned the Pan Mass Challenge that would be coming through town next weekend. She said that each year that she has been involved, the riders have always remarked about Dighton.

She said it is a good feeling to see people standing on the roads.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Mullen said a lot of our work has been revolving around the procurement bids that are out there right now.

Mr. Mullen said the Healy Administration wants to focus on housing. The response received was everything about what Town Administrators are facing right now.

Mr. Mullen said there was a lot of discussion about state and DEP's limits. It was refreshing to know that Dighton isn't the only community with concerns and there is a very united front. It was one of the better town administrator's meetings that he has attended in a while.

Mr. Mullen said on a personal note, today was a special day that reflects everything I love about working here. He said I was thrown a diaper party and former board members, current board members, employees and many others came out to celebrate. He said it was a special day.

Selectman's Reports

Selectman Hull said the Dighton Industrial and Development Commission discussed plans for the October 3, 2nd Annual Networking Expo, will be open to Dighton businesses. There will be resources for Dighton businesses. There will be information on hiring practices and what jobs are available.

Selectman Hull said Dan Higgins deserves a lot of credit.

The second item established was the Cable Business Spotlight Program. He said anyone interested should contact Laura Medeiros or cablecom@dighton-ma.gov.

Selectman Hull said Open Space Committee volunteers are needed. He said if interested, please submit letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen's office.

Selectman Hull said Laura Smith has launched the Southcoast Eat Local Challenge. He said Dighton is a framing community and supporting them is important.

Selectman Hull said the challenge includes joining the Southcoast challenge from August 1 to August 31.

Selectman Hull said the Conservation Commission, at a recent meeting, said they wanted to let the Board of Selectmen know that they will be interviewing candidates for an open vacancy.

Selectman Hull also said the School Department just hired two new assistant principals at Dighton Rehoboth High School and there is an article in the Rehoboth Reporter regarding this.

Nicole Mello – Agricultural Commission

Selectman Mello said the Agricultural Commission did not end up meeting. She said there was no quorum.

Chairman Caron said the Historical Commission and the Solid Waste Committee will both meet in August.

Old Business

Award of Contract for On-Call Electrician Services

Mr. Mullen was recommending award to PRS Electric.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to award the contract for the On Call Electrician to PRS Electric and that the board empower Town Administrator Mullen to be the signing agent.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

On Call HVAC Services

Mr. Mullen said he was recommending North Star HVAC. He said references were checked and all was in order.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to award the contract for On Call HVAC service provider for the Town of Dighton and authorize Michael Mullen to be the signatory for the contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

ARPA Request

Mr. Mullen said we have had two ARPA requests go through Capital Outlay. He said this request is for \$509,000.00 for a project at 1450 Somerset Avenue. Mr. Mullen said we are recommending a request to ARPA in the amount of \$409,000.00 for this project. The other \$100,000.00 would be funded through the Sewer Enterprise Fund and has already been budgeted.

Selectman Hull said it is pending the approval of the Bristol County Commissioners.

Mr. Mullen said it would be subject to two approvals, but we want to begin the process

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the submitting of the ARPA request for Dighton Power Plant upgrade request in the amount of \$409,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Interim Health Agent Designation

Chairman Caron said this appointment would be effective until August 3. Mr. Mullen said we do not expect this interim position to last long at all.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Interim Health Agent James Aguiar as a Special Municipal Employee.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Dighton Police Department Software Administrator

Mr. Mullen said the Dighton Police Department has had staffing issues. He said the full software administrator position has always been 10% of the base for the officer performing the position. Mr. Mullen was recommending approval of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the MOU between the Town of Dighton and the Dighton Police Officers Local 306.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Administrative Assistant – Sewer Department and Conservation Commission

Mr. Mullen said this position would be broken down to 10 hours for Sewer and 8 hours for the Conservation Commission. He said it is a non-union position.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Conservation Commission Sewer Department job description.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

Mr. Mullen said two out of four conservation commission members live on Main Street. Both members, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Phillips have reached out the Ethics Commission. Ethics recommended that they reach out to the Board of Selectmen. They said the involvement is not so substantial that it would affect the outcome.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen acknowledge that Paul Reynolds and David Phillips, although abutters, are serving with no intended financial gain.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye

SERSG Paper Contract

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the award of the SERSG paper contract as presented this evening.

Roll Call Vote:

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

SERSG DPW

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mell seconded and it was VOTED that the Board of Selectmen approve the SERSG office supply contract as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

SERSG – Water and Sewer Treatment Chemical Award

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was VOTED that the Board of Selectmen approve the SERSG contract for water and sewer chemical as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

SERSG-DPW Supplies

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was VOTED that the Board of Selectmen approve the SERSG contract for DPW supplies as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Warrants

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was VOTED to approve Warrant #4A-24 in the amount of \$148,308.63 and Warrant 4B-24 in the amount of \$114,418.29 both dated July 23, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was VOTED to approve Warrant #5A-24 in the amount of \$192,512.77 and Warrant 5B-24 in the amount of \$230,267.73 and Warrant #5c-24 in the amount of \$2,943.32, all dated July 30, 2023.

Minutes

Selectman Hull, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Input

Nancy Goulart MMA meeting

Mrs. Goulart reported on the Municipal Reforestation Bill. She gave some background on this bill which has been recently modified.

Mrs. Goulart also reported on the updated credentials that a tree warden must have. She mentioned that the budget had not yet been approved and Chapter 90 was still in conference committee.

There was no additional public input.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

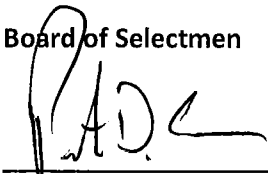
Roll Call Vote:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karin L. Brady
Executive Assistant

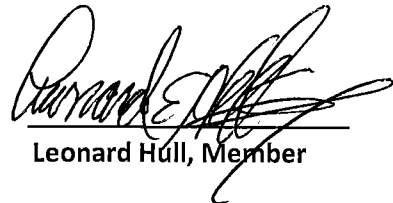
Board of Selectmen



Peter Caron, Chairman



Nicole Mello, Clerk



Leonard Hull, Member