

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

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6:30 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting**

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

**RECEIVED**

Town Clerk-Dighton, MA

OCT 23 2023

Time: 10:13 AM

By: 

Meeting called to order by Chairman Caron at 6:32 P.M.

Chairman Caron gave login information and instructions for providing public input.

**Roll Call:**

Selectman Hull, present.

Selectman Mello, present.

Selectman Caron, present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of allegiance was recited

**Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was requested by Selectmen Hull for Martina Grover.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded, and it was **VOTED** to take agenda Item 9a out of order.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Recommendation for On Call Peer Review – Engineering Services**

**Jim Riordan – Weston and Sampson**

Mr. Riordan said they have been hired in the past to assist with on call peer review. He said that Weston and Sampson would put together a peer review letter for submittal to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board, etc. He said that Weston and Sampson would also be present at any of the respective meetings to report as well.

Selectman Caron said it is one-stop shopping for our boards.

Selectman Hull said he has heard wonderful things from the various boards. He said everyone was impressed with the broad array of services that Weston and Sampson provide.

Selectman Mello asked what the process was with the interviews for the applicants.

Town Administrator Mullen gave an overview of the interview process. He said the review panel received proposals from six entities. He said the panel was made up of the Board of Selectmen chairman, he as the procurement officer, and the chairman of each of the involved boards. Mr. Mullen

said they met to review the six proposals and earlier this week the panel interviewed three companies and made a decision.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Weston and Sampson as the Town of Dighton on-call peer review engineering service.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to authorize Town Administrator Michael Mullen to enter into a contract with Weston and Sampson and to authorize Town Administrator Mullen to sign the contract.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to return to the regular order off business.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Appoint Maureen Kane to the position of office assistant for the Sewer Department and the Conservation Commission**

Mr. Robert Woods, Chairman of the Sewer Commission, spoke on behalf of the panel that interviewed Ms. Kane.

Selectman Hull asked what the breakdown of hours would be. Ms. Kane said 10 hours for Sewer Commission and 8 hours for the Conservation Commission.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Maureen Kane to the position of Office Assistant to the Sewer Department and Conservation Commission.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Road Openings Maple Street and Prospect Street**

Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry gave an overview of what would be involved in the road opening on Maple Street.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the road opening permit for Maple Street.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Prospect Street**

Mr. Ferry said the road opening for Prospect Street falls under the moratorium, as it was paved within the last 5 years.

Selectman Hull asked if there would be any disturbance of traffic. Mr. Ferry said yes.

Selectman Hull also asked if there would be any money spent. Mr. Ferry said it would all be the responsibility of the developer.

Mr. Mullen said the road opening permit would state, "the road construction within the roadway cannot begin until the Highway Superintendent is notified and a valid trench permit is issued."

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the road opening permit for Prospect Street project with the following conditions "Construction within the roadway cannot begin until the Hwy Superintendent has been notified and a valid trench permit has been issued."

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Announcements**

Selectman Mello read the announcements.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Mullen reminded everyone that the warrant for Special Town meeting is now open until September 21, 2023. He said with regard to the library building project, the grant application to the Mass Cultural Facilities Fund has been resubmitted for the \$200,000.00 grant that will fund the a/c upgrades. He said this will give us the ability to return \$200,000.00 of the \$320,000.00 to the Community Preservation Commission. Mr. Mullen said we expect to hear about the resubmittal in October.

Mr. Mullen said with regard to the Main Street culvert reconstruction work, we anticipate the trenchwork on the second culvert will begin this coming Monday resulting in additional closings. He said we will post this information on social media.

Chairman Caron asked how long the work would take.

Mr. Mullen said the hope was that the work would be done by mid to late September.

## **Selectmen's Reports**

### **Solid Waste and Transfer Station**

Chairman Caron said we are now online with debit and credit card transactions at the transfer station which makes it easier for everyone.

### **Water District**

Selectman Hull said John Harris of Pleasant Street was elected as the third water district commissioner. He said an engineering firm was hired at the cost of \$463,000.00 to begin work on the Cedar Street well. Selectman Hull said that work is contingent upon approval at a Special Town Meeting to be held by the Water District. He said the date has not been set as of yet.

Selectman Hull said the Water District has been working on replacing meter units in homes. He said there are 498 meters that have not been scheduled for replacement and these 498 homes are receiving estimated water bills.

Selectman Hull said the skim coat on Main Street is not the final coat. He said the finished product will include reclamation and repaving of Main Street by the Highway Department.

Selectman Hull said the EPA is setting PFAS standards. He said the current standard is 20 and the push is to drop the standard to 4. He said this will cost Dighton 1-2 million to upgrade their water filtration system and will also impact negotiations with Somerset. Selectman Hull said water departments are asking if the Board of Selectmen could reach out to Jake Auchincloss' office, Representative Pat Haddad and Senator Marc Pacheco to let them know of the impact. He said the Dighton Water District is asking if the Board of Selectmen could take a pro-active approach to deal with this matter.

Mr. Tom Gallucci 2086 Palmer Street, said the mandate is not law. He said you can ignore them. Mr. Gallucci said they rely on us for our tax money and there are so many expenses that will hit this town in the next five years.

### **Schools**

Selectman Hull said there have been many changes to personnel. He said last evening Dighton-Rehoboth School Superintendent Mr. Runey introduced two new principals and two new assistants. He said it was also announced that they have posted Mr. Baxter's position and extended the response time as they have only received one application.

In addition, Selectman Hull announced a special shout out to Chief Nichols and his team for a recent meeting with Rehoboth to strengthen support and response procedures.

Selectman Hull said that the MSBA is looking at the Dighton Elementary school building to address egress and access issues. He said they will be giving recommendations early next year as to where Dighton will be on the list. Selectman Hull said right now, we are in the top 32 and we will know our exact position in January.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Recommendation to Appoint Tyler Hazel as a Special Police Officer**

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Tyler Hazel as a special police officer.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**One Day Liquor License for Bristol Agricultural High School**

Selectman Hull said this is a wonderful fundraising event for Bristol Aggie.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the one-day liquor license for the Bristol County Agricultural High School fundraising event.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**One Day Entertainment License**

Mr. Mullen said this is very straightforward. He said the event is extremely limited with the time being from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Selectman Hull asked about food being served and if there was a permit issued by the Board of Health.

Mr. Mullen asked for a vote contingent upon Board of Health requirements being met.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the One Day Entertainment license for the Town Line Redemption Center contingent upon all the requirements of the Board of Health being met.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Appoint Jason Lachance as a Voting Member of the Conservation Commission**

Mr. Mullen said that Mr. Lachance is currently a non-voting member. Mr. Lachance has a background in construction experience. He said he likes the town and wants to help.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to appoint Jason Lachance as a voting member of the Conservation Commission.

**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 #8A-24 in the amount of \$116,603.90, Warrant #8B-24 in the amount of \$582,974.50, Warrant #8C-24 in the amount of \$2,045.07 and Warrant #8D-24 in the amount of \$60,587.50 all dated August 17, 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 #9A-24 in the amount of \$112,872.06 and Warrant #9B-24 in the amount of \$103,855.27 both dated August 24, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

**Correspondence**

A letter from Charlene and Donald Hirschy regarding Summerfest held at the Dighton Lions Pavillon was read by Chairman Caron.

A letter from Jonathan Gale regarding his resignation from the Commission on Disability was also acknowledged by the board.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the resignation of Jonathan Gale from the Dighton Commission on Disability.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to post two the vacancies on the Commission on Disability with an end date of September 13, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Mello asked why the date of September 13 was chosen. Selectman Hull said he wanted to follow this closely and encourage the Commission on Disability to move on with interviews in a timely fashion with interviews.

Selectman Hull said he would like to revisit this issue at the September 13, Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Chairman Caron asked what would happen if they do not fill the position.

Mr. Mullen said there isn't anything preventing the Board of Selectmen from making appointments, but if there are no applicants there is nothing that we can do.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Board of Selectmen/Board of Health meeting minutes of June 6, 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 the minutes of the Board of Selectmen’s regular meeting August 9, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Public Input**

Mr. Robert Woods, 158 Chase Street said the last time Superintendent Runey was here, he said that the projects at the schools would be paid for 100% and then at town meeting he stated they would be paid for at 50%.

Mr. Woods also said the it has not been determined how we will pay for the Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School Project. He said the Finance Committee has done a very good job at using stabilization funds, but he thought the town needed a vote on Bristol Agricultural. Mr. Woods said he thought the Board of Selectmen was doing a fine job, but things need to be hammered out on how we will pay for the Bristol Plymouth School.

Selectman Hull said, we need a clearer understanding of what the finances will be before we come before the town. He said we have a responsibility to tighten our own budget, before we present figures to the residents. He said out seniors would not tolerate massive cuts in police and fire.

Selectman Hull said with regard to access at Dighton Elementary School and Dighton Middle School, the proposal was defeated by the Board of Selectmen due to a poorly conceived plan. He said they haven’t even appointed a building committee as of yet and we don’t know where we are on the list.

Chairman Caron said, in all fairness to the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator, if we have an answer in a month-we will have it and if it takes more, then so be it.

**Executive Session**

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3)

3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Chairman Caron declared.

a. Clerical Union.

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to enter into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3)(7).

**Roll Call Vote:**

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

The Regular Board of Selectmen meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

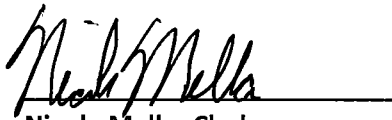
Respectfully submitted,

**Karin L. Brady**  
Executive Assistant

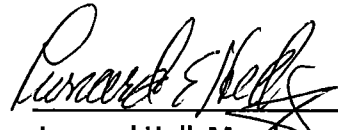
**Board of Selectmen**



Peter Caron, Chairman



Nicole Mello, Clerk



Leonard Hull, Member

**Documents Reviewed:**

Request to Appoint Maureen Kane as Part Time Clerk for Sewer/Conservation Commission

Road Opening Permit for Gary Twombly, 1615 Maple Street

Letter from the Building Commissioner regarding 0 Prospect Street

Save the Date Flyer – Dighton Firecracker Festival

Friends of the Dighton Public Library 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament Flyer

Special Town Meeting Proposed Schedule

On Call Peer Review Engineering and Consulting Services Proposal-Weston and Sampson

Request from Police Chief to Appoint Tyler Hazel as a Special Police Officer

One Day Liquor License Application from Bristol County Agricultural High School

One Day Entertainment License Application – Town Line Redemption Center

Request from the Conservation Commission to Appoint Jason Lachance as an At-Large Member

Letter of thanks to COA from Donald and Charlene Hirschy

Letter of Resignation from Jonathan Gale from the Commission on Disability

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen/Bard of Health meeting on June 6, 2023

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Regular meeting of August 9, 2023