

RECEIVED

Town Clerk-Dighton, MA

NOV 30 2023

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Old Town Hall, 1111 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, MA

And via Zoom

Time: 1:02 pm

By: RE

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Caron. He gave instructions for logging in to Zoom and for providing public input.

Present: Chairman Caron, Selectman Hull, Selectman Mello, Town Administrator Mullen, Executive Assistant Karin Brady, Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry, Parks and Recreation Chairman Kevin Smith.

Also Present: Susanna Medeiros-Chair of Holiday Committee, Mr. Joseph Figueiredo-400 Country Hill Drive, Paul Silva-265 Country Hill Drive and Melissa St. Laurent-366 School Lane.

Roll Call:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was requested for Lois Copeland.

Scheduled Appointments

6:35 Tom Ferry-Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Tom Ferry went over the proposed snow plow rates for FY24. He said he would like to amend the end date for early sign-on bonus on the sheet to November 29.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the proposed FY24 Dighton Snow Plow rates as presented this evening and to amend the date for early sign on to November 29, 2023.

Selectman Hull asked to amend his motion.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the proposed FY24 Dighton Snow Plow rates, to amend the date for early sign-on bonus to November 29, 2023 for an additional \$5.00/hour and the 4-hour minimum.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Fog Sealing

Highway Superintendent said that he would be completing the process of applying fog sealer this week. He said has swept the roads a couple of times and would be sweeping again this week for the final time.

There was discussion about complaints that were received from residents.

Selectman Hull asked if this product was petroleum-based and if there were any chemicals that would harm the environment.

Mr. Ferry said it is petroleum based.

Mr. Ferry said when roads are treated there is no runoff and catch basins are covered during the process. He said this process will add longevity to the road for (5-8) years. He said it is crucial to extending the life of the road. Mr. Ferry said the sand that is applied after the treatment helps to fill the cracks in the road.

Selectman Hull asked if there is a maintenance plan as to when roads are done and if it was based on money or time.

Mr. Ferry said a minor repair on Country Hill Drive would be about \$80,000.00. He said this process is prepping the road for the asphalt when we are ready to do that repair.

Selectman Hull asked about communication with the public and how that is handled.

Mr. Ferry said the Town Facebook page, the website and Board of Selectmen announcements were all utilized in notifying the residents.

Selectman Hull asked how many homes were impacted and how we could improve communications in the future.

There was discussion of funding and use of the pavement management report.

Chairman Caron thanked Mr. Ferry.

Parking Ban

Mr. Ferry asked if the parking ban could be advertised and the town Facebook page and website could be utilized to advertise the parking ban.

6:40 p.m. Kevin Smith, Parks and Recreation Chairman

Mr. Smith spoke about the Pickleball league and their recent league celebration. He reported a donation from the Pickleball League in the amount of \$852.73.

Mr. Smith wanted to extend his thanks to the Stebbins family for the 4 yards of sand that they recently donated.

Mr. Mullen requested a vote to accept the donations.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the donation of \$852.73 from the Dighton Pickle Ball league.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.
Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to send a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Stebbins family for their donation of 4 yards of sand to Parks and Recreation.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Certificate of Recognition to the members of the Pickleball League

Chairman Caron read the Certificate of Recognition for the members of the Pickleball league.

7:00 p.m. Susana Medeiros - Holiday Committee Chairman

Facilities Request

Mrs. Medeiros said Saturday November 25, 2023 would be the date for the "Lights On" ceremony this year. She said she was pleased to have Trista Tate and Shara Costa as new members of the Holiday Committee.

Ms. Medeiros thanked Tom Ferry and the Highway Department for their efforts. She said they could not put together the "Lights On" event without Mr. Ferry and his team.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the Dighton Holiday Committee's request to use the Dighton Town Hall campus on November 25, with the condition that food permits be required.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Input

Melissa St. Laurent, 366 School Lane, came forward to speak about Four-Legged Angels non-profit group for training of comfort dogs.

Selectman Hull asked how to reach out. Ms. St. Laurent referred them to the Facebook page "four-legged angels." She said she would also be out and about with her comfort dog, spreading smiles.

Chairman Caron asked about training to handle the dog in any situation. Ms. St. Laurent said she was trained and also had a liability insurance policy. She said this is a good thing and she did not want anyone to suffer the PTSD and pain that she had experienced as a first responder.

Announcements

Announcements were read by Selectman Mello.

Town Administrator's Report

Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) Upstate

Mr. Mullen said that we have just gone through the procurement process and this program has helped the town realize significant savings, especially during the spike in costs that occur in the winter months with National Grid. He said we have locked in rates for another two years along with 35 other towns. The new rate will become effective in December 2023 and be locked in for two years.

Selectman's Reports

Peter Caron - Solid Waste

Mr. Mullen said the town has received a technical assistance grant for 80 hours of assistance in reviewing the structure of our trash program, etc. He said the next Solid Waste Committee meeting will be on the 9th of November.

Nicole Mello Board of Health

Selectman Mello said the Board of Health discussed choosing a new vendor for the trash bags due to the issues with the current vendor.

Selectman Mello went over some of the businesses in town who sell the trash bags in addition to Hannaford's Supermarket.

Trails Committee

Committee will be submitting an application to CPC for Broad Cove Nature Trail.

Selectman Hull

Conservation Commission

Selectman Hull said Grasshopper (Brook Street solar project) was on the agenda for the Conservation Commission. He said there are 3 culverts with which the Stormwater Committee has some concerns.

Mrs. Goulart said until the culvert issue is resolved, the project should be held up.

Selectman Hull said Grasshopper has asked to remove 28 trees at the site and their meeting with Conservation has been postponed until next month.

Development and Industrial Commission

Selectman Hull said the Development and Industrial Commission would be coming before the Board of Selectmen to review the Economic Development Plan and what the plan will recommend.

He said the Dighton Development and Industrial Commission will be inviting a major developer to one of their next meetings to look at Dighton and recommend some ideas to the town for development.

Selectman Hull said six new businesses came to Dighton last month. He said at some point we will need to take a look at the home-based businesses and how they will be taxed. Selectman Hull said one thing that the DDIC will suggest is setting a limit on personal property tax. He said the committee will ask to speak with the Board of Selectmen and the Assessor's office about a proposed article for the Annual Town meeting.

School Committee

Selectman Hull said that the School Committee met on Tuesday night. He said that the MSBA has postponed the vote on the final 8 schools until December. Selectman Hull said the final eight schools will be a very competitive process and the priority would be on safety conditions of the schools.

Selectman Hull said the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School play will be held on November 16 and 17, 2023 at the high school. Tickets are \$15.00 online and \$17.00 at the door.

Selectman Hull said Debbie Sanson was hired as the Human Resources Manager for the Dighton School District.

Selectman Hull reported that the D-R Regional School Committee voted not to give a positive review to the proposed Human Sexuality program. He said the concern was for new curriculum changes that are being proposed. Selectman Hull said previously parents could opt out and the committee is looking at making a policy that is stricter, where students would have to opt in as well as opting out. He said they were also concerned about finding space for the students that wish to opt out.

Selectman Hull said there would be two more readings until the final policy is put in place.

Public Input

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Board of Selectmen enter into public input.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Caron, aye.

Selectman Mello, aye.

Selectman Hull, aye.

Public Input

Joe Figueiredo, 400 Country Hill Drive, would like the board to elaborate on the process of putting the sealer on the road. He wanted to know what the benefit of that was.

Chairman Caron said the sealer was placed in order to extend the life of the road until it is possible to resurface the road.

Mr. Figueiredo said he disagreed with how this was handled.

Selectman Hull said the one thing that everyone agreed on, was that improvement was needed in communication.

Paul Silva, Country Hill Drive, asked why they also applied sealer to Jennifer Lane which is relatively new as opposed to Country Hill Drive.

Mr. Figueiredo said he was bothered by the fact that residents were not told about the sealer and they let the residents drive on it. He was also concerned about the runoff of the sand due to some of the catch basins not being covered.

Old Business

None.

New Business:

Special Town Meeting Informational Overview

Town Administrator Mullen presented a PowerPoint overview of the 23 articles included on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Acceptance of \$40,000.00 Community Compact Cabinet Housing Production Plan Grant

Mr. Mullen said these plans are extremely important to have in dealing with 40B developers. He said it gives the town more flexibility.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Town of Dighton accept the \$40,000.00 Community Cabinet Housing Production Plan Grant.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** that the Town approve Town Administrator Mullen as the signatory for the contract documents associated with the grant.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Sewer Department Surplus Equipment

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to accept the list of Sewer Department surplus equipment 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 #17A-24 in the amount of \$121,886.18 and Warrant #17B-24 in the amount of \$118,451.49, both dated October 19, 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 #18A-24 in the amount of \$134,297.89 and Warrant #18B-24 in the amount of \$271,406.28 both dated October 26, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Letter from Colonel Robert Perry re: Veteran's Day

The letter from Colonel Robert Perry was read by Chairman Caron.

Mr. Mullen recommended approval.

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to grant Mr. Robert Perry permission to meet with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent and others to get input for the Veteran's Day celebration.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minutes

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to approve the Board of Selectmen Department Head meeting minutes of October 4, 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 minutes of the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting of October 11, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Selectman Hull motioned, Selectman Mello seconded and it was **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

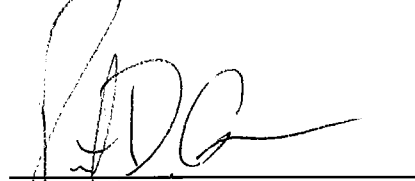
Roll Call Vote:

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

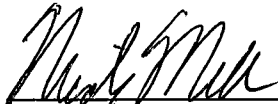
Respectfully Submitted,

Karin Brady
Executive Assistant

Board of Selectmen



Peter Caron, Chairman



Nicole Mello, Clerk



Leonard Hull, Member

Documents Reviewed:

Highway Department Proposed Snow Plow Rates
Email Regarding Fog Sealer Application from Town Administrator Mullen
Town of Dighton Website Posting Regarding Fog Sealer Application
Email Response to Mr. Silva Regarding Fog Sealer Application
Town Facebook Posting Regarding Fog Sealer Application
Tricor MSDS Fog Sealer Safety Data Sheet
Town of Dighton Pavement Management Plan Report
Dighton Highway Department Parking Ban Flyer
Letter from Parks and Recreation Chairman Kevin Smith Regarding Donation of \$852.73
Letter from Parks and Recreation Chairman Kevin Smith Regarding Donation of Sand by the Stebbins Family
Letter from Parks and Recreation Chairman Kevin Smith Regarding Certificate of Recognition for the Pickleball League
Facilities Use Request by Dighton Holiday Committee for "Lights On" Festival
Serve Safe Certification for Trista Tate
Letter from Acting Police Chief George Nichols for Drug Take-Back Event
Dighton Council on Aging Halloween Party Flyer
Veteran's Breakfast Flyer
Electricity Aggregation Renewal Information Press Release
Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles Overview
Email Regarding Community Compact Grant – Dighton – Housing Production Plan
Executive Office for Administration and Finance Grant Agreement and Contract
Request from Sewer Department to Declare Surplus Equipment
Letter from Colonel Robert Perry Requesting Permission to Meet with Local Authorities Regarding Veteran's Day Celebration
Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Department Head Meeting of October 4, 2023
Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting of October 11, 2023