

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

JUNE 15, 2020

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Annual Town Meeting held on June 15, 2020, at the Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School, was called to order at 7:00PM by Gary Scott Dingus, Moderator. Salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance was given. The checkers were Susan Carpenter, Adele Collard, Kerrie Easterday, Zachary Freitas, Margaret Mullen, Emily Stevens and Joan Ready, Warden.

Total attendance was 80.

#### **Moderator, Gary Scott Dingus read the following statement:**

I would like to start off by giving a special thank you Bill McKeon. Mr. McKeon served our town including filling the position of moderator over the past 3 decades dedicated to bettering the government of Dighton. Known as Mr. Moderator to the majority of us, he has been a consistent cornerstone on our town meetings and public forums. He maintained a simple agenda in his role to provide good government to keep our community strong. I have had the privilege of watching Mr. McKeon preside over these meetings with respect, dignity and honor and can't thank him enough. Thank you for all your years of dedicated service to our town and community.

As I was trying to frame my opening remarks this quotation by Edward Everett Hale, a 19th century social reformer and minister came across my desk.

"I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

I've been asking myself: What is the something I can do? What is the something all individuals can do? What actions can we take? 2020 has brought a different meaning to the concept of WE. We have been faced with unparalleled events that will reshape our normal for years and years to come. Today as We sit in this room with our neighbors, family and friends we are being asked to let our voices be heard on the workings and governing of our town.

We as a community have been faced with the pandemic. As a community WE decided to protect and keep each other out of harm's way. We remained in our homes, We home school our children, We find new ways of working, We improved our

budgeting, our cooking, our communicating and home improvement skills. We faced and continue to face the pandemic as a community from six feet apart.

We have been faced again with the ongoing struggle for social and racial equality. My heart goes out to everyone during these times, particularly those who have personally experienced racial inequality in their own lives and in the lives of their family and friends. We stand together as a community to let your voices be heard and make a difference.

Now we come back to the question at hand what can we do...

I ask each of you tonight as we work through each motion and article to ask yourself what can we do.

We need to make a change and that change starts with you

We need to redefine our purpose and you are an integral part of that purpose

We need to hit the reset button on our core values and determine what each value means to you.

And most of all We need to be define our new sense of community and what role you want to play to establish a safe, healthy, socially equal society for generations to come.

**VOTED:** On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

**VOTED:** On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Articles and that reference to them be made by number and content.

**VOTED:** On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded to consider adjournment at 11:00 P.M.

**ARTICLE 1. VOTED:** On motion of Brett Zografos and seconded to hear reports of the Town Officials and the Capital Outlay Committee.

**Nancy Goulart, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen read the following statement:**

Mr. Moderator:

First, I would like to thank everybody for coming tonight. I know that this is difficult. I know these times are difficult. There has been a great deal of turmoil, illness, and loss.

It is very important as Americans that we continue to meet our obligations, especially as citizens of the Town of Dighton, and speak about how you want your town run. As we go through this warrant tonight, I can assure you that the Board of Selectmen has met with all department heads and the Board of Selectmen has met with the Finance Committee and with joint discussions and

department heads, we have come to agreement and our joint recommendations are reflected in this warrant.

So, as we go through the articles, if there is additional information to be provided by the Board of Selectmen, one of the members will be speaking on it.

Again, thank you very much for coming.

**Edward Swartz, Chairman of the Finance Committee read the following statement:**

Mr. Moderator, BOS, Madam Administrator, Madam Clerk, Town Council, Members of the Finance Committee and fellow residents of Dighton.

Welcome to Annual Town meeting: My name is Ed Swartz (Chairman of the Finance committee)

Let me begin by thanking the Departments Heads, Town Administrator, Town Accountant, BOS Administrator Karin Brady for their assistance in preparing tonight's Warrant. Although it was a different set of circumstances, the process of developing a balance and thoughtful budget process moved forward.

The Current Financial Stability of our Town is Strong. I, say that with some trepidation, as we have learned over time, things can change in an instant. We, as a town have done a good job in preparing ourselves, but must continue to be vigilant in our efforts. The Budget presented this evening is balanced and meets all the thresholds to stay within the Prop. 2 ½ Levy. It also, addresses some immediate needs, as well as positions us to be successful moving forward.

It provides for a strong Commitment to the services that we as townspeople expect. It was true conservative approach without jeopardizing, what we, as taxpayers expect. an The Finance team began the process with Budget request in excess of 1.4 million over the Levy Limit. Tonight, we present a balance and affordable budget.

Let me review a few highlights:

**Education:**

**Cooperative effort of all our Schools to address what we could provide from the Town side and meet our General Governmental efforts Provided operating increases to the DR School District, Bristol Plymouth and Bristol Aggie**

**Public safety:**

A new to the town Fire Truck  
(2) Police vehicles  
(1) additional Police Officer

**Highway:**

Street sweeper

In closing the FinCom met extensively with all involved to develop the recommendations in front of you and ask for your support of these recommendations  
Thank you again for your attendance at this important Annual meeting and we welcome all comments and questions along the way.

No Report of the Board of Assessors.

Thomas O'Connor, Chairman of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School Committee stated that he applauds the teachers of the district for their dedication through this COVID -19 pandemic. He sends out a special thank you to all the parents who are teaching their children at home through remote learning. There is a possible shortfall of a 20% funding reduction from the State. The District had to lay off 20 teachers but the District is hoping to bring them back once they are given their definite numbers.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that the reports of Town Officials be accepted as read and as published in the book of Annual Town Reports.

ARTICLE 2. VOTED: On motion of Brett Zografos and seconded that the Board of Selectmen to appoint all necessary Town Officials and Town Committees not otherwise provided for by statute, or act thereon.

ARTICLE 3. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town establish the salaries of elected Town Officials for Fiscal Year 2021 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws.

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Chairman	\$ 85,458.81
Members (2) Each	\$ 4,855.50
Total	\$ 95,169.81

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Chairman	\$ 5,000.00
Member	5,000.00
Member	5,000.00
Total	\$ 15,000.00

**TREE WARDEN** \$ 263.82

**MODERATOR** \$ 500.00

**TOWN CLERK** \$ 81,565.07

**TOWN COLLECTOR** \$41,934.69

<b><u>TOWN TREASURER</u></b>	\$ 41,934.69
<b><u>PLANNING BOARD</u></b>	
Chairman	\$ 2,195.16
Members (4) Each	\$ 2,195.16
Total	\$ 10,975.80

<b><u>SEWER COMMISSIONERS</u></b>	
Chairman	\$ 3,230.00
Members (2) Each	\$ 2,143.00
Total	\$ 7,516.00

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 4. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town raise by taxation and/or transfer from available funds the appropriations necessary to defray Town Charges and Assessments as considered by the Finance Committee and printed in the Article 4 of the June 15, 2020 annual town meeting warrant.

**TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET  
For the Fiscal Year 2021**

VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to General Government accounts as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$1,623,336.85 for fiscal year 2021.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-113 **TOWN MEETING**  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,700.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Town Meeting Account and \$1,500.00 for the Expenses of the Town Meeting Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-114 **MODERATOR**  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Moderator Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-122 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$91,119.50 for the Personnel Expenses and \$65,650.00 for the Expenses of the Board of Selectmen Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-124     TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$153,086.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$9,410.00 for the Expenses of the Town Administrator Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-131     FINANCE COMMITTEE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$3,595.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$700.00 for the Expenses of the Finance Committee Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-132     RESERVE FUND  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the Expenses of the Reserve Fund.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-135     ACCOUNTANT  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$149,272.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$24,440.00 for the Expenses of the Accountant Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-141     ASSESSORS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$183,040.51 for the Personnel Expenses and \$11,700.00 for the Expenses of the Assessors Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-145     TREASURER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$79,159.94 for the Personnel Expenses and \$35,900.00 for the Expenses of the Treasurer Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-146     COLLECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$80,359.95 for the Personnel Expenses and \$20,800.00 for the Expenses of the Collector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-151     LAW (TOWN COUNSEL)  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the Expenses of the Law (Town Counsel) Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-155      DATA PROCESSING  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$58,406.28 for the Expenses of the Data Processing Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-158      TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$16,000.00 for the Expenses of the Tax Title Foreclosure Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-161      TOWN CLERK  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$146,140.08 for the Personnel Expenses and \$5,150.00 for the Expenses of the Town Clerk Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-162      ELECTIONS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$11,300.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$18,500.00 for the Expenses of the Election Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-163      REGISTRATION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$600.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$5,400.00 for the Expenses of the Registration Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-171      CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$4,800.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$1,350.00 for the Expenses of the Conservation Commission Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-175      PLANNING BOARD  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$53,099.65 for the Personnel Expenses and \$18,230.54 for the Expenses of the Planning Board Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-176      BOARD OF APPEALS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$35,062.40 for the Personnel Expenses and \$12,450.00 for the Expenses of the Board of Appeals Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-179      AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$0.00 for Personnel Expenses and \$2,515.00 for the Expenses of the Agricultural Commission.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-189      DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$0.00 for the Expenses of the Development and Industrial Commission Account
- 010-192      PUBLIC BUILDINGS & PROPERTIES MAINTENANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$168,900.00 for the Expenses of the Public Buildings and Properties Maintenance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-193      BUILDING INSURANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$50,000.00 for the Expenses of the Building Insurance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-195      TOWN REPORTS  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Expenses of the Town Report Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- VOTED:      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from the Ambulance Fund to Public Safety accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$3,789,681.97 for fiscal year 2021.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-210      POLICE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,501,634.40 for the Personnel Expenses and \$171,000.00 for the Expenses of the Police Department Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-215      COMMUNICATION CENTER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$360,419.77 for the Personnel Expenses and \$25,773.75 for the Expenses of the Communication Center Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends



- 010-220      FIRE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$618,644.28 for the Personnel Expenses and \$99,802.00 for the Expenses of the Fire Department Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-231      AMBULANCE SERVICES  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$216,362.46 for the Personnel Expenses and that the Town transfer from the Ambulance Fund \$410,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$130,050.00 for the Expenses of the Fire Department Ambulance Services.  
Finance Committee Recommend
- 010-241      BUILDING INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$128,856.25 for the Personnel Expenses and \$38,680.00 for the Expenses of the Building Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-242      GAS INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Gas Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-243      PLUMBING INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$8,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$0.00 for the Expenses of the Plumbing Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-244      WEIGHTS AND MEASURES  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,200.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$370.00 for the Expenses of the Weights and Measures Account.  
Finance Committee Recommend
- 010-245      ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$17,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Electrical Inspector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-292      ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$23,125.88 for the Personnel Expenses and \$10,000.00 for the Expenses of the Animal Officer Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-294      FORESTRY  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$463.18 for the Personnel Expenses of the Forestry Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-295      HARBORMASTER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,500.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$9,300.00 for the Expenses of the Harbormaster Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-299      EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$8,500.00 for the Expenses of the Disaster Committee Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED:      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Education assessments, as specified in the warrant for the June 3, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, the sum of \$11,676,280.00 for fiscal year 2021.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-300-5690 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$10,416,081.00 for the Operating Assessment and \$403,919.00 for the Capital Assessments from the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-300-5691 BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$35,000.00 for the Bristol County Agricultural High School Operating Assessment.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-300-5692 BRISTOL PLYMOUTH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$821,280.00 for the Operating Assessment and \$0.00 for the Capital Assessment for the Bristol Plymouth Regional High School.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED:      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Highway accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 annual town meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of the Highway department as therein provided, the sum of \$1,008,424.47 for fiscal year 2021.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-422      HIGHWAY  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$592,322.39 for the Personnel Expenses and \$158,900.00 for the Expenses of the Highway Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-423      SNOW REMOVAL  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$13,250.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$36,750.00 for the Expenses of the Snow Removal Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-429      DIGHTON BERKLEY BRIDGE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$0.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$1,500.00 for the Expenses of the Dighton-Berkley Bridge Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-432      STREET CLEANING/STORMWATER  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$124,402.08 for the Personnel Expenses and \$81,300.00 for the Expenses of the Street Cleaning/Storm water Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED :      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to the Sanitation account, to wit, Waste Collection and Disposal, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said department as therein provided, the sum of \$675,981.24 for fiscal year 2021.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-433      WASTE COLLECTION DISPOSAL  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$9,065.46 for the Personnel Expenses and \$666,915.78 for the Expenses of the Waste Collection and Disposal Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Ed Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Other Environmental accounts, to wit the Cemetery account, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 annual town meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said department as therein provided, the sum of \$19,700.00 for fiscal year 2021.  
Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-491      CEMETERIES  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$19,700.00 for the Expenses of the Cemeteries Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- VOTED:      On motion of Ed Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Human Services accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$450,516.40 for fiscal year 2021.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-510      BOARD OF HEALTH - REGULATIONS & INSPECTIONS  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$60,562.64 for the Personnel Expenses and \$1,500.00 for the Expenses of the Health (Regulation) Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-519      BOARD OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$66,874.14 for the Personnel Expenses and \$4,200.00 for the Expenses of the Health (Administration) Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-541      COUNCIL ON AGING  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$86,754.89 for the Personnel Expenses and \$20,025.00 for the Expenses of the Council on Aging Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-542      PRIME TIME,  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$76,121.12 for the Personnel Expenses of the Prime Time Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-543      VETERANS SERVICES  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$46,653.61 for the Personnel Expenses and \$85,825.00 for the Expenses of the Veterans Services Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-549      ADA COORDINATOR  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the ADA Coordinator Account.  
    Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from PEG Access and Cable related fund to Culture & Recreation accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$321,679.00 for fiscal year 2021.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-610 LIBRARY  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$192,855.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$71,374.00 for the Expenses of the Library Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-630 PARKS & RECREATION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$23,100.00 for the Expenses of the Recreation Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-690 TOWN HISTORIAN  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$250.00 for the Expenses of the Town Historian Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-691 HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Expenses of the Historical Commission Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-698 CABLE COMMISSION  
That the Town transfer from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund \$20,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$12,100.00 for the Expenses of the Cable Commission Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from Title V account to Debt Service accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4 and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$398,094.00 for fiscal year 2021.

Finance Committee Recommends

- 010-710      RETIREMENT OF DEBT  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$235,000.00 and transfer from (Title V) \$6,669.00 for the Expenses of the Retirement of Debt Account.  
 Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-751      INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$156,425.00 for the Expenses of the Interest on Long-Term Debt account.  
 Finance Committee Recommends
- VOTED:      On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Employee Benefits accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$2,229,055.41 for fiscal year 2021.  
 Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-911      RETIREMENT AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$811,670.00 for the Expenses of the Retirement and Pension Contributions Account.  
 Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-912      WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$55,000.00 for the Expenses of the Workman's Compensation Insurance Account.  
 Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-914      GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,242,760.41 for the Expenses of the Group Health Insurance Account.  
 Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-915      LIFE INSURANCE  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$625.00 for the Expenses of the Life Insurance Account.  
 Finance Committee Recommends
- 010-916      EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS  
 That the Town raise and appropriate \$80,000.00 for the Expenses of the Employer Contributions for FICA and Medicare.  
 Finance Committee Recommends

010-919      OPEB  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$35,000.00 for the Expenses of the OPEB account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-920      TUITION  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$4,000.00 for the Expenses of the Tuition Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Liability Insurance accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$125,000.00 for fiscal year 2021.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-945      LIABILITY INSURANCE  
That the Town raise and appropriate \$125,000.00 for the Expenses of the Liability Insurance Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

**TOTAL BUDGET ARTICLE 4: \$22,317,749.34**

ARTICLE 5. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to approve the following sums to be expended under the direction of the Board of Sewer Commissioners for the maintenance of the Sewer Enterprise for Fiscal Year 2021, as recommended by the Finance Committee:

<b><u>Direct Costs:</u></b>	
Salaries:	\$112,889.83
Expenses:	\$177,150.00
Capital Expenses	\$ 25,000.00
Indirect Costs Total	\$ 44,933.87

The above appropriations will be funded as follows:

\$290,000.00 through sewer receipts and \$69,973.70 transferred from Sewer Enterprise retained earnings totaling \$359,973.70.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 6. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E½ as most recently amended, establish fiscal year limitation on expenditures from the revolving funds established by the Town of Dighton General Bylaws, Section XXXVI, "Departmental Revolving Funds", with such limitations for FY21, as follows:

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>FY21 Spending Limit</b>
Trustees of the Dighton Public Library Copying, Faxing and Printing Services	\$5,000.00
Trustees of the Dighton Public Library Fines and monies collected For overdue, lost or damaged materials	\$8,000.00
Council on Aging Board Fees, Charges and Receipts for Services Rendered by Prime Time	\$150,000.00

ARTICLE 7. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to sell at public auction, and further allow the Board of Selectmen to sell through the sealed bid process according to MGL Ch. 30B, Section 16, all properties which the Town has legally acquired by Tax Title.

ARTICLE 8. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2020 in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

ARTICLE 9. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds from Mass Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2021 for the purpose of expending funds for capital improvements of local roads under "Transportation Bond Issue" (Chapter 90) \$302,441.00 or take any action relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends



ARTICLE 10. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to make changes in grade, take land by purchase or eminent domain, and to settle damages from land taken in conjunction with the Fiscal Year 2021 Highway Program under Chapter 90, and the Town road improvement program.

ARTICLE 11. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to grant to the Board of Selectmen the authority to obtain whatever parcels or easements as necessary, to make changes in grade, take land by purchase or eminent domain and to settle damages from land taken in conjunction with highway maintenance or road or bridge reconstruction projects.

ARTICLE 12. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, to dispose of used items returned to them, by sale to highest bidder.

ARTICLE 13. VOTED: On motion of Don Hirschy and seconded that the Town of Dighton residents will vote to approve of applying the annual Cost of Living Allowance to MA Department of Revenue local property tax exemptions for veterans and/or surviving spouses under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E and 22F, per Section 5 of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988.

ARTICLE 14. VOTED: On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual reserves in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the committee administrative expenses, Community Preservation projects and other expenses in the fiscal year 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for the Committee Administrative expenses  
\$5,000.00

Reserves:

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Historic Resources: \$12,500.00  
From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$12,500.00  
From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Open Space \$12,500.00  
From FY 2021 estimated revenues for budget reserve \$62,500.00.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 15. VOTED: On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the Town will vote to appropriate \$110,000.00 from the Community Preservation fund balance reserved for Community Housing and \$26,281.00 from the Community Preservation Unreserved/Undesignated Fund balance, for a total not to exceed \$136,281.00 to be expended by the Community Preservation Commission for the installation of an Electrical Main Panel Replacement – 8 Buildings, Dighton Housing Authority at Lincoln Village, 300 Lincoln Avenue, North Dighton, MA.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 16. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$17,003.49 from the remaining balance of Article 16 of the Special Town Meeting of October 28, 2019 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent to purchase a 60” zero turn mower.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 17. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account a sum of \$150,000.00 to be disbursed by the Highway Superintendent and used as the town’s match to grant funds obtained for the reconstruction of the Briggs Street Culvert.

Finance Committee Recommends

2/3 Vote Required

YES: 63 NO: 5

ARTICLE 18. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 to be expended by the Fire Chief to purchase a used 1999 E-One Ladder Truck, pump testing, lettering and any necessary accessories relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 19. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$37,000.00 to purchase a new electric car and any necessary accessories relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 20. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$8,500.00 to be expended by the Police Chief for the purchase of one radar trailer and any accessories relative thereto

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 21. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$59,025.80 and transfer \$61,407.55 from Free Cash for a total sum of \$120,433.35 to be expended by the Police Chief for the purchase of two fully equipped police vehicles including computers, firearms (patrol rifles), radios, antennas and any accessories relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 22. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from Capital Stabilization the amount of \$55,000.00 for the first payment on a 5-year lease to purchase on a road sweeper.

Finance Committee Recommends  
2/3 Vote Required  
YES: 65 NO: 7

ARTICLE 23. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,000.00 to be expended by the Board of Selectmen to perform renovations to Town Hall for upgrades and to provide additional office space.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 24. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town will transfer from Free Cash a sum not of \$10,500 to be expended by the Planning Board for the purchase, installation, and service coverage of a plan copier and scanner for the Planning Department.

Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 25. VOTED: On motion of Timothy Rhines that the town will vote to accept the layout, as a public way, of the portion of Miller' Lane extending from the Swansea Town Line approximately 2,135 feet, more or less northerly, as laid out by the Board of Selectmen, all as shown on a plan on file in the office of the Town Clerk, said plan being entitled "Layout and Acceptance Plan Millers Lane in Dighton, MA (Bristol County) Laid Out as a Town Highway by the Board of Selectmen", prepared by John W. Delano & Associates, Inc., dated February 22, 2019, as may be amended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by eminent domain, gift or purchase any fee, easement or other interest in land necessary therefor, for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Dighton.

ARTICLE 26. VOTED: On motion of Edward Swartz that the town will vote to re-adopt and accept the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, establishing an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund; to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to execute a declaration of trust creating an expendable trust for the purpose of holding monies appropriated to such fund; to

designate the Treasurer as the trustee of such trust; to authorize the transfer of any and all monies currently held for the purpose of paying retiree health and life benefits to such trust; and to authorize the trustee to invest and reinvest the monies in such fund in accordance with the Prudent Investor Rule established under Chapter 203C of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ARTICLE 27. NO MOTION: To see If the Town will vote to amend “Article X Removal of Soil, Loam, Sand and Gravel” of the Town’s General Bylaws in its entirety and to replace it as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

**ARTICLE X  
MINING & REMOVAL OF SOIL, LOAM, SAND AND GRAVEL**

The mining and removal of sand, gravel, loam or soil from land in Dighton is prohibited until a permit authorizing such removal is issued by the appropriate authority, which shall be the Conservation Commission.

No permit shall be issued until an advertised public hearing has been held. Notice of the hearing shall be published in at least one local newspaper no less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing. All abutters are to be notified by registered or certified mail no less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing.

The Conservation Commission shall have the authority to establish and periodically revise general rules, regulations, and fees for the mining and removal of sand, gravel, soil, or loam in the Town of Dighton, and shall have the authority to place specific conditions on all removal permits that it issues. For the purposes of this bylaw, “mining” shall mean every operation, both underground and above ground, to be used for the purpose of extracting or removing soil or preparing soil or soil products for use outside the mined area.

Such permits shall be enforced by the Conservation Commission, the permitting authority.

ARTICLE 28. VOTED: On motion of Robert Rendon and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Town of Dighton General Bylaws by deleting Article XIX, "Capital Outlay Committee" in its entirety and replacing it as printed in Article 28 of the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting warrant.

### **Capital Outlay Committee**

- Section 1.** A committee to be known as the Capital Outlay Committee is hereby established, and said Committee shall be governed by the provisions of this bylaw. The Committee shall perform the duties set forth in the following sections.
- Section 2.** The Capital Outlay Committee shall study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major recurring and non-recurring tangible assets and projects which (1) are purchased or taken at intervals of not less than 5 years; or (2) have a useful life of at least 5 years, and; (3) cost over \$50,000. All officers, boards, departments, and committees, shall, by January 31 of each year, give to the Capital Outlay Committee, on forms furnished by the Capital Outlay Committee, information concerning all anticipated projects requiring Town Meeting appropriation during the ensuing 5 years. An appropriation shall not be voted for a capital improvement request by the department, board, or committee unless the proposed capital improvements is considered in the Committee's report or the Committee shall first have submitted a report to the town meeting explaining the omission. Said information and requests shall be submitted to the Committee by February 15 each year. The Committee shall meet in March of each year.
- Section 3.** The Committee shall consider the relative need, timing, and costs of capital expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the Town. The Committee will make recommendations on the scheduling of capital expenditures and shall report its findings in a Five-Year Capital Plan to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee by April 10 each year.
- Section 4.** The Capital Outlay Committee shall report and make recommendations to the voters at the Annual Town Meeting and any Special Town Meeting involving a Capital Expenditure.
- Section 5.** The Committee membership shall consist of one member of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer, the Town Administrator, the Town Accountant, and one Dighton-elected member of the School Committee. Two at large members shall be appointed, one to be appointed by the Finance

Committee and the other to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. An at large member must reside in the Town, must not be employed by the Town, and must not hold an elected position. The Finance Committee and School Committee members shall each be appointed by and from those respective committees for a one-year term. Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by the original appointing body.

**Section 6.** Appointments shall be made by September 1. A re-organizational meeting shall be held by September 30. Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by the original appointing body.

**ARTICLE 29. DEFEATED:** On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning By-Law, Section 2110 by establishing a new district to be known as the Route 44 Business District, or take any action relative thereto.

**Boundaries:** On the North at a location not more than 1500 (one thousand five hundred feet) from the center line of Route 44; on the East at the Dighton/Taunton town line; on the West at the Dighton/Rehoboth town line.

**Purpose and Intent:** The Route 44 Business District is hereby established to allow for a multi-use district to encourage full use of existing structures and development of new business in the existing Business and Residential areas in a manner that promotes, protects and enhances the value of land and buildings and provides for a variety of Residential, Business and Limited Industrial Uses.

**Industrial Use:**

1. Restricted to non-hazardous Manufacturing and Light Manufacturing: As defined in Dighton Zoning By-laws Section VI Definitions. The facility shall be at least 250' to the nearest structure. The above shall be allowed only by Special Permit in accordance with Section 5300 of the Dighton Zoning By-Laws.
2. Marijuana Establishment: Restricted to Marijuana Cultivator and Marijuana Product Manufacturer as defined in Dighton Zoning By-laws Section 2916, Definitions. The above shall be allowed only by Special Permit and in accordance with Section 2900 of the Dighton Zoning By-Laws.

**Business Use:** Appendix A, Table of Use Regulations shall apply.

**Residential Use:** Appendix A, Table of use Regulations shall apply.

Appendix A, Table of use Regulations shall be amended to reflect these changes.

Planning Board Recommends  
2/3 Vote Required  
YES: 36 NO: 31

ARTICLE 30. VOTED: On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that the town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaw Section VI, Definitions by deleting the existing Kennel, Commercial definition in its entirety and replacing with the following definition Kennel, Commercial and to also add three (3) new definitions to be known as Kennel, Kennel License and Kennel Residential.

**Kennel:** A pack or collection of dogs on a single premise.

**Kennel, Commercial:** A commercial establishment in which four (4) or more dogs are housed, groomed, bred, boarded, trained or sold located on at least two (2) acres of land. Smaller parcels may be considered in the Industrial Overlay District. This includes a commercial boarding or training kennel, commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation kennel, or veterinary kennel as defined in M.G.L. C 140 Sect. 136A

**Kennel License:** An owner or keeper maintaining a kennel of four (4) or more dogs shall obtain a kennel license in accordance with M.G.L. C 140 Sect. 137A.

**Note: A kennel license is not required for three (3) dogs or less.**

**Kennel, Residential:** A pack or collection of four (4) or more dogs that are owned or kept under single ownership for personal use and enjoyment may be allowed in the residential or business district by a special permit. This also includes a personal kennel as defined in M.G.L. C 140 Sect.136A **Note: This section does not apply to properties with three (3) dogs or less.**

Appendix A, Use Regulation Schedule of the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaws shall be amended to reflect these changes.

Planning Board Recommends  
2/3 Vote Required  
YES: 52 NO: 13

ARTICLE 31. VOTED: On motion of Brett Zografos and seconded that the town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 90, Section 18B of the Massachusetts General Laws to establish

designated safety zones for ways in city or town; Violation as outlined or take any action relative thereto.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF DESIGNATED SAFETY ZONES FOR WAYS IN CITY OR TOWN; VIOLATION**

Section 18B. (a) Notwithstanding section 18 or any other general or special law to the contrary, the city council, the transportation commissioner of the City of Boston, the board of selectmen, park commissioners, a traffic commission or traffic director of a city or town that accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 may, in the interests of public safety and without further authority, establish designated safety zones on, at or near any way in the city or town which is not a state highway, and with the approval of the department if the same is a state highway. Such safety zones shall be posted as having a speed limit of 20 miles per hour.

(b) The operation of a motor vehicle in such zone at a speed exceeding the speed limit established under this section shall be a violation of section 17.

**ARTICLE 32. VOTED:** On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded that the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen under Section 8 of Article LXXXIX the Home Rule Amendment, to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its local representatives, for the passage of the following proposed act authorizing the Town of Dighton to change the name of the “Board of Selectmen” to “Select Board.”

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF DIGHTON TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY FROM “BOARD OF SELECTMEN” TO “SELECT BOARD.”**

Be it enacted as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there shall hereby be established in the Town of Dighton a Select Board, which shall have the powers and authority of Board of Selectmen under any general or special laws.

**SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to the voters of the Town of Dighton at a regular or special town election to be held in said town in the form of the following question which shall be placed on the official ballot: “Shall an act passed by the General Court in the year 2020 entitled ‘An Act relative to the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Dighton be accepted?’” Below the question shall appear a summary of the act prepared by the town counsel and approved by the Board of Selectmen.



ARTICLE 33. Moderator, Gary Scott Dingus appointed the following members to the Finance Committee for FY 2021.

Edward B. Swartz  
Peter J. Roache  
Kevin J. Perry  
Robert G. Rendon

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 9:35PM.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSANA MEDEIROS  
TOWN CLERK

Dighton Annual Town Meeting

June 15, 2020

Report from the Board of Selectman

By Nancy J. Goulart

Mr. Moderator:

First, I would like to thank everybody for coming tonight. I know that this is difficult. I know these times are difficult. There has been a great deal of turmoil, illness, and loss.

It is very important as Americans that we continue to meet our obligations, especially as citizens of the Town of Dighton, and speak about how you want your town run. As we go through this warrant tonight, I can assure you that the Board of Selectmen has met with all department heads and the Board of Selectmen has met with the Finance Committee and with joint discussions and department heads, we have come to agreement and our joint recommendations are reflected in this warrant.

So, as we go through the articles, if there is additional information to be provided by the Board of Selectmen, one of the members will be speaking on it.

Again, thank you very much for coming.