



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 07, 2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Annual Town Meeting held on June 07, 2021, 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, Maureen Dutra, Bridget Kenyon, Rebecca Mello, Margaret Mullen and Joan Ready, Warden.

Total attendance was 77.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded to dispense with the reading of the warrant.

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

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Kenneth Pacheco and seconded to consider adjournment at 11:00 P.M.

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

**Kenneth Pacheco, Chair of the Board of Selectmen read the following statement:**

Good evening, Mr. Moderator, Town Officials, and to the residents of Dighton gathered here this evening.

Tonight we gather to conduct the business of the town, but we do with heavy hearts for the many Dightonians and their families who have suffered profound losses this year — from the COVID-19 pandemic and from the countless challenges that so many of us continue to face. Our hearts continue to be with all of our residents who have experienced great loss during these last few months.

I would like to especially pay tribute to the passing of John Goulart, husband of former Selectman Nancy Goulart; former Selectman Edward Santos, husband of former Selectman, Myrna Santos and our current Town Historian; former Police Chief Alfred Pacheco; and, most recently, former Selectman Ed Reese, whose funeral is being held tomorrow morning.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these gentlemen for all of their contributions to make Dighton the community we know and love. I would ask that we all stand for a moment of silence for them and for all that have passed since we last met. Condolences to their family and friends.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank our police, fire and first responders, public health officials, nurses, medical professionals, educators, and all of our employees and residents who have played a role in overcoming this challenging last year. To all you, I—and we—say THANK YOU for everything you continue to do.

Mr. Moderator, since we last met in November, the Board of Selectmen is proud to report the continued progress being made in our town government and for residents throughout our community.

As we entered last year's holiday season, Dighton proved its ability to once again adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic with a virtual Lights On ceremony, a Stuff-a-Cruiser event, and with a much-anticipated Santa Ride, thanks to a continued partnership between the Lions Club, the Dighton Fire and Police Departments.

We moved into the New Year with a continued emphasis on pursuing grant opportunities to further help move Dighton forward. The town has applied for a \$120,000 Shared Streets and Places application to help us further invest in our roadway and sidewalk infrastructure. The Historical Commission has secured a \$12,500 Historical Survey and Planning Grant to update the listing of historic resources in town. The Fire Department was awarded a \$12,500 state fire equipment grant. The Town is also currently pursuing various Zoning, Infrastructure and Park grants to help further enhance our vision as a vibrant, all-inclusive community.

In late January, the Board of Selectmen interviewed 3 finalist candidates interested in becoming Dighton's new Town Administrator to replace our former Town Administrator, Mallory Aronstein. The Board is very excited to have unanimously selected Michael Mullen, Jr. as our Town Administrator. Mr. Mullen began working for the Town in early March and was able to contribute a significant amount to the Fiscal Year 2022 budget process. He has already made inroads in working with our legislators and so many of our Department Heads, Boards, Committees and residents. We are very excited to have Michael working for Dighton. We also voted to appoint Mark Pacheco as our Town Clerk until our next Town election, to replace our long time Town Clerk, Sue Medeiros.

We would like to welcome our newest member of the Board of Selectmen, Leonard Hull, who was elected on April 11<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to working with him as we deal with the daily duties of Selectmen and to the benefits of all of our residents.

We would like to congratulate the Class of 2021 at Dighton-Rehoboth, Bristol Aggie and Bristol Plymouth upon their graduation. We wish them well.

This evening, we are pleased to submit for your consideration an Annual Town Meeting Warrant that continues to meet and advance the priorities of our community. The process of developing our proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget and Annual Town Meeting has been a collaborative effort, inclusive of department heads, our Boards and Committees and residents. Throughout the process, the Board of Selectmen has worked with all stakeholders to ensure that the proposed budget reflects the needs of the entire Dighton community.

This budget process was a challenging process as we all worked to continue the town's commitment to responsible fiscal planning and targeted capital investments. The Board of Selectmen, town Department Heads and our Boards and Committees take seriously the responsibility we have to provide credible leadership that allows Dighton to continue prioritizing the core town services that Dighton residents deserve and expect.

We look forward to this evening's discussion and are happy to answer any questions about any of the articles as we move through the warrants.  
Thank you.

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

Mr. Moderator, Board of Selectmen, Mr. Administrator, Town Clerk, Town Council, Members of the Finance Committee and fellow residents of Dighton.  
Welcome to the Annual Town Meeting: My name is Ed Swartz (Chairman of the Finance Committee).

Let me begin by thanking Department Heads, Town Administrator, Town Accountant, Board of Selectmen, Administrator Karin Brady for their assistance in preparing tonight's Warrant. Although it was a different set of circumstances, the process for developing a balanced 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 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, addressed 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 a townspeople expect. It was a true conservative approach without jeopardizing, what we, as taxpayers expect. The Finance team began the process with Budget request in excess of 1.0 million over the Levy Limit. Tonight we present a balanced and affordable budget. Thank you again for your attendance at this important Annual Meeting and we welcome all comments and questions along the way.

**Nancy Goulart, Member, Board of Assessors stated:**

The Assessors are working on a number of Pilot agreements, Pilot agreements are payments in lieu of taxes for solar farms. Later this evening will be asking you to vote to approve one of these pilot agreements. We have a second agreement that will be ready for the fall town meeting. It wasn't completed in time for you to be able to vote on it tonight. We also have three potential other pilot agreements in the offing, and if completed in time will also be brought to you in the Fall Town Meeting. Pilot agreements represent a substantial amount of money, and what they are is a payment plan for payment of Personal Property Taxes. That's the solar panels and all of the equipment and everything that goes with them. Real estate taxes on the property that they sit on are taxed at the commercial rate and the owner of the property pays those taxes. The Assessors worked with the Finance Committee, the Town Administrator worked on the estimated growth trying to determine where we would be coming into town meeting from a financial standpoint and also anticipating state aid. There will be a public hearing after the Fall Town Meeting at which time the tax rates for FY 22 will be

set. The Board of Assessors expresses its thanks for all town departments for their assistance and cooperation this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Beauregard, Chair Board of Assessors, Eric Easterday, Clerk and Nancy Goulart, Member.

**Dr. Anthony Azar, Chairman of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School Committee**

**Stated:**

To you and through you Mr. Moderator Congratulations on a promotion?

Greetings My name is Anthony Azar Superintendent of Schools of the Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District. Tonight, we will hear readings from our school committee but also, I'd like to share, just quickly a reflection. I'm finishing my seventh year as superintendent of schools ready to embark on my eight year in this district. I've enjoyed it immensely; my own children have prospered within this district and I cannot thank you enough. There has been on constant in my time here as superintendent and that is the Town of Dighton. The support that you folks have shown our school district has just been absolutely phenomenal. And tonight, I just wanted to take a stand on behalf of school district and behalf of the superintendent of schools. For those of you who did attend the graduation, the representation from Dighton was just great, the Board of Selectman were all there and it was very much appreciated, it did not go unnoticed. Nancy, what would be a graduation without Nancy Goulart? I remember vividly the stories that Nancy would tell. The relationships we have built in the seven years I have been here have been immemorable. Working with folks like Jim Aguiar and Tom Ferry, the District, the Finance Committee and particularly Ed. I've known Ed for a very long time, well before the seven years. The relationships will continue. The appreciation you guys show has not gone unnoticed and I wanted to make sure I said that to you folks tonight. There is another budget here tonight, it is a big chunk of change, there is no question about that. You folks deserve, your children deserve the best education possible. The Finance folks, they know Education, they know what we need to build. Our Business Administrator is here tonight, Paul Kitchen. Paul Kitchen brings a wealth of knowledge to this district as well. We appreciate all he has done as well. More importantly, we will never ever forget what it is that you folks do for us. This past year has been difficult, there is no question about it. When we went remote, you folks stepped up, the parents did. You folks took on something that you never thought you would have to. And then low and behold before you knew it a little light at the end of the tunnel, the seniors came back earlier than expected. Then we brought back all the students, for the most part. There are still some students that are still remote, which is perfectly fine. And then hopefully we will have a normal beginning to the school year. So with that in mind, thank you very much.

**Capital Outlay Committee: No Report.**

**NO MOTION:** That the reports of Town Officials be accepted as read and as published in the book of Annual Town Reports.

**ARTICLE 2. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Kenneth Pacheco 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the Town establish the salaries of elected Town Officials for Fiscal Year 2022 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws as recommended by the finance committee and printed in article 3 of the June 7, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

		Finance Committee Recommendations
Chairman	\$87,427.44	\$87,427.44
Members (2) Each	\$4,855.50	\$4,855.50
Total	\$97,138.44	\$97,138.44

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

<u>TREE WARDEN</u>	\$ 263.82	\$ 263.82
<u>MODERATOR</u>	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<u>TOWN CLERK</u>	\$ 65,719.40	\$65,719.40
<u>TOWN COLLECTOR</u>	\$ 42,773.38	\$42,773.38
<u>TOWN TREASURER</u>	\$ 42,773.38	\$42,773.38

PLANNING BOARD

Chairman	\$2,195.16	\$ 2,195.16
Members (4) Each	\$2,195.16	\$ 2,195.16
Total	\$10,975.80	\$10,975.80

SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Chairman	\$ 3,230.00	\$ 3,230.00
Members (2) Each	\$ 2,143.00	\$ 2,143.00
Total	\$ 7,516.00	\$ 7,516.00

Finance Committee Recommend

**ARTICLE 4. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Peter Roache 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 07, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

**TOWN OF DIGHTON BUDGET  
For the Fiscal Year 2022**

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Peter Roache and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to General Government accounts as specified in the warrant for the June 07, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$1,688,871.94 for fiscal year 2022.

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 \$99,118.77 for the Personnel Expenses and \$78,550.00 for the Expenses of the Board of Selectmen Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-124      TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

That the Town raise and appropriate \$157,690.77 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 \$127,073.65 for the Personnel Expenses and \$26,240.00 for the Expenses of the Accountant Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-141     ASSESSORS

That the Town raise and appropriate \$204,763.02 for the Personnel Expenses and \$17,050.00 for the Expenses of the Assessors Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-145     TREASURER

That the Town raise and appropriate \$91,222.81 for the Personnel Expenses and \$36,325.00. for the Expenses of the Treasurer Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-146     COLLECTOR

That the Town raise and appropriate \$92,322.81 for the Personnel Expenses and \$21,525.00 for the Expenses of the Collector Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-151     LAW (TOWN COUNSEL)

That the Town transfer from free cash \$40,000.00 for the Expenses of the Law (Town Counsel) Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-155     DATA PROCESSING

That the Town raise and appropriate \$66,706.28 for the Expenses of the Data Processing Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-158     TAX TITLE FORECLOSURE

That the Town raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the Expenses of the Tax Title Foreclosure Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-161      TOWN CLERK

That the Town raise and appropriate \$132,559.60 for the Personnel Expenses and \$6,550.00 for the Expenses of the Town Clerk Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-162      ELECTIONS

That the Town raise and appropriate \$3,900.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$8,600.00 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 \$4,100.00 for the Expenses of the Registration Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-171      CONSERVATION COMMISSION

That the Town raise and appropriate \$57,520.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$13,500.00 for the Expenses of the Conservation Commission Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-174      DIGHTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Expenses of the Dighton Trails Committee.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-175      PLANNING BOARD

That the Town raise and appropriate \$42,928.53 for the Personnel Expenses and \$18,264.55 for the Expenses of the Planning Board Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-176      BOARD OF APPEALS

That the Town raise and appropriate \$28,611.15 for the Personnel Expenses and \$11,950.00 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 \$1,695.00 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 \$174,100.00 for the Expenses of the Public Buildings and Properties Maintenance Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-193      BUILDING INSURANCE

That the Town raise and appropriate \$45,000.00 for the Expenses of the Building Insurance Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-195      TOWN REPORTS

That the Town raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for the Expenses of the Town Report Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:**      On motion of Peter Roache 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 07, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$3,950,401.43 for fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-210      POLICE

That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,607,674.67 for the Personnel Expenses and \$161,500.00 for the Expenses of the Police Department Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-215      COMMUNICATION CENTER

That the Town raise and appropriate \$359,996.13 for the Personnel Expenses and \$30,950.00 for the Expenses of the Communication Center Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-220      FIRE

That the Town raise and appropriate \$650,946.60 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 \$118,861.43 for the Personnel Expenses and that the Town transfer from the Ambulance Fund \$540,050.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$123,050.00 for the Expenses of the Fire Department Ambulance Services.

Finance Committee Recommend

010-241      BUILDING INSPECTOR

That the Town raise and appropriate \$131,248.38 for the Personnel Expenses and \$38,130.00 for the Expenses of the Building Inspector Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-242      GAS INSPECTOR

That the Town raise and appropriate \$7,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Gas Inspector Account and \$1,000.00 for Permit Review and Education Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-243      PLUMBING INSPECTOR

That the Town raise and appropriate \$7,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$1,000 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 \$18,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses of the Electrical Inspector Account and \$2,000.00 for the Permit Review/Education account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-292      ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

That the Town raise and appropriate \$23,558.40 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 \$263.82 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 \$5,800.00 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Katherine Fournier and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Education assessments, as specified in the warrant for the June 07, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, the sum of \$12,252,705.76 for fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-300-5690 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

That the Town raise and appropriate \$10,704,363.00 for the Operating Assessment and \$386,483.00 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 \$101,000.76 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 \$1,060,859.00 for the Operating Assessment and \$0.00 for the Capital Assessment for the Bristol Plymouth Regional High School.

Finance Committee Recommends

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Robert Rendon and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Highway accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 07, 2021 annual town meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of the Highway department as therein provided, the sum of \$1,064,653.16 for fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-422     HIGHWAY

That the Town raise and appropriate \$621,397.73 for the Personnel Expenses and \$161,900.00 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 \$127,695.43 for the Personnel Expenses and \$102,160.00 for the Expenses of the Street Cleaning/Storm water Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:**     On motion of Kevin Perry 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 07,2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said department as therein provided, the sum of \$739,268.31 for fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-433     WASTE COLLECTION DISPOSAL

That the Town raise and appropriate \$9,226.77 for the Personnel Expenses and \$730,041.54 for the Expenses of the Waste Collection and Disposal Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:**     On motion of Robert Rendon 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 07, 2021 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 2022.

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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Katherine Fournier and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Human Services accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 07,2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$448,591.65 for fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-510 BOARD OF HEALTH - REGULATIONS & INSPECTIONS

That the Town raise and appropriate \$62,221.33 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 \$69,186.25 for the Personnel Expenses and \$4,900.00 for the Expenses of the Health (Administration) Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-541 COUNCIL ON AGING

That the Town raise and appropriate \$85,434.60 for the Personnel Expenses and \$16,225.00 for the Expenses of the Council on Aging Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-542 PRIME TIME,

That the Town raise and appropriate \$77,154.71 for the Personnel Expenses of the Prime Time Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-543 VETERANS SERVICES

That the Town raise and appropriate \$41,144.76 for the Personnel Expenses and \$85,825.00 for the Expenses of the Veterans Services Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-549 COMISSION ON DISIBILITY

That the Town raise and appropriate \$3,000.00 for the Personnel Expenses and \$2,000.00 for the expenses of the Commission on Disability Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Peter Roache 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 07,2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for personnel and expenses of said departments as therein provided, the sum of \$325,780.06 for fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-610 LIBRARY

That the Town raise and appropriate \$200,356.06 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 \$20,700.00 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 \$1,000.00 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** 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 07,2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4 and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$386,344.00 for fiscal year 2022.

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 \$144,675.00 for the Expenses of the Interest on Long-Term Debt account.

Finance Committee Recommends

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:**      On motion of Peter Roache and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Employee Benefits accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 07,2021 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$2,257,437.39 for fiscal year 2022.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-911      RETIREMENT AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

That the Town raise and appropriate \$890,368.00 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 \$56,375.00 for the Expenses of the Workman's Compensation Insurance Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-914      GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE

That the Town raise and appropriate \$1,215,744.39 for the Expenses of the Group Health Insurance Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-915      LIFE INSURANCE

That the Town raise and appropriate \$950.00 for the Expenses of the Life Insurance Account.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-916      EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

That the Town raise and appropriate \$82,000.00 for the Expenses of the Employer Contributions for FICA and Medicare.

Finance Committee Recommends

010-919      OPEB

That the Town raise and appropriate \$0.00 for the Expenses of the OPEB account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

010-920      TUITION

That the Town raise and appropriate \$12,000 for the Expenses of the Tuition Account.  
Finance Committee Recommends

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:**      On motion of Katherine Fournier and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate to Liability Insurance accounts, as specified in the warrant for the June 07, 2021 Town Meeting, Article 4, and specifically for expenses of said accounts as therein provided, the sum of \$125,000.00 for fiscal year 2022.

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: \$23,258,753.70**

**ARTICLE 5. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:**      On motion of Robert Rendon 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 2022, as recommended by the Finance Committee:

Direct Costs:

Salaries:	\$115,338.38
Expenses:	\$191,350.00
Capital Expenses	\$150,000.00
Indirect Costs Total	\$24,818.87

The above appropriations will be funded as follows:

\$312,000.00 through sewer receipts and \$169,507.25 transferred from Sewer Enterprise retained earnings totaling \$481,507.25.

Finance Committee Recommended



**ARTICLE 6. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Kevin Perry 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 FY22, as follows:

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

**ARTICLE 7. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Brett Zografos 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Brett Zografos 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, 2021 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Leonard Hull and seconded that the Town will vote to transfer from Mass Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2022 for the purpose of expending funds for capital improvements of local roads under "Transportation Bond Issue" (Chapter 90) \$301,977.00 or take any action relative thereto.

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE 10. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Leonard Hull 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Kenneth Pacheco 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Kenneth Pacheco 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** 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 UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Edward Swartz 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 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for the Committee Administrative expenses  
\$5,000.00.

**Reserves:**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Historic Resources: \$12,500.00  
From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve  
\$12,500.00  
From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Open Space \$12,500.00  
From FY 2022 estimated revenues for budget reserve \$82,500.00.

Finance Committee Recommends

**ARTICLE 15. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On Motion of Edward Swartz and seconded that the town will vote to appropriate \$25,000.00 from the Historic Resources Reserve to be expended by the Community Preservation Commission for the hiring of a preservation consultant to complete the Dighton Community-Wide Survey Project to update the listing of historic resources in town or take any action relative thereto.

Background: The town will be reimbursed \$12,500.00 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission FY21 Survey and Planning Grant Program upon completion of the project.

*Finance Committee Recommends*  
*Board of Selectman Recommends*

**ARTICLE 16. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Peter Roache and seconded that town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$108,513.97 to be expended by the Fire Chief as the first payment of a seven-year lease to purchase of a new fire engine and any necessary accessories related thereto, or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends \$108,514.00 from Free Cash*  
*Board of Selectmen Recommends \$108,514.00 from Free Cash*

**ARTICLE 17. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Katherine Fournier and seconded that town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$45,000.00 to be expended by the Chief of Police for the purchase of one fully equipped police vehicle including computer, firearm (patrol rifle), radio, antenna, and any accessories related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends \$45,000.00 from Free Cash*  
*Board of Selectmen Recommends \$45,000.00 from Free Cash*

**ARTICLE 18. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Robert Rendon and seconded that town will transfer from capital stabilization a sum not to exceed \$100,000.00 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent to purchase one used forestry truck or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends \$100,000.00 from Capital Stabilization*  
*Board of Selectmen Recommends \$100,000.00 from Capital Stabilization*

**ARTICLE 19. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Kevin Perry and seconded that town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$70,000.00 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent to purchase one utility tractor with a 21' boom mower or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends \$70,000.00 from Free Cash for the Purchase of one Utility Tractor*

*Board of Selectmen Recommends \$64,029.00 from Free Cash for the Purchase of one Utility Tractor*

**ARTICLE 20. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Robert Rendon and seconded that town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,561.92 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent as the second-year lease payment on the 2020 Street Sweeper voted in Article 22 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant of June 15, 2020, or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends \$50,561.92 from Free Cash*

*Board of Selectmen Recommends \$50,561.92 from Free Cash*

**ARTICLE 21. NO MOTION:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$30,000.00 to be expended by the Dighton Trails Committee to fund a feasibility study to provide viable options and initial concepts to connect the future 2-mile DCR Sweet's Knoll Trail to the north and south with on-road and off- road trail options to connect the Town of Dighton to the Taunton River Trails network north across the Three Mile River to Taunton and south along the waterfront to Somerset, or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends to Defer*

*Board of Selectmen Recommends to Defer to Fall Town Meeting*

**ARTICLE 22. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Katherine Fournier and seconded that town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum not to exceed \$9,000.00 to be expended by the Board of Selectmen to perform a town-wide Wage Classification Study for members of the Clerical Union - Public Employees Local 272, Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends \$9,000.00 from Free Cash*

*Board of Selectmen Recommends \$9,000.00 from Free Cash*

**ARTICLE 23. NO MOTION:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money not to exceed \$90,000.00 to be expended by the Board of Selectmen to perform renovations to Town Hall for upgrades and to provide additional office space, or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends to Defer  
Board of Selectmen Recommends to Defer to Fall Town Meeting*

**ARTICLE 24. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Peter Roache and seconded that town will vote to reappropriate the amount of \$118,529.00 from Special Article account #010-2-422-0000-18-5300-Complete Streets Sidewalk Project, approved in Article 44 of the Special Town Meeting on October 26, 2017, to be expended by the Highway Superintendent for an ADA-Compliant Roadway, Sidewalk and Crosswalk Accessibility Project, or take any action relative thereto.

*Finance Committee Recommends  
Board of Selectmen Recommends*

**ARTICLE 25. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into any contracts and otherwise undertake any and all action necessary to accept a gift of real estate from the owners of real property located on the north side of Main Street and identified on the Town of Dighton Assessors Map 17 as Lot 129 (being 1 acre of land, more or less), Lot 131 (being 3.5 acres of land, more or less), and Lot 164 (being 1.73 acres of land, more or less) to be used for open space and recreation purposes, contingent upon successful results of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to complete the foregoing acquisition, or take any action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends*

**ARTICLE 26. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaw Section 2916, by deleting the existing Marijuana Cultivator definition in its entirety and replacing with the following definition Marijuana Cultivator, or take any action thereon.

Marijuana Cultivator: shall mean an entity licensed to cultivate, process and package marijuana, and to deliver and/or transfer to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends*

**ARTICLE 27. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Timothy Rhines and seconded that town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaw Section 2916 by deleting the existing Marijuana Product Manufacturer definition in its entirety and replacing with the following definition Marijuana Product Manufacturer, or take any action thereon.

Marijuana Product Manufacturer: shall mean an entity licensed to obtain, manufacture, process or package cannabis or marijuana products and to deliver and/or transfer these products to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers. Appendix A, Use Regulation Schedule of the Town of Dighton Zoning Bylaws shall be amended to reflect these changes.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends*

**ARTICLE 28. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that town will vote in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement with DG Dighton, LLC of Scottsdale, AZ with a principal place of business at 4900 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 5000, Scottsdale, AZ 85251, or its assigns for a period of fifteen years, and to approve said agreement under which DG Dighton, LLC with a principal place of business at 4900 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 5000, Scottsdale, AZ 85251, or its assigns will pay the Town a sum of money per year relative to a 11+/- acre parcel of land located at 2734 Elm Street, Dighton, MA, Map 23, Parcel 10, related to the construction and operation of a Photovoltaic solar facility with an expected nameplate capacity of approximately 3.13 megawatts ("MW"), alternating current ("AC"), said Tax Agreement on file in the Town Clerk's Office, provided that the Fiscal Year 2020 Appellate Tax Board matter involving the subject property is resolved as a condition precedent to execution of said PILOT Agreement, or take any action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 29. TABLED :** On motion of Nancy Goulart and seconded that town will vote in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement with GHTJA03 LLC of Dover, DE with a principal place of business at 850 New Burton Road #201, Dover DE 19904, or its assigns for a period of twenty years, and to approve said agreement under which GHTJA03, LLC, with a principal place of business at 850 New Burton Road, #201, Dover, DE, or its assigns will pay the Town a sum of money per year relative to a 19.6 +/- acre parcel of land located at 893 Brook Street, Dighton, MA, Map 16, Parcel 28, related to the construction and operation of a Photovoltaic solar facility with an expected nameplate capacity of approximately 3.4 megawatts ("MW"), alternating current ("AC") said Tax Agreement on file in the Town Clerk's office, or take any action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 30. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY:** On motion of Jim Digits and seconded that town will vote to amend the Town of Dighton Conservation Commission Regulations, By-Laws and Policies in Section III by deleting said Section III and replacing in its place the following Section III, or take any action thereon.

**“III. Applications for Permits and Requests for Determination**

Written application shall be filed with this Commission to perform activities affecting resource areas protected by this bylaw. This application should be the standard form as set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). At the time of a permit application, the applicant shall pay a filing fee as set forth by the DEP. No local fee is required. However, the local portion set forth by the DEP is necessary. At the time a permit application is received, or at any time during the hearing process, the Commission is authorized to require an applicant to pay the fee for specific expert engineering and other consultant services deemed necessary by the Commission to come to a final decision on the application. The Commission will select the consultant in question. As provided by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 Section 53G, the Dighton Conservation Commission may employ reasonable fees for the employment of outside consultants engaged by the Commission, for specific outside expert services. Such services shall be deemed necessary by the Commission to come to a final decision on an application submitted to the Conservation Commission pursuant to the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131 Section 40), the Dighton Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Conservation Commission Act (M.G.L. Ch. 40 Section 8C) or any other state or municipal statute, bylaw or regulation as they may be amended from time to time. The Conservation Commission may also impose fees for other consultant services, related to application review, or permit conditioning or monitoring, under any of the above referenced laws or regulations. Said fees for said services shall be set forth in a regulation to be adopted by vote of the Conservation Commission in accordance with applicable law, including but not limited to M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53G. The Commission may waive the filing fee, consultant fee and costs and expenses for a permit application or request for determination filed by a government agency. The Commission shall require the payment of the consultant fee prior to the initiation of consulting services. Failure by the applicant to pay the consultant fee specified by the Commission within ten (10) business days of the request for payment, or refusal of payment, shall be cause for the Commission to deny the application based on lack of sufficient information to evaluate whether the project meets applicable performance standards in 310 CMR 10.00 and the Dighton Wetlands Protection Bylaw or its regulations. The applicant shall pay the fee to the Town of Dighton to fund the 53G consultant services account established by the Commission with the Town Treasurer’s office, which may be drawn upon by the Commission for specific consultant services approved by the Commission at one of its public meetings. The Commission shall return any unused portion of the consultant fee to the applicant upon the completion of the project along with any accrued interest.”

Moderator, Gary Scott Dingus appointed the following members to the Finance Committee for FY 2022.

Peter J. Roache  
Kevin J. Perry  
Robert G. Rendon  
Katherine Fournier  
Jennifer L. Duczowski

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

ATTEST:

  
MARK PACHECO  
TOWN CLERK