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Town of Dighton
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Warrant

November 6, 2025

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Dighton in the County of Bristol,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Dighton qualified to vote in elections and Town Affairs to meet at Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Auditorium on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.; then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To hear reports of the Town Officials and act thereon.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the amount of \$1106.08 to pay prior year bills, or take any other action relative thereto.

PRIOR YEAR BILLS	DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT
Doughboy Uniforms	Police Department	\$70.16
Amazon	Communications	\$175.92
Mid-City Steel	Highway	\$82.00
Davol Printing	Treasurer	\$295.00
Tristan Medical	Board of Selectmen	\$240.00
Northstar Refrigeration	Board of Selectmen	\$243.00

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the amount of \$24,819.19 to defray Town Charges and Assessments as considered by the Finance Committee, or act thereon.

#292	ACO	Personnel Expenses	\$ 3,478.13
#162	Elections	Expenses	\$ 4,500.00
#161	Town Clerk	Personnel Expenses	\$ 329.83
#543	Veterans	Expenses	\$16,511.23

*Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Raise and Appropriate*

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$106,146.76 to be expended by the Fire Chief as the fifth payment of a seven-year lease purchase of a new fire engine and any necessary accessories, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash*

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$106,146.76 to be expended by the Fire Chief as the sixth payment of a seven-year lease purchase of a new fire engine and any necessary accessories, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash*

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$106,146.76 to be expended by the Fire Chief as the final payment of a seven-year lease purchase of a new fire engine and any necessary accessories, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash*

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$106,000.00 to be expended by the Fire Chief for the purchase of a new Chief's Cruiser (Car 1) and any necessary accessories relative thereto, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends \$53,000.00 Free Cash/\$53,000.00 Ambulance Fund*

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$31,094.29 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent as the third-year payment of a four-year lease purchase of an excavator and any necessary accessories, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash*

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$31,094.29 to be expended by the Highway Superintendent as the final payment of a four-year lease purchase of an excavator and any necessary accessories, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash*

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$88,000.00 to be expended by the Police Chief for the purchase of one fully equipped police vehicle including computer, Firearm (Patrol Rifle), radio, antenna and any other related accessories, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Opioid Stabilization Fund the sum of \$2,000.00 to be combined with funds voted in Article 15 of the November 14, 2024, Special Town Meeting, to be expended by the Police Chief to purchase Violence/Drug Kits, to be utilized as a teaching tool for the school Violence/Drug programs, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$35,000.00 to be expended by the Police Chief for the purchase, installation and 5-year equipment service contract for a new Call Logger/Recorder system and any necessary accessories, to replace the current communications recording equipment in the Communications Center, which is no longer supported by the State. Said system records radio and telephone communications for the Police, Fire and Emergency Management Agency (EMA), or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$9,861.95 to be expended by the Police Chief for an engine replacement/upgrade for the Police Station HVAC system, which will include a new supervisory controller, required engineering, programming, setup, and a one-year software maintenance agreement, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$175,000.00 to the Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum not to exceed \$175,000.00 to the Capital Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Finance Committee Recommends Free Cash

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the amount of \$35,000.00 to be expended by the Town Administrator for labor, materials and other associated costs to complete the parking lot at the Council on Aging/Prime Time Building, 1059 Somerset Avenue, Dighton, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth to allow retired police officers to work police details until age 70 provided that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

The proposed Special Act reads as follows:

**AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS
AS SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS IN THE TOWN OF DIGHTON**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Dighton may appoint, as the Police Chief considers necessary, POST certified retired police officers as special police officers to perform police details or police duties arising therefrom or during the course of the police detail work, whether or not related to the detail work. Such retired police officers shall have been regular police officers and voluntarily retired based on superannuation. The special police officers shall not be subject to the maximum age restrictions applied to regular police officers under Chapter 32 of the General Laws but shall not be eligible to serve as special police officers if they have reached the age of 70. Such special police officer shall pass a medical examination by a physician or other certified professional chosen by the Town to determine that the officer is capable of performing the essential duties of a special police officer, the cost of which shall be borne by the special police officer, prior to performing police details.

SECTION 2. Special police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall not be subject to chapter 31 of the General Laws, Section 85H and 85H1/2 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, sections 99A, 100 and 111F of chapter 41 of the General Laws, or chapter 150E of the General Laws. Special police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall be subject to chapter 151A of the General Laws.

SECTION 3. Special police officers appointed under this act shall, when performing the duties under section 1, have the same power to make arrests and to perform other police functions as do regular police officers of the Town of Dighton.

SECTION 4. Special police officers shall be re-appointed annually, subject to removal by the Board of Selectmen at any time with 14 days' written notice except in cases where the Police Chief determines that immediate action is necessary to protect the public safety. Upon request, the Police Chief shall provide reasons for removal in writing.

SECTION 5. Special police officers appointed pursuant to this act shall be subject to the rules and regulations, policies and procedures and requirements of the Police Department and Police Chief of the Town of Dighton, including restrictions on the type of detail

assignment, requirements regarding medical examinations to determine continued capacity to perform the duties of a special police officer, requirements for training, requirements for firearm licensing and qualification and requirements regarding uniforms and equipment. Compliance with all requirements shall be a no cost to the Town. Special Police officers shall not be subject to section 96B of chapter 41 of the General Laws.

SECTION 6. Special police officers appointed under this act shall be sworn before the Town Clerk of the Town of Dighton who shall keep a record of all such appointments.

SECTION 7. Appointment as a special police officer pursuant to this act shall not entitle any officer to assignment to any specific detail or type of detail.

SECTION 8. Retired police officers serving as special police officers under this act shall be subject to the limitations on hours worked and on payments to retired town employees pursuant to paragraph (b) of section 91 of chapter 32 of the General Laws.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a home rule petition with the General Court seeking approval of the following special act, and to authorize the General Court to make any revisions that are necessary or appropriate to the form of such bill:

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF DIGHTON TO USE A PORTION OF
CONSERVATION LAND FOR PUBLIC WAY PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the town of Dighton may transfer the care, custody, management and control of a portion of certain parcels of land located at 0 Pleasant Street having an area of 830 square feet and shown as "Proposed Permanent Easement" on a plan of land entitled "Dighton Pleasant Street

Construction Plan" from the conservation commission for conservation purposes to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes, including for the replacement of a roadway bridge serving the adjacent public way. The land is identified on the town's assessor's maps as parcels 076/020.0-0012 and 076/020.0-0013, and is part of the lands taken by the town to enhance the Taunton River Watershed and for other municipal purposes pursuant to an order of taking recorded in the Middlesex southern district registry of deeds in book 19498, page 268 and book 1010, page 101.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59, § 5 clause 22G, thereby allowing disabled veterans who place their homes into a trust, to continue receiving property tax exemptions under clauses 22A through 22F of said Chapter 59, Section 5. This will take effect for applicable exemptions granted for Fiscal Year 2026, and/or take any action relative thereto.

Board of Selectmen Recommends
Board of Assessors Recommends

ARTICLE 20. To act upon any other business that lawfully may be introduced at said meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at each of the post offices, at the Town Hall and at the main Fire Station, all in said Dighton, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 8th day of October in the year of our Lord the Two Thousand Twenty-five.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Peter B. Caron - Chairman


Mark Pacheco - Clerk


Nicole Mello - Member

A truecopy

Attest:


TOWN CLERK

Posted as directed:


CONSTABLE

Date:

10-22-25