



A Message from your Town Administrator

June 2019

WE'RE HIRING!!

The Board of Selectmen is currently seeking applications for a Part-Time Administrative Assistant to assist in the operations of their office as well as that of the Town Administrator. The posting and job description can be found here: https://dighton-ma.gov/government/job_vacancies.php

Resumes are due to maronstein@dighton-ma.gov by July 22, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.



Another fiscal year has come and gone! As we leave FY19 and plan ahead, we have many exciting things on the horizon. These include a revamped meeting space in the lower level of Town Hall, a reallocation of space for our very cramped Town Clerk's Office, upgrades to our internet network systems, and an earnest study into the governmental make up of our Town. The Town continues to incrementally make improvements and maintain its infrastructure, both buildings and roadways, so as to make the least impact on the taxpayers.

*As we leave FY19 and plan ahead,
we have many exciting things on the horizon.*

We will also say goodbye to two long-term employees who have announced their retirement. Assistant Treasurer Helen Kadlec will be retiring this summer after 18 years of service, and Town Accountant Jennifer Luiz will depart after 13 years of service. We thank each of them for their incredible dedication and wonderful, high quality service to the residents and businesses of the Town of Dighton. Enjoy your retirement!

TOWN UPDATES

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, JUNE 3, 2019

On June 3, 2019, the Town reviewed 36 warrant articles and ultimately passed a budget of \$22 million for Fiscal Year 2020. The Town voted in favor of a study to determine benefits and costs of extended sewer capability along Route 138, purchasing a new police cruiser, purchasing Alice Kits for police and fire vehicles as an emergency preparedness initiative, hiring a part-time administrative assistant in the Board of Selectmen's Office, purchasing a dump-truck for the Highway Department, adopting tax exemptions for local veterans, and purchasing land along Brooks Street and Boat Ramp Road. I'd like to thank the voters for supporting these projects and initiatives!

INTERN PROGRAM

Town Meeting, through voting on budgets, also funded a new intern program. Currently we have two students participating in our program, gaining valuable experience in their chosen fields. Ms. Emily Stevens is serving as Municipal Intern for the summer, spending most of her time in the Town Accountant and Town Administrator's Office. Emily is an accounting student at Assumption College and

is learning the ropes of municipal finance. We thank Emily for her many contributions that are already making a significant impact! In July, Mr. Zachary Freitas will join our ranks in the Board of Health office working on Emergency Preparedness

projects. Zach is a student at Massachusetts Maritime majoring in Emergency Management. We're looking forward to working with you, Zach!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As part of an effort to research the best possible government for our Town, the Board of Selectmen has established a Town Governance Committee and a Regional District Study Committee. Both committees are charged with gathering facts and information in an effort to ensure Dighton's governmental structure is the perfect fit for our needs. There is one vacancy on the Governance Committee, which is specifically studying renaming the Board of Selectmen to "Select Board" as well as the combination of the Treasurer and Collector positions and determining whether that position should be appointed or remain elected. There are three vacancies remaining on the School District Study Committee, the mission of which is to gather facts about remaining regionalized with Rehoboth, regionalizing with another community, deregionalizing only the K-8 grades, or instituting a Dighton-only district.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who serve on the many boards and committees for the Town of Dighton. We couldn't operate with your dedicated, dependable service!

NETWORK UPGRADES

I am very pleased to report that the Town has made various changes to the network and systems equipment. We have updated our email, improved connectivity, and upgraded switches and servers for a more efficient, secure system throughout Town. Thank you to our new Network Administration company, Netrospect, for all the quick service and excellent quality!

NEW MEETING SPACE

As part of our ongoing efforts to upgrade and maintain our buildings to continue providing the best service to our residents and businesses. Members of our highway department have been tirelessly working under the direction of Building Inspector Jim Aguiar on redoing space in Town Hall so that we may best utilize what we have. The changes to the lower level meeting room are almost complete. I've included a sneak peek of the room! It looks great. Those same members have also completed significant building projects within the new Animal Shelter, which is being created out of the old trailers that were at the former Police Station. Thank you Jim, Mike and Joe for your incredible work and tremendous talent! We can't wait for the finished products!



IMPORTANT DATES

July 4 – Happy Fourth of July! Town Offices

Closed

July 10, 24 – Selectmen's Meetings

TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Selectmen have been fielding numerous complaints about speeding issues townwide. We first heard complaints about parking and driving through the Dighton Elementary and Dighton Middle Schools. The Town is working with the School District to engineer and install a new roadway to better manage the traffic flow. Selectmen heard concerns from residents near Lane Field on Main Street relative to pedestrian safety and speed concerns. And Forest Street speeding concerns have been an ongoing matter. The Police Department has enhanced efforts to patrol and monitor traffic along these roadways, as well as others town-wide. Myself and the Board of Selectmen are researching Speed Safety Zones, traffic studies for town-wide speed maintenance, and working with MassDOT for a collective solution to the issues. We request that you continue to drive safely, and within the confines of the speed limit throughout town.

HEROES AMONG US

At their meeting of June 26, Veterans Agent Donald Hirschy and the Board of Selectmen commended Captain Chris Ready who also serves as Graves Officer and has been doing so since 2013. Captain Ready has annually ensured American Flags



are waving at veterans' grave sites, often enlisting the help of Boy Scouts. In doing so Captain Ready has promoted civic engagement and patriotism. We thank you, sir, for always serving Dighton with the highest distinction and honor, and for serving as an example for us all to emulate. Congratulations! We commend you. Thank you for your service!

On June 17, Patrolman Greg Steele reacted quickly in saving a man's life this month when he jumped into the Taunton River to rescue him. Due to his quick thinking and the support of Officer Jay McGovern and Harbormaster Ron Marino, our team was able to intervene and transport the man who was taken into custody and transferred to Morton Hospital. Thank you for your quick action, bravery, and determination to protect our Town.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE RETURNS TO DIGHTON IN 2020

By vote of the Board of Selectmen and on a recommendation of the Veterans Agent, the Town of Dighton will host the Memorial Day Parade every year, no longer switching every other year with Rehoboth. We thank the Town of Rehoboth for their hospitality and efforts over the last ten years with a shared parade. We think our

residents will be pleased with the changes to the parade itself and to host it in their own community each year. Thank you Mr. Hirschy for your efforts in coordinating this most important event for our community.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The eighth annual reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place at Dighton Community Church on Thursday, July 4, 2019 at 9:00 p.m. An optional candlelight walk through the cemetery begins at 8:40 p.m. We thank former Selectman Patrick Menges for his continued dedication in leading this patriotic event.

Per vote of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the basketball courts and tennis courts next to the old Police Station, 1551 Somerset Avenue, will now close at 10:00 p.m.

We need your help! We have various committees with vacancies, including the Dighton Trails Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical Commission, Land Use Committee, By Law Review Committee, and the Open Space Committee. If interested in serving, fill out a volunteer information form or email boardofselectmen@townofdighton.com. We look forward to working with you!

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!