

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of February 23, 2016
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

Present: Tony Archinski, Chairman, Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman, Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk, Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Cathy Richardson, Jim Duggan, Town Manager, Attorney James Hall and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence being observed for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of this country and for those currently serving in the military particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

* Dana Taplin, 489 Wheeler Road – Mr. Taplin appeared before the Board to discuss the Methuen Town Hall ordinance banning heavy trucks on Wheeler Street. Mr. Taplin stated that the residents near Brox Quarry have complained about the trucks using Wheeler Street and this ordinance affects his business as well. Mr. Taplin discussed the DOT process and the adjoining community permission on Wheeler Street. Mr. Taplin asked for the Board's support to continue to allow the use of trucks on Wheeler Street. Mr. Taplin stated that most of the new homes in that part of Town use Wheeler Street for traffic and discussed the future building in that neighborhood.

* Anna Corey, 215 Jones Avenue – Mrs. Corey appeared before the Board and extended her thanks to Congresswoman Tsongas for helping the residents on Dadak Drive with FERC giving an additional 15 days for comments and extending the time to intervene. Mrs. Corey discussed the upcoming DPU meeting on March 10, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed tariff and tax to pay for the Kinder Morgan project and discussed the meeting regarding surveying access by Kinder Morgan on April 13, 2016.

* Randy Boisse, 190 Methuen Road – Mr. Boisse appeared before the Board and thanked them for incorporating a letter for requesting a new FERC scoping session.

* Betsy Murphy, 41 Adams Road – Mrs. Murphy appeared before the Board and stated that she publicly wanted to discuss with the Board the School Committee's recommendation of a \$550,000 override for technology with a three year plan. Mrs. Murphy discussed the opportunity for a technology rebate, replacing some positions, the hiring of two staff and the hiring of two to three additional staff with the technology rebate.

* Dr. Michael McNamara, 34 Brox Road – Dr. McNamara appeared before the Board and stated that he wanted to echo the comments made by Mrs. Murphy.

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Dr. McNamara discussed the School Committee's unanimous decision regarding the \$550,000 override and the School Committee's unanimous decision asking the Board to consider a single ballot override question. Dr. McNamara discussed the Boards being in unison with a collaborative approach and stated that anything other than that defeats the purpose of the Joint Budget Task Force Committee.

* Rich Cowan, 12 Greenlawn Avenue – Mr. Cowan appeared before the Board and discussed the current climate between the School Committee and Board of Selectmen. Mr. Cowan discussed the 2013 cuts and the School Department losing a lot of staff. Mr. Cowan discussed what surrounding Town's pay per pupil and what Dracut pays per pupil. Mr. Cowan discussed the accusations between the two Boards and discussed State mandates. Mr. Cowan asked Selectmen DiRocco to call the dogs off.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that there are currently 34 residents being served by Veteran's Services. Mr. Duggan stated that the Planning Board would have upcoming Special Permit requests for 16 Commercial Drive and 324 Broadway Road. Mr. Duggan stated that there is approximately \$40,000 left in the DPW's snow budget and the Recreation Bradford Appreciation Night would be held on March 15, 2016 and would be \$10.00 per ticket. Mr. Duggan stated that the Presidential Primary Election will be March 1, 2016 and excise taxes are due by March 7, 2016. Mr. Duggan stated that the bids will be due next month for the Cross, Colburn and Crosby Road intersection work. Mr. Duggan discussed the redesigning of the new Town website which would outline and recognize Dracut's heritage and would be presenting the new website to the Board soon. Mr. Duggan stated that he would be meeting with active farmer's to discuss their input for the website also. Mr. Duggan discussed having two years left with the contract for Russell Disposal and discussed having a \$70.00 tipping fee for the next two years. Mr. Duggan discussed meeting with other Communities that are also using Russell Disposal and possibly extending to a three year contract with less tipping fees. Mr. Duggan stated that there are two page positions available at the Library, one Police Officer graduating from the Academy and they are currently on schedule with replacing the phone system at the Police Department.

Mrs. Dristiliaris asked if the Board would be receiving their own email addresses with the new website? Mr. Duggan stated yes.

Mrs. Hughes discussed Methuen stopping the use of heavy trucks to Dracut on Wheeler Street. Attorney Hall stated that Methuen can't have the traffic go to Dracut. Ms. Richardson asked who takes care of Wheeler Street? Mr. Dana Taplin appeared before the Board and stated that both Methuen and Dracut maintain Wheeler Street. Mr. Taplin stated that the road was never finished in width and discussed the traffic and curving. Mr. Taplin discussed collaborating with Methuen with the road work, the increase in population and traffic in that neighborhood.

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Ms. Richardson asked Mr. Duggan to give an update on his visit with the Veteran's Park Concession Stand Committee and Bridgewell. Mr. Duggan stated that he met with the Veteran's Park Concession Stand Committee with Attorney Hall and he was familiarized with the history and intent of the Committee and would be replenishing the funds. Mr. Duggan stated that he also discussed potential upcoming events, etc. at Veteran's Park with the Committee.

Mr. Duggan stated that he met with the petitioners and Bridgewell and stated that the home would have five male adults with Autism and stated that the resident had a lot of questions and clarifications with Bridgewell. Mr. Duggan stated that there would be an onsite meeting with Bridgewell and the residents on February 29, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 275 Old Marsh Hill Road.

The Board discussed how many of these types of homes are currently in Town.

Ms. Richardson discussed Senate Bill 122 and having the Planning Board and Building Inspector give their input regarding the Zoning Reform.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Deputy Chartrand appeared before the Board and presented an Initial Action Plan Update. Deputy Chartrand reviewed the plan update and discussed Police Certification and Accreditation, attending the Compstat staff meeting in Lowell, replacing the phone system, hiring process, equipment, inventory of the radio system and stated that two Sergeants would attend a First Line Supervisory Training Program in March. Deputy Chartrand stated the Department is committed to moving forward.

Mr. Duggan discussed the call list of six officers for the initial process to take place. Deputy Chartrand stated that the call list is good for two years.

AGENDA ITEMS:

* Recommendation of Town Manager to Appoint Diane Daigle as Town Accountant –
Mr. Duggan stated that Mrs. Daigle has been an internal employee who has worked for the Town for many years in the Accounting Department. Mr. Duggan stated that it is his recommendation to the Board that Mrs. Daigle be appointed the Town Accountant. Mr. Duggan read part of memorandum to the Board dated February 18, 2016.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he has known Mrs. Daigle over the years and she is very professional.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to appoint Diane Daigle as the Town Accountant. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Under Discussion:

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Mr. Archinski stated that the previous Town Accountant, Linda Wright, recommended Mrs. Daigle as well.

Ms. Richardson asked under the Town Charter is this appoint o.k.? Ms. Richardson stated that Ms. Wright did an excellent job.

The Board discussed if the appointment was o.k. under the Town Charter.

The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW:

* Mike Kenyon, Animal Control Officer – Mr. Kenyon appeared before the Board and explained that he is the full time Animal Control Officer and there is also a part time Animal Control Assistant. Mr. Kenyon discussed the many calls he receives in regards to sick wildlife and discussed the disease of rabies. Mr. Kenyon discussed the importance of having animals vaccinated and discussed the animal control charter. Mr. Kenyon stated that he is hosting a rabies clinic on March 26th, 2016 and the vaccination fee is \$15.00. Mr. Kenyon stated that licensing would also be available at the rabies clinic and the licensing fee is \$11.00. Mr. Kenyon stated that if any residents have questions he can be reached Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

7:10 p.m. – Four Oaks Country Club, Inc. – Requesting an Amendment to Special Permit #12-5 to Move the Pro-Shop from the Main Building to the Barn at 80 Meadow Creek Drive – Mr. Archinski read the public hearing notice advertised in the Lowell Sun. Mr. Michael Kuenzler appeared before the Board requesting an amendment to the Special Permit for Four Oaks Country Club. Mr. Kuenzler stated that when he originally purchased the property the pro-shop was located in the barn. Mr. Kuenzler explained that logistically they would like to move the pro-shop back to the barn and expand the restaurant.

No abutters spoke for or in opposition of the public hearing.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the amendment to Special Permit #12-5 to Move the Pro-Shop from the Main Building to the Barn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

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Continuation of New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (Merrimack Valley Reliability Project) – Requesting Franchise Rights to Locate Overhead Transmission Lines Across the Following Public Ways – Merrimac Ave, Methuen St, Wheeler Rd, Broadway Rd and Methuen Rd – Mr. Archinski read the letter dated February 17, 2016 from Bowditch & Dewey requesting a continuance of the public hearing until the February 23, 2016 meeting.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to continue the public hearing until February 23, 2016. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed 4 to 0. Mrs. Dristiliaris abstained from voting.

AGENDA ITEMS (CONT'D):

* Four Oaks Country Club, Inc., 80 Meadow Creek Drive – Requesting a Change of Manager on the All Alcohol Liquor License from Peter C. Niarhos to Michael J. Kuenzler – Mr. Michael Kuenzler appeared before the Board to request a Change of Manager on the All Alcohol Liquor License at the Four Oaks Country Club.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the Change of Manager on the All Alcohol Liquor License from Peter C. Niarhos to Michael J. Kuenzler. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

* Friends of the Dracut Library – Request for a One-Day Beer & Wine License on March 12, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library – Mr. John Hassan, President of the Friends of the Dracut Library, appeared before the Board to request a one-day beer and wine license for a mini golf event being held at the Library on March 12, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Hassan stated that he has acquired the appropriate liquor liability insurance for the event.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the one-day beer and wine license on March 12, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Lisa's Family Pizzeria, 1794 Bridge St #26-A – Requesting a Change of Manager on the Common Victualler License – Mr. Arthur Skambas appeared before the Board and stated that his is now the manager of Lisa's Family Pizzeria.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the Change of Manager on the Common Victualler License for Lisa's Family Pizzeria to Arthur Skambas. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

* CVS Corporation, 4 Broadway Rd – Requesting a Change of Manager on the Common Victualler License – Mr. Carols Carmona appeared before the Board and stated that he is now the manager of the CVS on Broadway Road.

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Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the Change of Manager on the Common Victualler License for CVS Corporation on Broadway Road to Carlos Carmona. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

* Speedway, LLC, 1643 Lakeview Avenue – Requesting a Common Victualler License
– Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Common Victualler License for Speedway, LLC. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* It's a Wrap, 22 Pleasant Street – Requesting a Common Victualler License – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Common Victualler License for It's a Wrap. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

* Community Preservation Committee – Discuss Upcoming Projects – Ms. Richardson stated that she wanted the Community Preservation Committee to appear before the Board to help everyone understand what is on their horizon for potential projects. Mrs. Helen Dunlap, Chairperson of the Community Preservation Committee, appeared before the Board and discussed the possible upcoming projects that they are looking into. Mrs. Dunlap stated that for open space they are looking at the property at 52 Avis Avenue and are working with the Agricultural Preservation Restriction process, expanding holdings in the East side of Town, the Roscoe Richardson property, Brox property, the Kenwood Ski tow and work at Proprietors Way. Mrs. Dunlap discussed the benefits of open space preservation and stated that they currently have no recreations projects going right now. Mrs. Dunlap stated that for historical preservation they are looking at preserving historical areas, the Dracut Grange, the house at 324 Broadway Road; which is the second oldest house in Dracut and the Beaver Brook Farm located at 716 Mammoth Road. Mrs. Dunlap discussed surveying historic buildings and stated that there are no affordable housing project on their agenda right now.

Mr. Duggan stated that there is approximately 1.5 million in Community Preservation funds remaining and the money given back by the State fluctuates annually.

* Capital Planning Committee – Discuss Upcoming Projects – Mr. Duggan stated that there was not a quorum at last night's Capital Planning Committee meeting. Mr. Duggan discussed the need for replacing the Collinsville Fire Station, unaccepted road work, Varnum Road improvements, a number of school issues including maintenance and technology, Methuen Street pump station, new Jaws of Life and equipment for the Fire Department and equipment for the Police Department.

The Board agreed that they would like the Capital Planning Committee to appear in front of them once all of the Capital Planning information is put together.

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* Discuss and Vote on Wording for May 2, 2016 Ballot Question(s) – Mr. Duggan stated that the highest priority is staffing public safety which would be a positive step within the Community. Mr. Duggan discussed the need for nine additional personnel; six for the Police Department and three for the Fire Department. Mr. Duggan explained that for salary, benefits, uniforms, equipment and the Police Academy is would cost \$61,668 per Police Officer and salary, benefits, uniforms, equipment and the Fire Academy would cost \$74,905 per Fire Fighter. Mr. Duggan stated that his recommendation would be to include a portion of the Academies within the total needed for both Departments. Mr. Duggan explained that the total is \$525,000 with no Academy, \$560,000 with a portion of the Academy and \$595,000 with the full Academy. Mr. Duggan explained that based on a \$290,000 home evaluation, approximately \$53.00 would be the annual increase in the property tax with two payments being made the first year and then four payments being made the second year. Mr. Duggan stated that this is a reasonable standard, not a complete standard, but a reasonable one. Mr. Duggan stated that he would continue to move forward with staff to get to their full compliments.

Mrs. Dristiliaris discussed the Fire Fighters salaries and stated that it is such a small salary for such a risky job.

Ms. Richardson asked how much will the new positions put a dent in the current overtime costs? Mr. Duggan stated that the new positions would lessen the overtime costs.

Mr. Archinski stated that the risk assessments being completed will identify the need for more efficiency in staffing as well.

Mr. Duggan explained that the Academies are one time expenditures but moving forward the money would help with the Department of Public Works over the years.

Mr. Duggan discussed lengths of the Academies and salaries for employees during the Academies.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to accept the Town Manager's recommendation for the Town side of funding of \$560,000. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Under Discussion:

Superintendent Stone appeared before the Board and discussed the School Department's need to deal with technology now due to upcoming State regulations. Superintendent Stone discussed the need for \$550,000 and discussed the Erate Program for technology and stated that they would apply for the rebates and with the rebates they could hire staff. Superintendent Stone discussed the need for mental health staff, reading staff and High School and Middle School personnel. Superintendent Stone explained that they would hire two teachers in the first year, two teachers in year two and one teacher in year three.

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Ms. Richardson stated that she is confused with the numbers presented to the Joint Budget Task Force Committee. Superintendent Stone discussed the total cost of their need for technology is 1.2 million.

Mr. DiRocco asked why they would not ask for a debt exclusion? Superintendent Stone stated that they couldn't use a debt exclusion with salaries and they would be applying for grants as well.

Mr. DiRocco stated that it looks deceiving and asked why not show exactly what the money would be used for?

Mrs. Hughes stated that the money would be for a capital investment and the employee investment would be delayed.

Superintendent Stone explained that the dilemma is the need for both and discussed the technology need and the staffing needs.

Mrs. Dristiliaris asked if they would be relieving the burden of the fees off of the parents? Superintendent Stone discussed their three and four year plans.

Mrs. Dristiliaris asked how long would the technology last? Superintendent Stone discussed fiber optics and stated that it would last approximately 25 years.

Mr. DiRocco stated that the public needs to understand the expenditures from the School Department.

Mrs. Dristiliaris left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

The Board discussed the figures reviewed by the Joint Budget Task Force Committee.

Mrs. Dristiliaris returned to the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Mrs. Hughes discussed the Board's working together to move the ballot question forward and to get it to pass in May.

Superintendent Stone discussed the upcoming technology mandate from the State.

Ms. Richardson asked if there has been any projection on State aid? Mr. Duggan stated that they are projecting a \$120,000 to \$150,000 increase in State aid.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to accept the School Committee's and Superintendent Stone's recommendation for the School side of funding of \$550,000. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DiRocco discussed having choice questions on the ballot.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that there should not be a choice of questions as that would confuse the residents. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that it should be one question, the Board's should not be versing each other and it is ridiculous that two questions are even being considered.

Mr. DiRocco stated that residents can make two choices if explained well and he feels as if the questions are combined they will both lose.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to have two different override questions on the May 2, 2016 ballot. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Under Discussion:

Attorney Hall explained that the Board could not tell the School Department how to spend their money.

Attorney Hall stated that he would need to make sure the wording is correct for any ballot questions.

Ms. Richardson stated that she is not in favor of an override for operating expenses and stated that she is "not selling" anything.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that Mrs. Hughes simply discussed giving out information to residents regarding the override not "selling" the override.

Mrs. Hughes stated that it is the responsibility of the Board's to get the information out to the voters.

Mr. Archinski stated that the Joint Budget Task Force Committee has worked very hard over the last six months and everyone is in agreement that the money is needed. Mr. Archinski stated that this is all one Town and they are in it together. Mr. Archinski stated that the numbers presented are reasonable and it should only be one ballot question. Mr. Archinski urged his fellow Board members to vote for one question.

Mrs. Dristiliaris called for a roll call vote:

Mr. Joseph DiRocco – Yes
Mr. Tony Archinski – No
Mrs. Tami Dristiliaris – No

Mrs. Alison Hughes – Yes
Ms. Cathy Richardson – Yes

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The motion passed 3 to 2.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to have Town Counsel write a single question as well.
Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Under Discussion:

Mrs. Hughes stated that she wanted Town Counsel to research how the question should be written and wanted to see what one question versus two questions sounds like.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he was confused as the Board just voted to have two questions on the ballot.

Mrs. Hughes stated that they are not voting on what would be on the ballot they are only voting on the wording of the questions.

The motion passed 4 to 1. Mr. DiRocco voted No.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to continue until the March 8, 2016 meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* Selectwoman Richardson – Discuss the Boston Post Cane – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to Table until the March 8, 2016 meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* Selectwoman Richardson – Discuss and Vote on the Petition of the Town of Dracut for a Formal Evidentiary Hearing on Need for the Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline – Ms. Richardson reviewed the petition and discussed the questioning of the need for the Kinder Morgan pipeline project.

Mr. Archinski asked if Attorney Hall has reviewed the petition? Attorney Hall stated that he has not reviewed the petition.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to continue until March 8, 2016. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Hall discussed the Board having an Executive Session at the next meeting to review Attorney Kanoff's engagement letter.

* Selectwoman Richardson – Discuss and Vote on the Request for a New FERC Scoping Session – Ms. Richardson reviewed the letter dated February 19, 2016 to FERC requesting a new scoping session.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve and send the letter to FERC from the Board. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Archinski stated that the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Open Space Committee, Government Rules and Regulations Committee, Affordable Housing Partnership Committee, Conservation Commission and Dracut Cultural Council are looking for new members.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Varnum Day Award Sub-Committee- Mrs. Hughes stated that she, Ms. Richardson and Ms. Rebecca Duda met and reviewed the nominations for the Varnum Day Award. Mrs. Hughes stated that the Sub-Committee recommends Hector Berube to receive this year's Varnum Day Award. The Board discussed having a reception for Mr. Berube and all of the nominee's at 6:00 p.m. on March 22, 2016.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to recommend Mr. Hector Berube to receive the 2016 Varnum Day Award. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* Housing Sub-Committee – Ms. Richardson stated that the Housing Sub-Committee met and discussed creating a LLC for the Greenmont Avenue project.

* Pipeline Coalition – Ms. Richardson discussed the natural gas export being approved and stated that there is a meeting on March 7, 2016 to speak against the proposed Kinder Morgan tariff and the comments are due by March 10, 2016. Ms. Richardson discussed the DPU comments and property rights.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the Minutes of January 12, 2016 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

Mrs. Hughes stated that there is a ham and bean supper at the Centerville Sportsman's Club on February 27, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that there is a Lowell Humane Society dinner at the Senior Center.

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ADJOURNMENT:

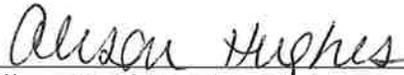
Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

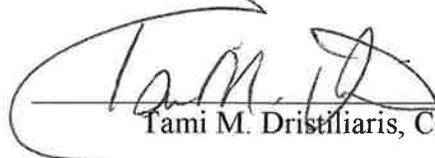
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Tony Archinski, Chairman



Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman



Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk



Joseph DiRocco, Jr.



Cathy Richardson