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**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Present:* Chairman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Selectman David Wojnar, Selectman Robert Hinckley, and Town Administrator James Kelley

Chairman Gaspar welcomed all to meeting of the Board of Selectmen on December 19, 2023 at 4:30 PM. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to call the December 19, 2023 meeting to order. Selectman Hinckley motioned to call the meeting to order. Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for this on favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed. Chairman Gaspar asked the room to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. MINUTES TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting  
December 1, 2023 Regular Meeting  
December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the October 16, 2023 regular meeting minutes, December 1, 2023 regular meeting minutes, and December 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the October 16, 2023 regular meeting minutes, December 1, 2023 regular meeting minutes, and December 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

**III. MEETING MAIL**

Cultural Council member, Michelle Watts' letter

Chairman Gaspar stated there was a letter from Michelle Watts regarding her resignation from the Cultural Council. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to accept her resignation. Selectman Hinckley motioned to accept her resignation. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

**IV. APPOINTMENTS**

Representative Schmid & Representative Strauss – COA Funding

Chairman Gaspar stated that there was funding given to the COA for FY24 summing to \$80,000. He invited Representative Paul Schmid and a member of Representative Bill Straus' office to the podium to speak on the gift. Representative Schmid that this takes team work, and commended the Board for coming to an agreement for the police negotiations. He stated that he secured an earmark of \$80,000 to reroof and install air conditioning at the Acushnet Council on Aging. He stated that Mr. Kelley was in touch with Jessica to complete the paperwork. The gentlemen took a photo together and thanked each other.

Matthew Tripp – Eagle Scout Project Approval

Chairman Gaspar stated that the Eagle Scouts implemented a new project to collect used fishing line and hooks. Matthew Tripp, Jr. sought for approval from the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the project. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the Eagle Scout

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Project on Lake Street. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed. 2024 JAN 29 AM 11:59

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Building Department Senior Clerk, Michelle Santos

Mr. Kelley stated many interviews were conducted, and the technology test that Ms. Santos underwent was successful. Ms. Santos was present to meet the Board. Mr. Bobola was pleased during Ms. Santos' interviews. Chairman Gaspar asked Ms. Santos to speak at the podium; Ms. Santos introduced herself and gave her familial history in Acushnet. She was honored to take part in the town. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to appoint Michelle Santos as the Senior Clerk in the Building Department. Selectman Hinckley motioned to appoint Michelle Santos as the Senior Clerk in the Building Department. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

School Ventilation System

Mr. Kelley stated Patrick McIntyre at schools brought in experts to determine the overall issue and necessary design for the ventilation system. He stated that there was a deep clean at the elementary school during Thanksgiving break and the middle school is to be deep cleaned during Christmas break. Mr. Kelley stated that in the past, calibrations were not performed on equipment in the past, result in replacement of soffits, sheet rock, and cleaning of ducts, all done within school's budget. Major work done is planned to be conducted in the future. Chairman Gaspar asked if there will be article. Kelley said school board and pat will let them know if so. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to place on file. Selectman Hinckley motioned to place on file. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Police Department new civil service officers, Colin Matton and Adrian Fontes

Chairman Gaspar stated there were two Civil Officers present: Colin Matton and Adrian Fontes. He stated that these seats in the academy were reserved during the BOS Meeting on November 14, 2023. Chief Richmond introduced the backgrounds of each seat takers. He stated that Mr. Matton is a lifelong resident of Acushnet, was employed as a security officer at Southcoast Hospitals, is a call firefighter for the Town, and is a transport ambulance specialist. He stated he demonstrates promise through job choices and came highly recommended. Chief Richmond introduced Adrian Fontes as highly recommended, lifelong resident. He stated that he is actively pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Bridgewater State University. Chief Richmond held a panel interview with sergeants and chose the two gentlemen. Mr. Matton introduced himself and stated his familial history who served as police officers in Town. He stated that he has a passion for law enforcement and feels honored to serve the Town in this capacity. Mr. Fontes stated that he always wanted to be a police officer. He stated that he studied electrical at Old Colony and has experience with hands-on work. He stated that he concluded his bachelor's degree that month. Chairman Gaspar stated that he likes that the two young men were "home-grown from Acushnet." Selectman Wojnar stated that it was his honor to be there with the two candidates. Selectman Hinckley stated that he knows Colin and that he has done nothing but make an effort to better this community. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to appoint Adrian Fontes and Colin Matton contingent upon passing the academy. Selectman Hinckley motioned to appoint Adrian Fontes and Colin Matton contingent upon passing the academy. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Golf Equipment Purchase

Steve Tibbles wanted to purchase core harvester and gave the Board a photo of the machine. He explained how the machine operates and functions at the course. Mr. Tibbles stated it is important because the golf course has holes on slopes. He stated that it will save on labor costs for the future; it has more efficiency at the rate of \$35,000. He stated that the Golf Advisory Board approved the purchase and instructed Mr. Tibbles to come before the Board for their approval. Chairman Gaspar asked about budget. Mr. Tibbles said will make it easier to get out of golfers' way. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to purchase the FS900 Green Aeration Core Collection machine with previous Town Meeting fundings from Town Meeting article. Selectman Hinckley motioned to purchase the FS900 Green Aeration Core Collection machine with previous Town Meeting fundings from Town Meeting article. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed. Chairman Gaspar felt it was good to purchase equipment instead of leasing.

Citizens Interest Form for Cultural Council – Charlene Correia

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to appoint Charlene Correia to the Cultural Council. Selectman Hinckley motioned to appoint Charlene Correia to the Cultural Council. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

License Renewals

Chairman Gaspar stated that these approvals were waiting on inspections from the fire, health, and building departments. Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the Common Victualler Licenses:

*Common Victualler Licenses:*

Country Whip	1173 Main Street
Seafood Hut	2 South Main Street
Rochelle's	590-594 Main Street
TC Donuts (Dunkin Donuts)	150 S. Main Street
The Mill	156 S. Main Street
Captain's Place	162 S. Main St.
Silver Brook Farms	934 Main Street
American Legion	71 Hope Street
Kam's Cuisine	132 Main Street
Century House	107 S. Main Street
Blue Point Rest.	6 Dayton Street
Blue Lantern Café	605 Main Street
VFW #7239	28 Roosevelt Street
Ponderosa	242 Robinson Road
River's End Café	7 ½ Tarklin Hill Road
JT's Pub	77 Slocum Street
Keith's Orchards	1149 Main Street
Acushnet Creamery	264 Main Street
New England Farms, Inc.	158 Main Street
Acushnet River Valley	685 Main Street

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Pope Park

122 Main Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the Common Victualler licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the Common Victualler licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the All Alcohol Club Licenses:

*All Alcohol Club Licenses:*

American Legion #265	71 Hope Street
VFW #7239	28 Roosevelt Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the All Alcohol Club Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the All Alcohol Club Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the All Alcohol Licenses:

*All Alcohol Licenses:*

Kam's Cuisine	132 Main Street
Captain's Place	162 S. Main St.
Century House	107 S. Main Street
Blue Point Restaurant	6 Dayton Street
Blue Lantern Café	605 Main Street
River's End Café	7 ½ Tarklin Hill Road
Ponderosa	242 Robinson Road
JT'S Pub	77 Slocum Street
Acushnet River Valley	685 Main Street

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Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the All Alcohol Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the All Alcohol Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the All Alcohol Package Store Licenses:

*All Alcohol Package Store Licenses:*

Scuttlebutts	590 South Main Street
Chuck's Liquors II	172 S. Main Street
Bonville's Market	142 S. Main Street
Town Wines/Liquors	1 Middle Road
Liquor Palace	270 Main Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the All Alcohol Package Store Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the All Alcohol Package Store Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Gaspar read the following business and address for the Wine and Malt Package Store License:

*Wine and Malt Package Store Licenses:*

New England Farms, Inc.            158 Main Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the Wine and Malt Package Store Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the Wine and Malt Package Store Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the Restricted Music Licenses:

*Restricted Music Licenses:*

American Legion	71 Hope Street
VFW #7239	28 Roosevelt Street
Kam's Cuisine	132 Main Street
Captain's Place	162 S. Main St.
Century House	107 S. Main Street
River's End Café	7 ½ Tarklin Hill Road
Blue Lantern Café	605 Main Street
Ponderosa	242 Robinson Road
JT'S Pub	77 Slocum Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the Restricted Music Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the Restricted Music Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the Automatic Amusement Licenses:

*Automatic Amusements Licenses:*

American Legion #265	71 Hope Street
VFW #7239	28 Roosevelt Street
Blue Lantern Café	605 Main Street
River's End Café	7 ½ Tarklin Hill Road
Ponderosa	242 Robinson Road
JT'S Pub	77 Slocum Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the Automatic Amusement Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the Automatic Amusement Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

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Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the Class II (Used Car) Licenses:

*Class II Licenses (Used Car):*

Rep/Weld Corp.	734 Main Street
White's Auto	211 Middle Road
Hayes Street Realty Auto Sales	3 Hayes Street
Ted's	308 Middle Road
South Coast Premlum	127 S. Main Street
Shawmut Auto	118 S. Main Street
Murray's Auto Sales	75 Lambert Street
South Main Street Ent. d/b/a Custom Auto	16 S. Main Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the Class II (Used Car) Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the Class II (Used Car) Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Gaspar read the following businesses and addresses for the Class III (Junk) Licenses:

*Class III Licenses (Junk):*

Rep/Weld Corp.	734 Main Street
Ray's Sales & Service	4 Morton Lane
Laycock Auto	1256 Main Street
Fred's Collision	36 Slocum Street

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the Class III (Junk) Licenses. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the Class III (Junk) Licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

**VII. DPW**

Hartley Street Eversource Permit

Chairman Gaspar stated that he was in communication with Mr. Menard and Anthony Veilleux from Eversource regarding the status of Hartley Street. Mr. Veilleux informed Chairman Gaspar that the DPW instructed for crews to be off the road beginning on December 15. Chairman Gaspar stated that Ms. Silva from the DPW had no issues with the crews working on Hartley Street, as long as the weather permits. Chairman Gaspar stated that Eversource must fulfill their obligation on Hartley Street so that paving can all be done at once. He also mentioned that it must be completed before the start of Wing Road. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the Eversource permit for Hartley Street. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the permit on Hartley Street. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

**VIII. SELECTMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IX. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Kelley invited the Board to help flip pancakes on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Council on Aging.

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#### **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION I**

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to enter Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Negotiations) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. Selectman Hinckley motioned to enter Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Negotiations) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar conducted a roll-call vote. Selectman Hinckley said yes, Selectman Wojnar said yes, and Chairman Gaspar said yes. Motion passed and the Board entered Executive Session.

The Board of Selectmen returned from Executive Session and opened regular session. Selectman Wojnar stated Board will accept the terms that were negotiated. He felt it was better to come to an agreement on their own, rather than have a third party dictate the outcome. Selectman Wojnar thanked his board members for their research in this matter. He mentioned that this will have an impact on the Town's budget; however, public safety is a priority since this is more than dollars and cents. He recalled injuries that officers received while serving for the Town and the premature retirement of leaders in the police department. Selectman Wojnar thanked the sacrifice that is made by serving as a police officer. Chairman Gaspar said the Board was thrown this information two weeks ago, and there was a lot to digest. He gathered contracts and information to do best for police department and community. He stated that Selectman Wojnar battled this for three years to get a conclusion. Chairman Gaspar emphasized that police officers are under scrutiny and need to make crucial, split decisions on a daily basis. Chairman Gaspar stated that he needs to put numbers aside at times and do what is best for the community. He did not agree with "post and percentage" and feels it is unfair and should have been a one lump sum for each officer, not based off of salary. Selectman Hinckley thanked Mr. Monticello for helping him understand the numbers. He was relieved and happy that a conclusion was made on this, as this was a team effort. Selectman Wojnar stated that the contract is aligned with others; he felt that this can viewed for changing the business model. He hoped for support from the Acushnet Police Department.

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to approve the proposal of the following: new step changes become effective FY25 and further that it be clear that the 2% base wage increase for the post is for the term of this proposal FY22 through FY25 so that they will report the agreement to JMLC. Selectman Hinckley motioned to approve the proposal of the following: new step changes become effective FY25 and further that it be clear that the 2% base wage increase for the post is for the term of this proposal FY22 through FY25 so that they will report the agreement to JMLC. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed. Chairman Gaspar conducted a roll call vote. Selectman Hinckley said yes, Selectman Wojnar said yes, and Chairman Gaspar said yes. Chairman Gaspar thanked the female officers for their service, and reminded everyone that when police officers leave home, they may not come back.

#### **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION II**

Chairman Gaspar stated that the Board will be entering Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation (Liquor License - Golf) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will not return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. Chairman Gaspar stated that the Board will be entering Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation (P.J. Keating) if an open

meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will not return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to enter both Executive Sessions (Liquor License – Golf, P.J. Keating). Selectman Hinckley motioned to enter both Executive Sessions (Liquor License – Golf, P.J. Keating). Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed. Chairman Gaspar conducted a roll-call vote. Selectman Hinckley said yes, Selectman Wojnar said yes, and Chairman Gaspar said yes. Executive Session began.

**XII. FUTURE BUSINESS**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin A. Gaspar, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Hinckley, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Wojnar, Member

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**Inventory of Meeting Documents**  
**Acushnet Board of Selectmen**  
**December 19, 2023 Regular Meeting**

**Minutes for Approval**

1. Oct. 16, 2023 Regular Session Minutes
2. Dec. 1, 2023 Regular Session Minutes
3. Dec. 5, 2023 Regular Session Minutes

**Meeting Mail**

1. Michelle Watts Letter of Resignation – Cultural Council

**Appointments**

1. Email with Jessica Katon "Acushnet COA Grant"

**New Business**

1. Michelle Santos Resume
2. Email with Patrick McIntyre "Ventilation System"
3. Model Request for Qualifications Comprehensive Project
  - a. EFI Global "Building and HVAC System Evaluation and Document Review"
4. Letter from Chief Chris Richmond "Recommendations for 2 full time officer appointments"
5. Equipment Purchase Authorization – Baroness FS900
6. Citizens Interest Form – Charlene Correia for Cultural Council

**Old Business**

1. 2024 License Renewals
2. Letter from TT to Chief Farland and Building Inspector "License Holders for 2024"
3. Email from Chief Tom Farland "Annual Inspections for liquor establishments"
4. Email from Collector Clerk "Licenses"
5. Memorandum from BOS "Common Victualier Licenses"
6. Email from BOH Clerk "com vict"
7. Email from BOH Agent "RE: Annual Inspections for liquor establishments"
8. Memorandum from BOS "Automatic Amusement Devices Report"
9. Letter from Chief Chris Richmond "Automatic Amusement Device Licenses Report" and reports

**DPW**

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1. DPW Eversource Hartley Street and map

FYI

1. Letter from Chief Tom Farland "Promotion of Part-time Paramedic to Career Firefighter/Paramedic"

Executive Session

1. Liquor License (Golf) – *documents not yet authorized for disclosure*
2. Police Negotiations - Town's Package Proposal
3. AFSCME – *discussion only*
4. P.J. Keating – *discussion only*

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