

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022
4:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

I call the January 11, 2022, regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order. I want to remind all present that this meeting is being audio and video recorded. Those present were Chairman David Desroches, Selectman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Selectman David Wojnar.

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MEETING MINUTES

III. MEETING MAIL

IV. APPOINTMENTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. EMA TOWER RESERVE FUND TRANSFER

Chair Desroches states that the EMA is requesting a transfer from the reserve fund in the amount of \$11,003.75 for construction of a communications tower. Selectmen Wojnar discussed ensuring the tower would not be unsightly for the neighborhood, and that this is an expense that could have been taken care of by the CARES Act funding. He hopes that at some point the Town can be reimbursed for this if opportunity arises. Selectmen Gaspar agrees with Selectmen Wojnar about looking into alternative funding, possibly ARPA funding.

Selectmen Wojnar motions to approve funding in the amount of \$11,003.75 for the construction of a communications tower for EMA. Selectmen Gaspar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1. SNOWPLOW DISCUSSIONS

DPW Superintendent Dan Menard discusses a request to increase the pay rate for snow plow drivers. He states that over the last few years, the number of plow drivers has significantly decreased, which results in an

increase in time it takes for plow drivers to clear the roads after a snow storm. He is requesting an increase in the hourly pay rate or a year-end bonus to incentivize plow drivers to apply and to continue to show up for each storm. Selectman Wojnar discusses that if increasing the rates can ensure that the town has enough snow plow drivers to keep the town's roads clear and safe in the case of a snow storm, then it would be worth the cost. Selectman Gaspar agrees that this increase would be a good incentive for drivers. Chair Desroches says he would be willing to do a \$10/hour increase in pay rate. Selectman Gaspar motions to increase the current state rates for snow plow drivers by \$10. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

Mr. Menard also discusses a new loader the DPW has purchased, and that it needs a plow blade in order to be used for snow plowing (so that snow does not come out both sides). Mr. Menard discusses how the blade will take 17 weeks to be delivered, so this will help for next year. Selectmen Wojnar motions to approve \$22,300 for a plow for the loader, taken out of this year's snow budget. Selectmen Gaspar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

VIII. SELECTMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Selectmen Wojnar asks that the Board votes conditionally to temporarily suspend new cluster mailboxes, which could then be issued to the residents to take to the post master. Selectman Wojnar motions to temporarily suspend cluster mailboxes. Selectman Gaspar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

IX. INFORMATION ONLY

1. The following boards/commissions have vacancies. Please consider serving your community by submitting a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen:
Agricultural Commission – 2 Alternate Vacancies
Beautification Committee – 7 Vacancies
Community Preservation Committee – 1 Housing Authority Vacancy
Cultural Council – 13 Vacancies
Open Space Committee – 1 Vacancy
*Town Moderator for May Town Meeting Needed

X. FUTURE BUSINESS

1. NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 12, 2022, Joint Mtg. w/ Finance Committee @ 7:00 PM

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct negotiations with non-union personnel (Interim Town Administrator Position- Richard Lafond) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the public body and the chair so declares, review of matters presented; votes may be taken.

REGULAR SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:30PM

Approved:

David Desroches,
Chairman

Kevin Gaspar, Sr.,
Member

David Wojnar,
Member