

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 14, 2021
4:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

I call the December 14, 2021, 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

1. JUNE 23, 2020

Selectman Gaspar moves to approve the minutes. Chair Desroches seconds the motion, as Selectman Wojnar was not present during that meeting. All are in favor, motion passes.

III. MEETING MAIL

1. RESIGNATION LETTER FROM BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Chair Desroches read the resignation letter written by Building Commissioner, James Marot. James Marot has accepted a position in the Town of Mattapoisett, and his last day working for the Town of Acushnet will be January 21, 2022. The Select board thanks Mr. Marot for his service to the Town of Acushnet.

2. RESIGNATION LETTER FROM DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF WIRES

Chair Desroches reads the letter of resignation sent from the Deputy Inspector of Wires, Tom DeCosta. The Select board thanks Mr. DeCosta for his service to the Town of Acushnet.

**3. CITIZEN INTEREST FORM TO BE APPOINTED TO CULTURAL COUNCIL
(ALEXANDRA SOQUI)**

Selectman Gaspar moves to appoint Ms. Soqui to the Cultural Council. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

1. ARPA CONSULTANTS: CAPITOL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

Chief Desroches explains that the Town of Acushnet will be receiving ARPA funds, and the town is looking to hire consultants to help with distribution and direction of these funds. Capitol Strategic Solutions, a consulting firm, is

present via Zoom to present their services to the Board via PowerPoint. The Select board listened and were able to ask clarifying questions after the presentation. Chair Desroches thanked the consultants for their time in presenting this information to the Board and expressed that the Board will be discussing this information and will get back to them with a decision on how they would like to proceed.

2. ANNUAL LICENSE APPROVALS

Selectman Gaspar read the list of Common Victualler license holders, along with the associated addresses. Selectman Gaspar moves to approve the Common Victualler licenses read by Selectman Gaspar. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes. Chair Desroches reads from the list of Alcohol License holders, and their associated addresses. Selectman Gaspar motions to approve the licenses from this list. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes. Selectman Gaspar reads the list of Restricted Music and Amusement license holders, along with their associated addresses. Selectman Gaspar motions to approve the licenses from the list. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes. Chair Desroches reads from the list of Class II (Used Car) License holders, Class III (Junk) License holders, and their associated addresses. Chair Desroches motions to approve the licenses. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. FIRE ASSESSMENT/JOB POSTING

Fire Chief Gallagher discusses the process by which the Town of Acushnet will hire a new Fire Chief in preparation for his retirement in September 2022. Chief Gallagher briefs the Select board on the plan that has been created. An Assessment Center, run by Badge Quest, will be coming in 90 days from Monday to administer examinations to interested candidates for Fire Chief and Fire Captain Positions. He anticipates that the results of these examinations will enable the Select board to choose a candidate to replace the Fire Chief in September. After contract negotiations, Chief Gallagher explains that this candidate would then be hired as Fire Captain until his retirement, working alongside Chief Gallagher in order to be mentored. He explains that the first step in this plan will be to post the open position of Fire Chief. Chief Gallagher then goes through the job posting that he and the Board have been working on. Chief Gallagher then requests approval from the Board of Selectmen on job posting and Assessment Center, which he can then post as soon as possible. Selectman Gaspar moves to approve the job posting and Assessment Center for Fire Chief. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

VIII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. FY22 COMMUNITY COMPACT IT GRANT CONTRACT

Ms. Hebert informs the Board of Selectman that the Town was awarded the FY22 Community Compact IT Grant for \$54,300. This grant is for infrastructure upgrades between town buildings in order to prepare for fiber optic cables.

2. ZBA CONSULTANT DISCUSSION

Ms. Hebert discusses the resignation of the ZBA Secretary. A new Secretary has been appointed, but needs training. Ms. Hebert asks the Board to approve training of the new Secretary by the former Secretary, Amanda Baptiste. Selectman Gaspar stated that he is willing to work to ensure this comes to fruition.

3. SHARED STREETS GRANT

Ms. Hebert discusses the state's new Shared Streets Grant. She shares that the town had originally applied for this grant previously during the first round, and were awarded funds to put in a bike path at Riverview Park. The town also applied for this grant during the second round in order to put sidewalks on Slocum Street, which was not awarded to the town. Ms. Hebert shares that she hopes the town will consider reapplying for this grant in spring 2022 in order to secure funds for sidewalks on Slocum Street. She shares that applying earlier in the round may make it more favorable to be accepted this time.

IX. INFORMATION ONLY

X. FUTURE BUSINESS

1. NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING: Friday, December 17, 2021 @ 11:00 AM

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 if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will not return to public session, review of matters presented; votes may be taken."

REGULAR SESSION ADJOURNED AT 5:30 PM

Approved:

David Desroches,
Chairman

Kevin Gaspar, Sr.,
Member

David Wojnar,
Member