

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 13, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairman David E. Wojnar, Selectman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., and Selectman Garry L. Rawcliffe- May 18, 2015 Regular Session Meeting Minutes Approved.

MEETING MAIL

DOER GRANT-The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division has approved a Competitive Grant award of **\$238,222** to fund:

- \$34,940 Town Hall—Condensing Boiler
- \$2,489 Town Hall—Programmable Thermostats
- \$28,373 Town Hall—LED Lighting Upgrades and Occupancy Controls
- \$33,046 Parting Ways Building—Condensing Boiler
- \$1,454 Parting Ways Building— Programmable Thermostats
- \$14,876 Parting Ways Building— LED Lighting Upgrades
- \$80 Parting Ways Building—Vendmiser Controls
- \$5,143 Emergency Medical Services— LED Lighting Upgrades
- \$9,097 Emergency Medical Services—Network Thermostats
- \$3,028 Emergency Medical Services— LED Lighting Upgrades
- \$14,079 Emergency Medical Services—Boiler Controls
- \$23,065 Acushnet Elementary School—Demand Control Ventilation
- \$38,287 Ford Middle School—Demand Control Ventilation
- \$14,245 Council on Aging—LED Lighting Upgrades
- \$1,809 Town Hall Garage—LED Lighting Upgrades
- \$14,211 DPW Barn—LED Lighting Upgrades

Please note that, due to the competitive nature of this grant program, **the use of these funds is restricted to the specifically approved projects listed in the contract.**

Please note that, due to the competitive nature of this grant program, the use of these funds is restricted to the specifically approved projects listed above.

Please note also that, due to high response to this solicitation, the Division was in some cases unable to fund the full requests of grantees, which may necessitate additional municipal or other funds to complete certain projects. Because of this, we would like to provide you with the flexibility to shift funds between the individual approved projects above, within the parameters of your overall grant award. The Division believes this flexibility will enable you to maximize the effectiveness of your grant award.

If you anticipate the need to shift funds from one approved project to another, please contact the Green Communities Grant coordinator, Jane Pfister, before proceeding. Likewise, please contact Jane if you anticipate not expending your full grant award due to project cancellation or postponement. ACUSHNET may have provided estimated figures for incentives from your gas and/or electricity utility provider. With specific projects identified for funding, DOER asks Acushnet to set up a meeting with your gas and/or electricity utility representative AND your Regional Coordinator to explore available incentives and the process and timing of applications. Your Regional Coordinator will confirm with me that this meeting has taken place. (Contingency #1)

Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve the grant, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

ACUSHNET ROAD RACE-the road race is in its 35th year. The race as always will be run on Labor Day, September 7, 2015 from the Ford Middle School. The support from the town helps to provide the Town with a quality community event. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to place on file, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

SUNNY SIDE SOLAR-received correspondence in regard to requesting permission to accomplish an engineering assessment on two parcels of town land to see if these parcels of land can support two very large scale solar farms to provide renewable energy to the Town. Selectman Gaspar motioned to forward the packet to the energy committee, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

CAR WASH REQUEST-received correspondence from St. Michael Youth Soccer requesting use of the fire station for a car wash on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 10:00 -3:00. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to place on file, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

APPOINTMENTS

HOUSING AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT-at the June 29, 2015 joint meeting with the Housing Authority the meeting was continued to today due to the fact that the Board of Selectmen were notified that there should be a resident on the Housing Authority Board. At the initial joint meeting, with Lanzoni the only volunteer, Racine had called for a delay so a tenant could be recruited to serve. Racine again suggested that a resident of the housing development had to fill the vacancy, but Wojnar said changes in state law governing the make-up of local housing authorities "are still in the works" and are not yet binding. "You don't have to appoint a resident" of the housing complex, Wojnar insisted, to which Racine replied that the authority's legal counsel "recommended we replace a tenant with a tenant." Racine said, "She's very well qualified, she's served on boards before, and (is) very intelligent." Moments later, he added, "It would be a good thing to have a woman on the board." When Gomes tried to allude to Lanzoni's past service on town boards, and his resignation from his last volunteer post, Wojnar cut off the attempt to discuss "personalities" rather than the qualifications of the two candidates. Madruga said he still "can't get a definite answer" from state officials on whether any town resident could run for the position in the next election, or if a tenant representative was required to permanently fill the position. Wojnar said the new state regulations will eventually allow tenants to pick their own representative without approval from voters at election time. Racine motioned to appoint Ms. Sousa to the position, Mr. Gomes was a yes, Mr. Rawcliffe was a yes and Mr. Gaspar was a yes. Motion passes. Madruga voiced his disappointment that Sousa had filed a letter seeking the appointment on July 2, but didn't appear at the authority's July 8 meeting to advocate for her nomination. Later in the debate, he added, "I don't know if a tenant being appointed there is a healthy thing." He said Bergeron "got absolutely no respect from these (other) three men on the board" when he served as tenant representative, which probably helped cause his resignation. Racine countered, "He was not harassed... he resigned because of his health," according to his resignation letter. "That's not true," Madruga fired back, calling for an honest discussion of the reasons why Bergeron quit. Not long after, Wojnar began calling for motions for a nomination and the matter was settled, at least temporarily. Gaspar called the continuing bickering among

Housing Authority members "one of the ugliest situations we have had to appoint someone to." As the authority members were headed out the door, he added, "I hope Ms. Sousa is treated with the utmost respect by the Housing Authority members."

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL- the Town has gone live with its new website, we think it is very user friendly with the home page having news, calendar and quick links tabs to navigate through different pages. You can also watch previously filmed meetings from our channel 9 and 18. We have implemented a way of keeping our residents informed of events and meetings that are occurring in the Town. We encourage all our residents to sign up for these notices.

BROOKSIDE MOBILE PARK REQUEST FOR RENT ADJUSTMENT-received correspondence from Mr. St. Amand requesting that a hearing be set up to allow him to raise his rents. There is a requirement that the hearing be posted in the newspaper and to the tenants association at least 7 days prior to the hearing. We will check with counsel to see if he is available on July 27th at 6:00 p.m. and set the date.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS-Various Departments are requesting amendments to their budgets for year-end housekeeping. The DPW is requesting to move \$13,500 from multiple line items into the New Bedford Water bills line item to cover a 13 month billing year due to a change in New Bedford Billing. The Fire Department needs to move funds from vehicle repair in the amount of \$449.04 and increase its additional equipment line item for self-contained breathing apparatus. The Fire Department also needs to transfer \$191.66 into additional equipment from membership and dues for 4 cameras. Golf Committee would like to increase Food Supplies and Energy by \$4,500 and decrease salaries clubhouse & advertising by the same. The Golf Committee would also like to decrease clubhouse salaries by \$4,600 and increase insurance by the same. The Board of Selectmen need to decrease the r&m building line item by \$2,000 and increase street lights by the same, due to electricity being at an all-time high this year. Selectmen Gaspar motioned to approve all budget amendments, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motions Pass.

RESERVE FUND TRANSFER- the Treasurer/Collector has an FY15 budget shortfall due to underestimated appropriation in the Pensions/Medicare line and do not have the funds to do a budget amendment. The amount is \$4,900.92. Selectmen Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

COUNCIL ON AGING EOE FORMULA GRANT-the Council on Aging has applied for and has been granted an FY16 Formula Grant in the amount of \$4,500. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

LIONS CLUB SPECIAL ONE DAY LICENSE- the Lions Club is requesting a special license to sell alcohol at the Apple Peach Festival on Saturday, September 12 & Sunday the 13th from

10:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

GOLF COURSE NEW HIRE-Steve Tibbels is recommending two grounds keepers for seasonal employment in his department. Selectman Gaspar motioned to appoint both gentleman, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FINAL WATER FEES-water service fees due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the water department accounts receivable for the month of June 2015 amounting in the aggregate to \$398,901.50. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

FINAL SEWER FEES- sewer service fees due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the water department accounts receivable for the month of June 2015 amounting in the aggregate to \$140,052.55. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

FINAL WATER BILL CHARGES-final water bill charges due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the water department accounts receivable for the month of June 2015 amounting in the aggregate to \$686.40. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

CHAPTER 90 FUNDS-the DPW has done work that used Chapter 90 funding on Cedar Hill Drive the reimbursement request is \$119,753.85. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.
The DPW has done work that used Chapter 90 funding on Kendrick, Orchard and Rock Streets the reimbursement request is \$33,034.52. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.
The DPW has done work that used Chapter 90 funding on streets in the village district the reimbursement request is \$47,042.00. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.
The DPW has done work that used Chapter 90 funding on Reservation Road the reimbursement request is \$61,465.62. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to approve, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

WATER/SEWER SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT- Water Department Superintendent John Westgate's report on recent efforts to cut losses from the municipal water lines, estimated to cost the town about \$98,000 a year in unbilled water flows. The quest to find possible water line leaks and other loss sources was greatly aided by a \$5,950 contract to survey the town's water lines this spring, finding six line breaks, six leaky fire hydrants, and one service line to a home that had sprung a leak. The testing was ordered by selectmen after they noticed a spike in water usage without a corresponding hike in water revenues.

Finding and repairing the broken water lines, and three of the hydrants should save the town's water users nearly \$50,000 in unbilled water purchased from New Bedford and flowing through the system without generating any revenue for the department, Westgate reported. He noted the water line leaks were costing the town a loss of 48 gallons per minute, totaling an estimated \$97,474 in lost revenues; that figure should be cut in half for the remainder of the year by the

repairs completed in June. "That's a savings for our residents," who support the system through user fees, stated Chairman Wojnar.

Five old faulty fire hydrants were estimated to be losing a total of 33 gallons per minute, or about \$67,000 in lost revenues over the course of a calendar year, Westgate reported. Three of those hydrants have been repaired, and the others are scheduled for repair or replacement, he indicated. The superintendent said repairs are costly, and he would like to set up a program to replace all of the older hydrants in town with new ones, at a rough cost of \$1,800 each; repair kits to rebuild older hydrants are over \$1,000 each, he said.

Since state Department of Environmental Protection regulations for municipal water systems require leak detection inspections every two years, Selectman Kevin Gaspar suggested a regular testing schedule should be set up by the water department, and funded with a Town Meeting article every other year.

"That leak detection testing is probably the most important thing that we've done" to improve the efficiency of the water system, Wojnar said. When Westgate suggested an upgrade plan to eventually replace all of the town's older hydrants, selectmen were in support of that idea as well.

"Stay on top of everything" that can keep the system operating at top efficiency, Selectman Garry Rawcliffe told Westgate.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

CAR CRUISE-the Town Administrator requested the Selectman to close Main Street for the Car Cruise which will be August 27, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. The car cruise doesn't start until 5 p.m. but last time people were showing up early so we need to get a head start on the road closer. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to close the road, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

MUNICIPAL LOAD AGGREGATION-the Town is one of the first 4 or 5 communities that have made it through DOR and now we are on the way through the DPU which is the 2nd process. I have been working with Scott Durkee with the City of New Bedford he has been very helpful and he is very familiar with things that are out of my expertise. I have been serving on a committee with him and a few other individuals, we are moving forward and looking towards a September bid.

TELEVISION RECYCLE-the DPW has encumbered funds to do a recycling of televisions which we will try to pull together in September.

INFORMATION ONLY

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 6:10 P.M.

6:10 P.M. Chairman Wojnar asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Selectman Gaspar made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Contract Negotiations. The motion was seconded by Selectman Rawcliffe and all were in favor. Motion passes. Chairman Wojnar asked for a roll call vote.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

AGGREGATION PLAN UPDATE-the plan has to be in place to make a decision as we are the first community in the area that is ready to go with this. Alan will be attending a meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 in Boston with the Department of Public Utilities for its first set of information requests.

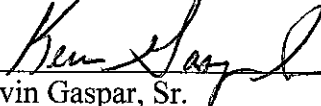
INFORMATION ONLY

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 5:00 P.M.



David E. Wojnar

Garry L. Rawcliffe



Kevin Gaspar, Sr.
BOARD OF SELECTMEN