

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 4:00 P.M. by Selectman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., and Selectman Garry L. Rawcliffe- Meeting Minutes Approved August 10, 2015 and August 24, 2015 Regular Session

MEETING MAIL

RESIGNATION FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE- received correspondence from Frank Kuthan regarding his resignation from his School Committee Position, it is with regret that I have to resign as I have served on the Committee for Eleven Years and have enjoyed my years of service. Chairman Wojnar thanks Mr. Kuthan for his service he represented the school department with integrity. Would like to have Mr. Kuthan in to give him a citation. Selectman Gaspar motioned to place on file, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

APPOINTMENTS

CLASSIFICATION HEARING- Kelly Koska our Principal Assessor gave the Selectmen the Assessors recommendation regarding the FY16 tax shift. The Assessors voted to recommend a 1.20% tax shift. Selectman Gaspar asked about solar farm personal property the Wing Lane Property brought in \$76,360 for Personal Property tax this year. A lot of other tax revenue is generated from the utility companies. Selectmen Gaspar is inclined to leave the shift at the 125% as it has been the past few years. The debt exclusion for the Police Station will be hitting the books and we told the taxpayers we would be fair and that their taxes would be a certain amount. I don't want to make anyone's taxes go up any more than they are. Selectman Rawcliffe asks the tax bills that will be due now will they be estimated or are they based on current value. Ms. Koska explains the taxes are based on the current value based on the FY15 certified value. The impact of the debt exclusion is only moving forward in FY16 there would be no back bill. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to keep the tax shift at the same rate as last year with the 125% split, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

OLD BUSINESS

ACCOUNT CLERK APPOINTMENT-the Finance Director and Town Administrator have interviewed numerous applicants for the position and at this time they are not prepared to make a decision. They would like time to conduct more interviews before placing an applicant in front of the Board for approval. Selectman Gaspar motioned to table, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

QUAKER WELLS-at a former Selectmen's meeting the Board asked for a review of the site as there was interest in purchasing the property from the Town for a solar farm. Back in 1999 the site was in serious danger of development as a six house development. The parcel was purchased with the help of the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services Self-Help Program for the purpose of conservation and passive recreational use. The Selectmen would have to petition the legislature if a change of use was wanted. At this point it would be safe to say it should be kept as open space. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to send a notice to the Park

Dept. and Conservation Dept. to see if they have any interest in putting a plan together for nature trails and possible parking, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

NEW BUSINESS

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL-received notification from the Buzzards Bay Coalition advising the Town that Tilcon intends to sell lots on Map 25 to the Acushnet River Reserve. The lots are currently assessed and taxed under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 61B. The option to purchase the land that is the subject hereof, in favor of the Town, as set forth in Section 9 of Chapter 61B is not applicable in this transaction. The basis is that none of the enrolled land is being converted to residential, industrial or commercial use upon its acquisition. The use of the land will remain unchanged. Selectman Gaspar motioned to waive the Town's right of first refusal, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

CLEAN ENERGY (SOLAR FARM PILOT PROGRAM)-received correspondence from Clean Energy Collective regarding 2 properties in Acushnet that they would like to add solar projects on. Clean Energy is requesting the Town to start a pilot program where the tax payments are both reasonable and normalized over a 25 year term. The Assessors have broken down the taxes the Town would receive if the program was put into place. The first property would be assessed at 1,200,000.00 which calculates for 25 years at an \$18.28/1000 rate proposed annual pilot would be \$11,406.72 per year and the second property would be assessed at 2,400,000.00 at the same rate would bring in \$22,813.44 for the 25 years. This would bring in the same amount of money but just at a different rate of time. All Selectmen were in agreement to have Mr. Coutinho reach out to George Woodbury and determine what would be a better deal for the town. Selectman Rawcliffe motioned to reach out to Woodbury and do some research, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

VERIZON UTILITY LICENSE- received correspondence from Verizon regarding the License Agreement for the police Station located at 64 Middle Road. This gives Verizon rights to perform work on the property. This License Agreement will be in effect until such time as an Easement is procured from the Town. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the license, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WATER ABATEMENT- the DPW is asking the Board to abate a \$1,587.00 water bill due to a billing error. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Chairman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

FINAL SEWER BILL CHARGES- final sewer bill charges due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the Sewer Dept. accounts receivable for the Month of September 2015 amounting in the Aggregate to: \$281.40. Selectmen Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

FINAL SEWER CHARGES-final sewer bill charges due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the Water Dept. accounts receivable for the Month of August 2015 amounting in the Aggregate to: \$380.10. Selectmen Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

FINAL WATER CHARGES-final water bill charges due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the Water Dept. accounts receivable for the Month of September 2015 amounting in the Aggregate to: \$1,591.60. Selectmen Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

SEWER SERVICE FEES- sewer service fees due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the sewer department accounts receivable for the month of September 2015 amounting in the aggregate to \$140,833.40. Selectmen Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

WATER SERVICE FEES- water service fees due the Town of Acushnet as posted in the water department accounts receivable for the month of September 2015 amounting in the aggregate to \$507,933.97. Selectmen Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Rawcliffe seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

WATER/SEWER SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ENERGY AGGREGATION-all towns are very close to going out to bid and SRPEDD is asking for representatives to be present and duly authorized to execute a contract for supply of electricity service agreement for bid day. Chairman Wojnar and Town Administrator Coutinho will be attending the opening.


RETIREMENT- Town Administrator Alan Coutinho gave his letter of retirement to the Board as to give enough notice. He plans on retiring in June of 2016. Selectman Gaspar says he will miss Mr. Coutinho and even though we always haven't seen eye to eye he feels Alan has always had the town's best interest at heart. Has always taken his work with him even on vacations. We will have a difficult time replacing him.

INFORMATION ONLY

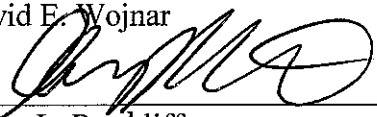
PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE-the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the petition of a proposed subdivision of land on Allen Street owned by Jose & Victoria Dalomba. To eliminate the non-conforming status of the property by creating a private road. File

Approved:

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 5:15 P.M.



David E. Wojnar



Garry L. Rawcliffe



Kevin Gaspar, Sr.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN