

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

Monday, June 21, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

I call the June 21, 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.

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda only requires a single motion as follows:

Should the Board concur, the following motion may be in order:

To approve the Consent Agenda including the release of the minutes of the Regular Session Board of Selectmen's Meeting of February 25, 2020, June 30, 2020 & November 16, 2020 Executive Session as presented.

III. MEETING MAIL

1. Letter from Richard Gwozdz-Interest Appointment to the Historical Commission; Selectman Gaspar Motioned to Appoint, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.
2. Letter from Charles Leonard-Interest Appointment to the Board of Appeals (Alternate); Selectman Gaspar Motioned to Appoint, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.
3. Letter of Resignation from Finance Comm. Member-Ron Melbourne; The Board spoke about vacancies and, we should send out a memo asking Board Chairs to let us know if members are not attending meetings. The Board thanked Mr. Melbourne for his service to the Town.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

1. FEE TELEPHONE POLES/BATTERY STORAGE FOR SOLAR (JIM MAROT); would like to add two additional fees relating to the explosion of solar projects hitting the community. This would be an effort to encourage developers to keep transmission and control lines underground. Suggests a fee of \$5000.00 per pole. He also suggests

charging for battery storage at \$5000.00 per MW of storage.
Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the fees, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2. DON JACOBS –UNION WAGE & CLASS UPDATE, Mr. Jacobs came before the Board to discuss the Wage & Class Study. There is a goal & purpose to take a look at what the employees pay grades and levels are at compared to other Towns and developed job descriptions to also compare level of experience and knowledge. Mr. Jacobs said communication is key and having this policy in place is most important to have in writing. Mr. Gaspar thanks Mr. Jacobs for his time tonight, looking forward to go through all information.
Chairman Desroches also thanked Mr. Jacobs and look forward to having the plan in place. no votes taken.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. FIRE CHIEF CONTRACT APPROVAL

The Board has come to an agreement with the Fire Chief for his contract which will commence on July 1, 2021 and terminates on June 30, 2023. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the contract, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY22 APPOINTMENTS-SEE ATTACHED LIST; Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the list with holds, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2. GOLF CAPITAL UPDATE & GOLF WAGE & CLASS;

Golf Committee submitted a memo as a reference the revenue plan of \$1,365,000 for FY21 has been achieved and will end the year with a significant excess of revenue. They asked to tap into the golf Reserve Fund of \$100,000 to replace parts that are outdated. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the transfer, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes. The Board also discussed the wage & class for golf. Selectman Gaspar would like more time to look into the rankings and this was tabled to next meeting.

3. CARES REQUEST-PRINTER/SCANNER;

The Board of Health has requested the purchase of a large scale scanner that all departments can use for plans and the like. It is acceptable under

the cares funding. Having the ability to use this would also give us the opportunity to send plans out electronically and we could also charge a fee to make extra copies. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the purchase, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

LIBRARY OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE AREA;

The Library has requested an outdoor performance area stage, Mr. Marot believes that it could be about \$20,000 with work done in house. It could probably seat 40 people. This is also covered under cares funds. Selectman Wojnar also thinks it would be a good template for Lake Street. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the purchase, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The Town of Acushnet ("Town") recognizes the importance of online social media networks as a communication tool. The use of social media presents certain risks, and carries with it certain responsibilities. Social Media, while a relatively new form of activity, does not change the law or expectations around public service. The Town recognizes that employees and officials have the right to participate as citizens in public forums and discussions (including social media platforms) on matters of public concern. However, that right is balanced against the legitimate interests of the Town in promoting accountability, responsible and mature judgment, and the efficiency of the public services it performs through its employees and officials. The goal is to ensure that use of social media advances, rather than impedes, the operation of government. To that end, this policy establishes guidelines for employees' personal use of social media, as well as for the official use of social media by Town employees and officials for government-related purposes. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the Policy as presented, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

5. FY22 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DISCUSSION;

The Board discussed the goals for the next year that should be focused on. Water, Solar Pilots, Parking lot development for Slocum Street, Outside Dining, Cares, promote hospitality, gifts to give re-development, meals tax, senior work off program maybe golf, library or COA could utilize. Also we just adopted a social media policy, which we could use to make more notifications. No votes taken.

6. PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS; BOARD OF SELECTMEN, PLANNING, & GOLF;

There were three personnel employment agreements that needed to be voted on of the above. The Board of Selectman would like the Planning Board to make the vote for the new Planning Director. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen's Assistant's contract, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes. Golf was also not voted on.

7. FIRE –RFP FOR ASSESSMENT CENTER;

Chief Gallagher came in to discuss the process of the assessment center which was previously used by the Police Dept., this would most likely be an appointment in January 1, 2022 but would like to keep the ball rolling for Fire Captain candidates. The call volume on the EMS side is up, so the revenue will probably mimic last year's projections. The Board made no vote and will bring up at their next meeting.

VII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1. NEW BEDFORD WATER/SEWER RATES

Kathy Silva is here to present the new increased rates that NB has sent to the Town. The increase is \$4.10 in water and \$5.25 in sewer. The Town should come up with a tier rate during covid water usage was high. The Town has not raised it rates for water and Ms. Silva states that she would like to increase by 2 ½% for water. Selectman Gaspar was not comfortable with that at this time. Selectman Wojnar motioned to table, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2 CURBSIDE SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION CONTRACT;

The contract for the Curbside Pick-up has gone out to bid and Waste Management is the lowest bidder. The contract outlines holidays, delays in collection etc... Town Counsel has approved the contract to form. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

VIII. TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

IX. INFORMATION ONLY

The following boards/commissions have vacancies – Please consider serving your community by submitting a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen:

Agricultural Commission-1 Vacancy 2 Alternate Vacancies, Beautification Committee-10+ Vacancies , Board Appeals-1 Alternate Vacancy, Community Preservation Committee-2 Vacancies, Cultural Council-2 Vacancies, Finance Committee-1 Vacancy, Historical Committee-2 Vacancies

The Board discussed No Parking signs on Slocum Street. No votes taken.


IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XI. FUTURE BUSINESS

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 6:20 P.M.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Desroches", written over a horizontal line.

David Desroches, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Wojnar", written over a horizontal line.
David WojnarA handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Gaspar, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.
Kevin Gaspar, Sr.,
Board of Selectmen