

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

Monday, June 7, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

I call the June 7, 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 as presented.

III. MEETING MAIL

1. LETTER FROM JOHN HOWCROFT RESIGNING FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Howcroft has been a member of the Committee off and on for years. He is resigning due to a recent appointment to the school committee. The Board thanks Mr. Howcroft for his service to the town. No vote taken.

IV. APPOINTMENTS

1. JT'S PUB HEARING:

Change in Manager on Liquor License. Justin Tavares requested the change in manager, he is purchasing the business only not the building, all paper work is in order. The Board motioned to approve the change and the office will send the paperwork to ABCC for their approval, Selectman Desroches asked for a motion to approve, Selectmen Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

Eagle Scout Certificate Presentation-Brian Poirier; Mr Poirier achieved 35 Merit Badges and worked on a project to improve an Acushnet Town sign. The Board Congratulates Mr. Poirier on his Eagle Scout Achievement. No vote taken.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. VACATION CARRY-OVER

the discussion from a previous meeting regarding vacation carryover time for the DPW. Chairman Desroches said he was still against allowing employees to carry over vacation days because it is in the union contract not to allow it. Selectman Wojnar was still good for allowing union workers to carry over the days due to COVID this past year 2020 was a crazy year and that all rules should be put to the side. Selectman Wojnar wants to be flexible for employees and make sure they enjoy working for the town. Selectman Gaspar said he understood that it is not in the DPW contract to allow to carry over days, but last year they had to let some employees do it. Selectman Gaspar agreed that they need to make sure people use their vacation days, but for this year they should allow the employees to carry over the days. Selectman Gaspar mentioned that it is the last three weeks of the year and DPW needs employees for the current projects they are working on. Selectman Gaspar agreed with carrying over the vacation this year, but not next year. A motion was made and voted 2-1 to allow DPW workers to carry over vacation days with Chairman Desroches voting against.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. VACATION BUY BACK REQUESTS

As stated in the contracts clause that offers buy back provisions one is asking for 10 days and others are asking for 5 days, Selectman Gaspar is not in favor as stated previously. Selectman Wojnar would like to have Ms. Hebert follow vacation time during the year under her purview. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2. AFSCME APPROVAL OF SIDE LETTER –LIBRARY HOLIDAYS:

The Library agreed to a side letter for the collective bargaining agreement AFSCME Council 93 The library has hours that vary from the Town Hall and make it difficult to correlate which hours, should be counted as holiday pay and the parties set the paid holiday schedule for the libraries employees for the year 2022, Juneteenth was added and the library will be closed on June 20th of this year. Chairman Desroches asked for a motion to approve, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

3. INTERDEPARTMENT TRANSFERS

The Finance Team brought forward for June 2021 Inter-department Transfers, please see attached list for approval. Ms. Hebert explained that at this time Municipalities are allowed to move money from line items which coincides with the municipal modernization act. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve as

presented, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

4. FY22 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Discussion of goals and objectives for the fiscal year 2022. Town Administrator Julie Hebert explained to the board that it is important for them to look at where the town is and where they want the town to be going forward. Everyone has such good ideas, and Ms. Hebert would like the Board to send her five goals or projects that they would like to work on for FY22. She will take a look at all the ideas and put it on the agenda to discuss for the next meeting. Selectman Wojnar said he liked the idea of it being a virtual whiteboard of their ideas. He said they all have a vision for the town and he was very excited to get momentum behind some of everyone's thoughts. No vote taken.

5. CHAPTER 61 RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

The Board discussed the right of first refusal for Map 18 Lot 61 16,250 sq. ft parcel which is currently receiving ch. 61 credit. Both the Assessor's Office and the Conservation Commission agreed to not exercise their right. The property is located at 329 Middle Road, Selectman Gaspar motioned to not exercise the right of first refusal since it is a small piece of property, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion passes.

6. RUSSELL MEMORIAL BUILDING PLAN

Selectman Desroches explained that the library has been vacant for six years or more. The Board originally wanted to make it housing for veterans, but that plan fell apart due to the cost it just didn't seem feasible. Selectman Desroches asked the board what they should do with the property. Maybe get the building appraised and put it up for sale. Mr. Gaspar agreed that they should look into selling the library. Selectman Gaspar explained that the real estate market is great right now. Selectman Desroches said he believed that the decision to sell the building must be taken to town meeting. There is also a Veterans Memorial there that might be able to be moved to the site at Pope Park. Ms. Hebert said she would do some research as to what the façade and or what would need to be done, if the property was sold. No vote was taken.

7. BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED RIDE

Buzzards Bay is requesting approval of their ride through Acushnet, Police & Fire have been notified and have signed off. The cyclist will use Long Plain & Perry Hill Road on October 3, 2021 no roads will be closed due to the ride. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

8. RIVERVIEW GRANT AUTHORIZATION

This is a coastal remediation Ms. Hebert just wanted to inform the board that it could be a possible 25% match, Buzzards Bay Coalition is excited about the project. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

9. GOLF COURSE STAFF ADDITIONS

The management & Operations is requesting part-time staff for the upcoming season. Operations: Romain Payant- Maintenance, summer students-Casidy Brum, Mac Inggham, Conor Walsh all are replacement and funded with in fy21 fy22 budgets. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve as presented, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

10. AMBULANCE ABATEMENT

A resident of the Town is seeking an abatement on an ambulance bill. The resident meets the criteria for the abatement. Selectman Gaspar motioned to abate, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

VII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1. FY22 ROAD PROJECTS

The Selectman discussed road work with Mr. Menard, who said he made a list of the worst roads in town based on the complaints from residents. The streets on his list to be fixed are Mattapoissett Road, Oliveira Avenue, Wildrose Lane, Cushman Street, and Thomas Street. Selectman Wojnar asked about Monmouth Street. Mr. Menard said he did not put it on the list because of the sewer project that could possibly be happening on that street. Selectman Gaspar said there is no rush to approve roadwork on all the streets because not all of them will get done before winter. Selectman Gaspar motioned to do roadwork on Mattapoissett Road and Wildrose Lane, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2. NYE AVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

The Board spoke with Mr. Menard about seeing if he would talk to the engineer about his fees and seeing if we could make changes to the bid. Selectman Gaspar mentioned that the Town is not eligible for certain grants due not having shovel ready projects. Town Meeting approved the Nye Avenue Project Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the project not to exceed \$34,500, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

SEWER PRIVILEGE FEE

There are 2 house lots on Labonte Street number 4 & 6 for the Town of Acushnet constructed sewer lines the parcel detailed has applied for connection to the sewer system after a private extension of the public sewer and is subject to a sewer privilege

fee. Both are in the amount of \$12,610.41. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectmen Wojnar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

4. CHAPTER 90 PROJECT REQUEST ADDENDUM

Mr. Menard is looking for Chapter 90 funding for 4 roads pave & reclaim-Conduit, Homestead, Myrtle & Wilbur funding for \$125,000, Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve, Selectman Wojnar seconded and all were favor. Motion Passes.

VIII. TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

IX. INFORMATION ONLY

Conservation Commission Enforcement Order (Wilfred Lane)

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

X.EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to enter "Executive Session under G.L.30A§21(a)(3) to conduct strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Fire Chief) or to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel if an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body as the chair so declares and the Board will not return to public session." All Selectmen were a yes vote. Motion Passed

XI. FUTURE BUSINESS

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 6:00 P.M.



David Desroches, Chairman



David Wojnar



Kevin Gaspar, Sr.,
Board of Selectmen