

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the Consent Agenda including the minutes of the Regular Session Board of Selectmen's Meeting of April 8, 2019 as presented, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

I. MEETING MAIL

1. LETTER FROM JOHN TAVARES REGARDING TUESDAY OPENING HOURS

Mr. Tavares sent in a letter of appreciation for the Town Hall being open until 7 p.m. on Tuesday's. The Board took it under advisement. Thanks for the letter. No vote taken.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. CHANGE OF MANAGER FOR BONVILLE'S MARKET (NANDUBHAI PATEL, MANAGER)

Bonville's Market has requested a change in manager, all information is intact to approve and send to ABCC. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the change in manager for Bonville's Market as presented, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2. ROSS BILODEAU -POLE HEARING ON THE PETITION OF VERIZON & NSTAR TO PLACE ONE JO POLE 75/13.5 ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF KEENE ROAD

Eversource requested permission to locate poles, wires and other fixtures along public ways. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve placing one JO Pole 75/13.5 on the Westerly side of Keene Road as presented, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

3. NICHOLAS GOMES PRESENTATION OF PAPER STREETS (ROTCH ST., HINDLE ST.)

The Board discussed with Attorney Nick Gomes about two paper streets that abutters are hoping to acquire. The town will have to discontinue, or dissolve,

the streets, then the abutters can take half on each side. Mr. Gomes told the board that the town did not follow proper procedure when it accepted the two roads years ago. Instead of the town owning the streets, Mr. Gomes said the town has an easement over the land. Paper streets are roads that exist on paper, usually from a planned development, but not actually built. Usually, they are real roads, with houses on either side, but at some point, the road ends on the ground, but continues on paper. If the paper street provides access to town property, or a private property that would be landlocked without it, then discontinuing the paper street can cause a lot of legal issues for the town. The board discussed at length the method Mr. Gomes used to come to his conclusions, with some surprise that he believed the town did not own the underlying land. Selectman Gaspar expressed concern that discontinuing the streets could create a hardship for owners of any lots beyond the streets, making it impossible for them to access their properties. He said the town has to make sure they are respecting the rights of anybody who has developable land that has to be accessed by the roads in question. Chairman Cabral asked that Mr. Gomes do more research on the titles to the Rotch and Hindle. The plan, originally, had been to take a look at all the paper streets in town, but Mr. Cabral suggested they deal with only the two in question now. He asked Mr. Gomes to provide a cost estimate to the town before proceeding. No vote taken.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DRAFT LANGUAGE PETITIONING EXEMPTING THE FIRE DEPT. FROM CIVIL SERVICE AS REQUESTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEEDING APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve a change in the language of the petition that was forwarded for special legislation to remove the fire department from civil service requirements. The change in language was made by the House of Representatives, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNING

The Town & the Union have been negotiating the Police Contract for some time now. The contract expired in June of 2018. There were some language changes and COLA added. The contract will cover the period from July, 1 2018- June 30, 2021. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the Police Department Memorandum of Agreement as presented Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. DUCK RACE VIDEO TAPING & PRESENTATION ON CHANNEL 18 APPROVAL (LION'S CLUB)

The Lions Club is holding its annual duck race at the head of the river on June 17, 2019. They requested to have it filmed and shown on Channel 18.

Selectman Desroches motioned to approve the video and presentment of the Duck Race on Channel 18 as presented, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

2. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR FIRST READING

The Employee Handbook would become a policy of the Board of Selectmen. It has been reviewed by HRS, Inc. This is for first reading only and will need to be reviewed by Town Counsel prior to distribution. Town meeting will need to vote the by-law. No vote taken.

3. CURRENT APPOINTED BY-LAW COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The current By-law Committee members are as follows:

Mark Laplante, Ray Leblanc, Carol Westgate, Pam Labonte, Jim Marot, Roger Cabral-alternates John Howcroft & Norval Stanley

Chairman Cabral spoke about the Committee and their last meeting the committee met for a few hours to consider the by-laws and changes slated for the next Town Meeting. Chairman Cabral suggested that the Selectmen should endorse the by-law before it is placed on the warrant and it should not go to the Committee without discussion from Planning and the Selectmen. No vote taken.

4. INTER-DEPARTMENT TRANSFER APPROVALS

It is customary at the end of the fiscal year to transfer funds from line items in the respective department when there is a shortfall during the year. Please see attached sheet of current transfers. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the Inter-Department Transfers as presented and forward to the Finance Committee, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. The Finance Committee has reviewed the request and has approved. Motion Passes.

5. FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUEST (\$6,000)

The Fire/EMS Department has requested from the Reserve Fund \$6,000 for the replacement of the cement apron in front of Station #2. The weight of the pumper has not been kind to the surface making it cracked with stones protruding and drainage problems exist. To approve the Fire Department Transfer and forward to the Finance Committee. Selectman Desroches motion to approve the transfer and forward to the Finance Committee as presented in the amount of \$6,000.00, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

6. ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION DISCUSSION

Selectman Gaspar motioned to table to the next Selectmen's Meeting, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

IV. TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

1. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TOWN BARN HOURS

After many complaints that the DPW Barn is not very acceptable since it has such short hours. The board made the decision to increase the hours that the town barn is open on Saturdays. The extra two hours or so will make it easier for residents to dispose of leaves and yard debris. The Town Administrator said it was not a lot of money, but would be a convenience for the residents. The change will not start until July 1. Selectman Gaspar motioned to approve the extra hours and to open the barn later in the spring and keep it open through November, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

I accept a motion under G.L. 30A, § 21 (a)(2) to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiation with non-union personnel (Animal Control Officer, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Position) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining & litigating position of the public body as the chair so declares and not to return to public session.

Roll call vote: Selectman Gaspar, Selectman Desroches and Chairman Cabral

Roger A. Cabral

Kevin Gaspar, Sr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Desroches". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Desroches" clearly distinguishable.

David Desroches, Member
BOARD OF SELECTMEN