

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Selectman Michael Cioper- and Selectman Roger Cabral Meeting Minutes Approved- September 19, 2016, October 4, 2016, October 24, 2016, November 4, 2016 all Regular Session, November 4, 2016 Executive Session, December 5, 2016 Regular Session and October 3, 2017 Regular Session

**MEETING MAIL**

PROGRAM COORDINATOR RESIGNATION- the Selectman reviewed a letter of resignation from Council on Aging Program Coordinator Wendy Sylvia. Mr. Gaspar thanked Ms. Sylvia for the great work she did for the senior center. The Selectman confirmed that former COA Director Heather Sylvia was hired on an interim basis at the present time.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Selectman Gaspar opened the Classification Hearing with the following: In accordance with Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982, the Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the issue of allocating the local property tax among the following residential, open space, commercial, industrial, personal property. For the purpose of determining whether or not Acushnet shall remain with a classified tax rate as in past years.

Kelly Koska, Principal Assessor speaking on behalf of the Board of Assessor's, made a recommendation to shift the tax rate to 115% from 125%. She said the rationale behind the recommendation was to persuade businesses to come to Acushnet. Chairman Gaspar stated he felt that Acushnet had a "favorable tax rate" right now. Mr. Gaspar said he was very reluctant to change the tax shift. Selectman Michael Cioper said he felt that the "115% wasn't going to hurt anyone." Roger said he understood the rationale behind the shift, but said he was not sure that more businesses would come to Acushnet because of the tax rate. He said he was not sure what the motivation would be to shift the tax rate at this point. The Selectman voted 2-1 to keep the tax shift at the current 125%, with Michael Cioper in opposition. Town Administrator Brian Noble said that the new rate for FY18 for residential properties will be \$14.42 per thousand, down two cents from the FY17 rate of \$14.44; the commercial, industrial and personal property rate for FY18 will be \$18.50, down from the FY17 rate of \$18.57 per thousand. The rates reflect the 125% tax shift as voted by the Selectman

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY- The Town is committed to its duty to ensure effective stewardship of public money and other assets and resources for which it is responsible. It is the policy of the Town of Acushnet to prevent and deter all forms of fraud that could threaten the security of the Town's assets or its reputation. The Town is committed to prevention, detection, investigation and corrective action relative to fraud. The Town is committed to ensuring that the

opportunity to commit fraud is eliminated. It is most important that an ethical environment is created that flows through the entire organization. This Policy applies to all employees, appointees and elected officials of the Town of Acushnet. Selectman Cabral motioned to adopt, for first reading the Fraud Risk Assessment Policy as presented, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

**ELECTRIC PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE PROPOSED INCREASE-** The Building Commissioner is suggesting an increase in fees related to those charged for wiring permits. Many of the surrounding communities charge equal or greater amounts for equal services. As Building Commissioner I feel the proposed adjustments are fair and warranted. Please see the attached fee schedule.

Selectman Cabral motioned to raise the fees for electrical permits adjusting the wiring fee schedule as proposed by the Building Commissioner, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**MAIN STREET SEWER LINES-**Discussion ensued about the installment of the sewer lines on Main Street

Mr. Noble apologized to businesses in that area and stated the Department of Public Works is doing its best to get the work done efficiently and in consideration of the businesses. Mr. Noble stated that workers had hit some ledge in the road, but it was manageable. He said DPW Highway Superintendent Dan Menard and his crew were doing a fantastic job getting through the ledge.

**ORDER OF DECISION TO LAY SEWER LINES AND TO MAKE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE COST OF LAYING SAID SEWER LINES-** Mr. Noble suggested that the liens be recorded at the Registry of Deeds for the sewer assessments, even though they do not have the cost yet. "We record now, and the amounts will come later," he said, advising that if the assessments were recorded now the liens would not be a surprise to homeowners if they decided to sell. Selectman Cabral motioned to approve the order of decision to lay sewer lines and to make Assessments for the cost as presented, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

**WATER SHUT-OFF POLICY-PRESENTED FOR FIRST READING-** In order to ensure the financial health of the water enterprise fund it is important that customers pay water bills in a timely fashion to facilitate cash flow. In order to maintain the system, the Town periodically needs to access to customer's homes to inspect or replace equipment in order to provide a high level of service to those customers. Selectman Cioper motioned to adopt, for first reading the Water Shut-Off Policy as presented, Selectman Cabral seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**TOWN OF ACUSHNET**  
122 MAIN STREET, ACUSHNET, MA 02743  
**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

TEL: (508) 998-0225

FAX: (508) 998-0204

**ELECTRIC FEE SCHEDULE**

**RESIDENTIAL:**

	Current	PROPOSED		Current	PROPOSED
New Dwellings w/underground	\$160.00	\$200.00	Additional Wiring	\$40.00	\$40.00
Travel Trailers	\$40.00	\$50.00	In-Ground Pools (trench/bonding/final)	\$80.00	\$150.00
Heating System	\$40.00	\$50.00	Above Ground Pools (trench/final)	\$45.00	\$100.00
Underground Service (not with new house)	\$80.00	\$100.00	Temporary Service	\$40.00	\$50.00
Service Renovations	\$40.00	\$50.00	Alarm System	\$80.00	\$100.00
Additions	\$80.00	\$100.00	Minimum Charge	\$40.00	\$50.00
Roof Mounted Solar (installations under 25kW)	\$100.00	\$150.00	Ground Mounted Solar (installations under 25kW)	\$200.00	
Roof Mounted Solar (installations 25kW & UP)			Ground Mounted Solar (installations 25kW & UP)		

**COMMERCIAL:**

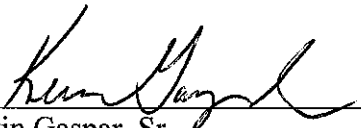
Minimum fee \$80.00 – for work totaling not over \$1,000.00	*change to \$100.00 minimum*
Plus \$50.00 for each additional \$1,000.00 of value up to \$50,000.00	
Then \$100.00 per \$10,000.00 thereafter	

- There will be a charge of \$40.00 (change to \$50.00) for every re-inspection necessitated by faulty or illegal installation, or not in accordance with requirements of the Massachusetts Electrical Code.
- Any person, firm, or corporation failing to procure a wiring permit from the inspector of wires **BEFORE** proceeding with any electrical work or installation shall be fined three (3) times the cost of the permit, each notice thereof being a separate offense.

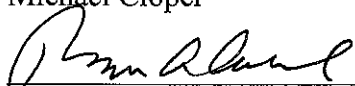
The Town's new 111F insurance for Police, Fire & EMS will be doing a presentation at the Police Station so the employees can better understand their coverage. We are paying the same amount but have brought up the coverage.

**INFORMATION ONLY**

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 6:15 P.M.

  
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Kevin Gaspar, Sr.

  
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Michael Cioper

  
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Roger A. Cabral  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN