

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairman Michael Cioper, Selectman Roger Cabral and Selectman Gaspar –No Minutes Approved

MEETING MAIL

CONSERVATION MEMBER RESIGNATION -Mark Brodeur resigned from his appointment as a member of the Conservation Committee. Mr. Brodeur has been on the Commission since 2001 the Board thanked him for his years of service it was greatly appreciated. No vote taken

APPOINTMENTS

Budget Presentations

1. Police Chief Michael Alves- Budget Presentation

Chief Alves stated to the board that he included money in his budget to have four officers on duty for all shifts. The increase is about \$209,000 and should be offset by overtime costs that will be reduced. The chief said that he needed to add to the salary budget to accommodate wage increases for two officers who earned college degrees, making them eligible for raises under the Quinn Bill. One budget item in Salaries that hasn't been included will be the % that will be given once the union contract which is being negotiated now is finalized.

The chief also discussed changes in the part time academy rules. It costs recruits more to go, so they are less likely to do it, so public safety careers are not as popular or desirable as they once were. The Administrative Assistant budget line item looks like it went up 32% but it really didn't the line item was pulled from the dispatch line item.

The chief added money in his budget to buy hybrid cruisers, which will run on gas and electricity. Cost is an extra \$7500.00 per vehicle, but the savings in gas should make up for that in a year or two.

2. Fire/EMS Director Kevin Gallagher-Budget Presentation

Chief Gallagher presented a budget that integrates the EMS department, the process started several years ago and the merger is now complete. The EMT's opted to get out of the union. The EMS salary budget assumes a 2% increase. The negotiations with the union are not completed, so the increase is an estimate to have at least some money available when the contract is finalized. All personnel, from EMS and Fire are now under one union.

The budget is for four full time paramedics and four full time firefighters. He said they have had seven not eight full timers, but now that they have activated the second ambulance, he wants to fill that last slot. He has been using Call Fire-fighters and overtime. He said he is not quite ready to hire, though, because the contract is still being negotiated.

3. Building Inspector Jim Marot-Budget Presentation

Mr. Marot said this is the first time for him running the Town Buildings line items, so it took some time and he moved some salary money around, but did not increase by much. The plumbing inspector Raymond LaFrance pretty much does all the inspections himself so I moved money from the part time salary budget for a 6% increase for Mr. LaFrance, who has not had an increase in years. We have had a major reduction in the maintenance salary line item due to going from 3 employees to 2 and I would like to use the funding to hire students from Old Colony it worked out well last year, we used them to cut grass and do odd jobs around town. It worked out so the town is not paying the crew to cut grass at their level of salary. Mr. Marot told the board that he would continue to pursue Green Community grant money as long as the town was eligible. He said past grants have paid for a variety of cost saving measures, such as new insulation, and new light bulbs. The town has also changed to more efficient gas boilers. Most of the savings to the town has come from the installation of LED lighting. All town buildings, except for the historical buildings have been changed over to LED. Mr. Marot also told the board the Town has been approached to purchase net metering power which could be a significant savings to the town upon average the annual savings could be about \$51,472. Town Counsel is reviewing the proposal and we would need an article voted on at Town Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

SCHOOL ROOFS- School Superintendent Dr. Paula Bailey & School Business Manager Kristin Flynn

Kristin Flynn, explained to the board the need to support a vote for the Statement of Interest with the Mass. School Building Authority, for a new roof on the Elementary School. A study done by CBI Consulting recommended replacing 63,000 sf of a roof that dates back to 1971. Estimated cost is \$1.2 million not including design and other fees. The MSBA reimburses local school districts for eligible construction projects, from 31–50% depending on a number of factors. She also said that the leaky roof has interfered with activities inside the building, with buckets in the hallway not helping much. Dr. Paula Bailey, told the board that because of the problem with the roof, other projects inside the building have been postponed. The department must submit the materials to the MSBA by February 16. Town Meeting will have to vote on any funds expended, and the town will be reimbursed for at least some of the costs. Selectman Cabral read the following motion:

Resolved: The Board of Selectmen having convened in an open session on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Acushnet, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 15, 2019 for the Acushnet Elementary School located at 800 Middle Road which describes and explains the deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future Priority 5 replacement of an approximate 63,000 square foot section of the Acushnet Elementary

School roof that requires increasing maintenance to repair leaks; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Selectman Gaspar seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

The School Department can now go to the next step in the application process.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT OPENING-The schedule for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant was presented at our November 13, 2018 meeting. The schedule put forth opens the Town Meeting Warrant on February 5, 2019 to start accepting articles and will close on March 5th to give enough time to hold hearings and bring the warrant to press. No vote taken

TOWN OF ACUSHNET DISPOSING OF LAND REGARDING FREETOWN SCREW-At the November 14, 2016 Town Meeting it was voted to convey to the Town of Freetown from tax title land depicted as Lot 1 of the Assessors Map 1 and believed to be owned by T.A. & D.A. Troy Co. for the purpose of transferring the land to Freetown Housing Authority for Senior Housing. Mr. Noble, Town Administrator explained to the board that Freetown wants to acquire the piece to combine it with an abutting piece it owns to build elderly housing on the parcel. Myriad problems have arisen during the years-long process. The parcel is contaminated, and although it was in tax title to Acushnet, the town never took it because of the contamination and associated cleanup costs. The Freetown Town Administrator is working with Mass Development for a Brownfields grant that will require the complete cleanup of the piece. The end result could be that Freetown owns land in Acushnet, or, another possibility is that the legislature re-draws the town line to put that piece in Freetown. All three Selectmen and Mr. Noble agreed that the parcel was not worth the trouble and if Freetown wanted it, they could have it any which way they could get it. No vote taken

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION ONLY

EXECUTIVE SESSION

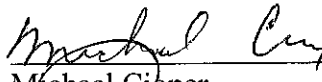
Chairman Cioper asked for a motion to go into Executive Session under G.L. c30A§21(a)(2) to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Treasurer/Collector) (Wage & Classification) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body as I so declare and we will not to return to public

session. I also accept a motion to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations under G.L. c30A§21(a)(3) (Fire/EMS Contract) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body as I so declare and we will not return to public session.

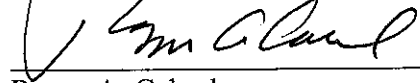
Roll call vote-Selectman Cabral, Selectman Gaspar and I am a yes, to move into Executive Session.

Roll call vote-Selectman Cabral, Selectman Gaspar and I am a yes, to adjourn Executive Session **NOT** to reconvene in open session.

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 6:30 P.M.



Michael Cloper



Roger A. Cabral

Kevin Gaspar, Sr.
Board of Selectmen