

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Selectman Michael Cioper- and Selectman Roger Cabral Meeting Minutes Approved- December 5, 2017 Regular Session

MEETING MAIL

RESIGNATION LETTER FROM COA OUTREACH SPECIALIST- The Board received a letter from Louann Jenkinson resigning from her position as Outreach Specialist at the Council on Aging. I would like to take the time to thank Ms. Jenkinson for her dedication to the Council on Aging. She will be truly missed by all. She has been a fixture at the COA for many years, I'm sure she will miss her time there too.

RESIGNATION LETTER FROM COA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER- The Board received a letter from Ms. Diana DeFrias resigning from her appointment on the Board of Directors for the COA. I want to thank Ms. DeFrias for her taking the time to be involved in the COA affairs and attending the meetings. I'm sure the other Board members will miss her.

RESIGNATION LETTER FROM POLICE DISPATCHER-The Board received a letter from Kelsey Carvalho resigning from her position as dispatcher for the Acushnet Police Department. Thank you Kelsey for your time here in Acushnet and best of luck in your future endeavors.

APPOINTMENTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

COA BUILDING USE POLICY- the COA has submitted its Building Use Policy for first reading. Chairman Gaspar has gone through the policy and was unsure what intent the deposit was for. COA Director Heather Sylvia was present to thank Mr. Noble for assisting with the Council on Aging Building Use Policy. The Board discussed the policy in its first reading and stated they would put it on the agenda in future meetings to discuss it with the public and receive comment.

The idea is to expand the use of the building, said Mr. Noble. Ideally, organizations would be able to use it for meetings and functions, and individuals would be able to rent it for functions. Selectman Cabral motioned to adopt for first reading the Council on Aging Building Use Policy as presented, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion passes.

ABATEMENT OF PHASE II SEWER BETTERMENT FOR TWO PARCELS-The Assessors have submitted correspondence to the Board of Selectmen requesting a letter authorizing the Assessors to abate the Fiscal 2018 Phase II Sewer Betterment installments for parcels Map 24.166 & Map 24.177.179.

These assessments have been long standing issue requiring resolution since the original assessments of the sewer betterments to these parcels were done erroneously. The sewer benefit is not available to either parcel.

Selectman Cioper motioned to approve sending a letter to the Assessors requesting the abatement of the Fiscal 2018 Phase II Sewer Betterment installments for parcels Map 24.166 & Map 24.177.179. Selectman Cabral seconded and all were in favor. Motion passes.

VEHICLE USE POLICY- The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and standards for Vehicle Uses-Municipal, Personal, & Stipends, Personal Vehicle Use for Work Related Travel, Municipal Vehicle Assignments, Commuting & Imputing Tax, Vehicle Accident Reporting, Responsibilities When Driving a Municipal or Personal Vehicle and Policy Exemptions. Selectman Cabral motioned to adopt, for first reading the Vehicle Use Policy as presented. Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion passes.

APPOINTMENT OF COA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBER- Mr. Gerard Bergeron had been voted to be an Associate Member on the COA Board of Directors with no voting rights. With the resignation of a COA Board Member it has been requested that the Board of Selectmen appoint Mr. Bergeron to a full voting member of the COA Board.

Selectman Cioper motioned to appoint Mr. Bergeron to the Council on Aging Board of Directors as a full voting member for the term of three years starting from January 9, 2018 through May 1, 2021.

The Board also discussed how to make the Senior Center a “full compliance” shelter during storms. Mr. Noble stated that he will make it part of the Capital Plan. In order for the building to be fully compliant, the building will need bathing facilities, he also said the aging generator has “experienced some reliability issues.” It is also not large enough to run the whole building, including air conditioning and refrigeration.

As it is now, the building is compliant as a warming center, but not for overnight.

Mr. Noble said the town and the center have everything else they need to be compliant, such as cots and kitchen facilities. The building already allows pets, which is now required by law.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SEWER PHASE II DEFERRAL -Annually the Board is asked to grant Special Assessment Deferrals of accounts (usually Seniors 65 & older) for the Sewer Phase II Project. Before you are an application for deferral from one taxpayer.

SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT- Postpone action as we weren’t able to confirm the numbers between the DPW, Town Accountant & Town Administrator last week due to weather.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

INFILTRATION /INFLOW PLAN

The town is currently developing a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) to evaluate and prepare long-term recommendations for the town's future wastewater disposal needs. This project will evaluate an expansion of the existing collection system, among other options, and will include measures for reducing I/I in the system. The first three phases of work analysis of needs areas is underway and scheduled to be completed in 2018. Chairman Gaspar would like to invite Woodard & Curran in again to speak on the phase of work being done.

COMSTAR

New procedure for collection of past due invoices.

Chairman Gaspar presented a State of the Union-style review of 2017's municipal accomplishments, and a look ahead at the board's goals and objectives for 2018.

Chairman Gaspar said the town made substantial progress on last year's goals and should look forward to another year of improvements in municipal services in the next 12 months. The board is in the process of developing a municipal operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2019 — set to begin July 1, 2018 — to present at the annual town meeting this spring; preparing to start negotiations of new contract with five employee unions; implementing a new "pavement management plan" for maintaining town roads; and finishing up an employee handbook, and formal employee wage and classification system, just to name a few goals.

The board will also have to negotiate a new 10-year community cable television license this spring, with the help of an appointed committee.

He said selectmen plan to adopt as many as 40 new policies, mainly aimed at continuing to improve government efficiency; finish up an integrated town-wide wastewater management plan with the aid of consulting engineers; advertise for proposals to buy or lease the closed Russell Library in 2018.

The slow-but-sure renovations to the Parting Ways School for new town offices will go on another year, using town maintenance crews and student labor to continue the rehab in "the most financially responsible way," he added. The town clerk's office and building departments are being relocated to that administrative annex this year.

Continuing upgrades to municipal infrastructure systems will also continue this year, Gaspar indicated. A new phone system has added "a little modern technology to Town Hall," a new town-wide emergency alert system is in place, and the municipal computer network will also see more improvements in the second year of a two-year plan, he reported.

Also on the agenda for selectmen in early 2018 is some hard work drafting potential recreational marijuana use regulations for voters to consider. A referendum question on allowing recreational marijuana licenses in Acushnet will be on the ballot of the annual town election in April, Gaspar said.

Town Administrator Brian Noble is reviewing state guidelines and working with the town planner, Planning Board, building inspector, and police chief to prepare some draft regulations for cultivation, sales, and perhaps even on-site consumption businesses, the chairman of selectmen indicated. "our recreational marijuana (licensing) moratorium expires in June," so town meeting must either decide to extend the moratorium another six months or be prepared to vote on some licensing regulations.

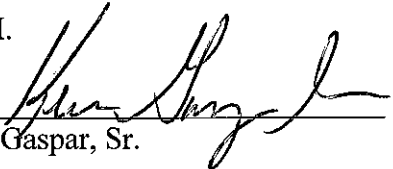
There are state guidelines available, but no Massachusetts town has actually approved a recreational licensing bylaw. He doesn't want Acushnet "to be the first one on the block" to adopt a full set of regulations, he suggested.

Gaspar said other ongoing community issues will remain on selectmen's horizon in the coming year, such as resident issues with the P.J. Keating asphalt and gravel processing plants off South Main Street. "We will continue to be vigilant regarding the issues created by dust, noise, traffic

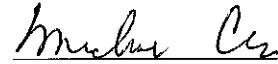
and odor. We will be respectful of the rights of both P.J. Keating and most importantly our residents.

INFORMATION ONLY

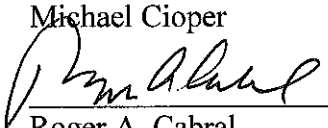
ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 6:15 P.M.



Kevin Gaspar, Sr.



Michael Cioper



Roger A. Cabral