

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 3, 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- February 6, 2018 & March 20, 2018 Regular Sessions

**MEETING MAIL**

**APPOINTMENTS**

The board voted to approve an article for \$80,000 by the Fire Chief for the new ladder truck. The truck cost \$40,000, and the town used reserve funds to buy it. Chief Gallagher said the article is to replace that money, and also to make repairs. The Selectmen realize that the low price of the truck meant it would also need some repairs. The \$80,000 price tag is still a deal. The 18 year old vehicle should serve for "easily" 10 more years, said the Chief, noting that Fairhaven's ladder truck is 37 years old. "It will be the single most complex piece of machinery the town of Acushnet owns," said Chief Gallagher. The board voiced support for the department's other requests, but did not vote. This year, the fire and police department requests will be in the public safety article. Other requests included a hazardous waste disposal machine, defibrillators, and radios for each air pack. "Nobody should go into a building without being able to contact command," said Chief Gallagher. Selectman Cioper motioned to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$40,000 to cover the expenses of fixing the ladder truck, Selectman Cabral seconded and all were in favor. Motion passes. This money will be voted to return the funds back to the reserve account at town meeting.

The board also heard from the golf committee but did not vote on the Golf Club Budget, mostly due to a sticking point with "indirect costs." Chairman Gaspar said the \$52,000 was not a realistic number, that it was too low. Edward Isaac, speaking for the Golf Committee agreed the budget was not complete. He said they needed to meet with the Finance Committee again. Indirect costs are charges associated with a department that are not directly paid by them, such as payroll, which is handled by the finance/accounting department. The Mass. Department of Revenue has been pressuring towns to be more specific in identifying indirect costs, and in having those charges reflected in budgets by departments that have enterprise funds, such as water and sewer. The Golf Course collects fees and has its own fund. The Selectman voiced support for the Golf Course, but Chairman Gaspar was skeptical of the revenue projections in the budget. "We will find a way to make that golf course work," said Selectman Cabral. "The golf course has got to work." Mr. Gaspar also voiced support for the golf course, but said he felt it would "self destruct," if the budget was not well planned. He said the indirect costs need to be phased in with realistic numbers. He said he has not seen any breakdown that explains where the \$52,000 figure came from. Chairman Gaspar suggested that the indirect costs not be included in this year's budget to give the department time to figure it out. They have never been included before, he said, and it should not be rushed.

The Golf Committee proposed a dollar increase across the board and the Selectmen agree and voted to approve rate increases for the golf course. Selectman Cabral motioned to raise the golf fee by \$1.00 across the board, Chairman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor

The board also raised concerns about a proposal by the Buzzards Bay Coalition which is seeking Community Preservation funds to buy a 33-acres off Mattapoisett Road. Additional acreage on the parcel is in Fairhaven and the BBC is also working with Fairhaven to acquire it. The cost of the Tripps Mill Brook property is \$376,000. The BBC is seeking \$70,000 from Acushnet, of which \$35,000 will be reimbursed by a grant that is already guaranteed. The BBC will own the property, the Conservation Commission will hold a Conservation Restriction (CR) on most of it. The town had the right of first refusal, because it was 61A property, meaning it got reduced taxes for being farmland. The town signed its right to buy the property to the BBC.

The concern is that the CR is only on 27 acres. The BBC has carved out a six-acre parcel that would be suitable for house lots. Allen Decker, speaking for the BBC said the organization is not able to find public funding sources to buy the property, so it may have to sell some of it to get the money to buy the rest of it. Chairman Gaspar said that if the town knew the BBC was going to make house lots, maybe they would not have agreed to the deal. Mr. Decker insisted that the BBC does not want to create house lots on the property, but it may have to. He said five or six houses on the property is better than 17. "That bothers me a little bit," said Selectman Cabral. "We're not in the business of creating house lots and selling them off," said Mr. Decker, adding that the BBC simply has not been able to find funding sources for this particular project, so it will have to be paid for with private funds. "We love the work you do," said Selectman Cabral, but added he supported the transfer of the land not knowing it would have house lots created. "It's not what I thought we were endorsing when we transferred our rights to you," said Selectman Cabral, adding he voted, "assuming it would all be preserved as open space." The board did not vote on the measure.

The board met with Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical School District Superintendent Aaron Polansky, and School Business Manager Sarah Griffith, who presented details on the funding and spending by the district. Also showcased student success indicators which are some of the following: 97% Student Attendance rate, 13 Students qualified for 2018 skills USA final competition, 46% of Seniors are participating in the Co-op program. Old Colony also gives back to the community by the students working on projects throughout the town.

Mark & Sue DeSilva- Originally the owners of the Rivers End went to the CPC committee asking for \$125,000 to repair a wall that is collapsing under their building. They consider the building to be historical and thought buy utilizing the CPC funds they could correct the wall. They have decided to rescind their article as having to sign a historic restriction would cause them to in turn own the bar for longer than they want to. No vote was made the DeSilva's rescinded the article.

Dan Menard- Mr. Menard has a few articles on the Warrant for discussion most important is the pick-up truck. Chairman Gaspar asks Dan if he could wait one more year for the truck. Mr. Menard states he can wait, but does have another issue he would like to discuss. The water server that the Town uses to do water billing is old and we are not sure it will continue to keep working. If it goes down we will lose all the information needed to send out the water bills. The Board decided to hold this until the next meeting to get an accurate price.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Board went through the articles and held quite a few, please see attached list. Selectman Cioper motioned to approve the local meals tax and place the OPEB article on the warrant, selectman Cabral seconded and Chairman Gaspar was a no vote. In the end, the board decided to hold an extra meeting on April 11 to finish up their recommendations on the budget and the TM articles.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL FOR DEEP BROOK ESTATES- Woodard & Curran submitted their invoice to provide Professional Engineering Services to assist the Town of Acushnet evaluate water system pressure and available fire flow relative to the Deep Brook Estates subdivision. Deep Brook is a proposed subdivision to be located at the end of Park Drive and it is proposed to include 15 residential homes.

Selectman Cioper motioned to approve the invoice for Deep Brook Estates flow testing in the amount of \$13,500, Selectman Cabral seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

The board also reorganized, as it was the first meeting after the election. Mike Cioper was voted the new chairperson, although he wasn't voted in as such until the end of the meeting. Selectman Gaspar ran the meeting. Mr. Cioper will take up the gavel at the next meeting.

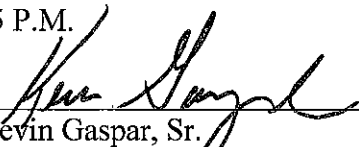
## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

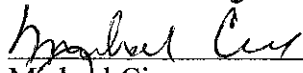
Water/Sewer Rates was not discussed as we ran out of time.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

## **INFORMATION ONLY**

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 7:45 P.M.

  
Kevin Gaspar, Sr.

  
Michael Cioper

  
Roger A. Cabral