

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2022
9:00 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

I call the January 11, 2022, regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order. I want to remind all present that this meeting is being audio and video recorded. Those present were Chairman David Desroches, Selectman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Selectman David Wojnar.

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MEETING MINUTES

III. MEETING MAIL

IV. APPOINTMENTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSS/APPOINT; INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**
Chief Desroches states that the former Town Administrator's last day was December 31, 2021. Over the last few weeks, the Select board has had a number of different interviews with potential candidates. One of which, Mr. Richard LaFond, is in attendance at the meeting. Chief Desroches states the Mr. LaFond is being offered the position of Interim Town Administrator. Contract negotiations will be held in Executive Session.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. **FIRE CHIEF TO DISCUSS COVID TESTING PROTOCOL**
Chief Gallagher discusses how the past Tuesday, the Council on Aging testing center was inundated with people to get tested. The testing site is one of the few locally that does not require residency, and so people from all over the area flooded the testing center causing lines of hundreds of cars, and very disruptive traffic. Chief Gallagher states that the COVID testing can be relocated to the public school gymnasium, where there is ample room for increased testing. Dr. Bailey, the school superintendent has already agreed to this. Chief Gallagher also recommends to the Board that the town no longer offers testing at the Council on Aging, as well as an adjustment of the testing schedule at the Elementary school. Chief Desroches asks if there is a question

of whether or not the testing should be offered to Acushnet resident only. Selectman Wojnar states that he would like to propose this. Selectmen Wojnar discusses how the Town has put in the resources and manpower to ensure our Town had the tests and testing program necessary to provide free testing clinics in our Town, and that limiting it to Town residents only may help make the testing more manageable and minimize the overflow. Selectmen Gaspar agrees with Selectmen Wojnar, stating that Chief Gallagher had the foresight to obtain the testing kits, and that the Select board allocated money to provide this resource to protect the residents of Acushnet first. Chief Gallagher states that the Police Chief Richmond about this possibility and that Chief Richmond will have resources available so that police officer can be present to enforce the residents-only testing protocol. Chief Gallagher mentions that signs will be posted to notify the public, as well as website and social media postings. Selectman Wojnar makes a motion to approve COVID testing on Saturdays at the Acushnet Public Elementary school with an Acushnet residents-only limitation. Selectman Gaspar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes. Chief Desroches takes a moment to thank all of the employees and volunteers who have made the COVID testing clinics a success.

VII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

VIII. SELECTMEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Snow plow drivers are needed for the DPW. If you are interested in plowing for the town, please contact the DPW at 509-998-0230.

IX. INFORMATION ONLY

1. The following boards/commissions have vacancies. Please consider serving your community by submitting a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen:
Agricultural Commission – 2 Alternate Vacancies
Beautification Committee – 7 Vacancies
Community Preservation Committee – 1 Housing Authority Vacancy
Cultural Council – 13 Vacancies
Open Space Committee – 1 Vacancy
*Town Moderator for May Town Meeting Needed

X. FUTURE BUSINESS

1. NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING: January 11, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A § 21(a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct negotiations with non-union personnel– Interim Town Administrator Position - Richard Lafond;
2. Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; votes may be taken – Pora v. Town of Acushnet (workers Compensation);
3. Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to threatened litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; votes may be taken

REGULAR SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:30PM

Approved:

David Desroches,
Chairman

Kevin Gaspar, Sr.,
Member

David Wojnar,
Member