

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, FEBRUARY 1, 2022  
4:00 PM**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

I call the February 1, 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**

**1. JANUARY 21, 2022 and JANUARY 26, 2022**

Selectman Gaspar motions to approve the above meeting minutes. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

**III. MEETING MAIL**

**1. LETTER FROM PARK COMMISSIONER – PARK & REC HELP NEEDED**

Chair Desroches reads a letter from Parks & Rec Commissioner, Chad LeClair, stating some ideas for future projects for Pope Park. The letter also states that in order to achieve these projects he would need the appropriate funding. Selectman Gaspar commends Mr. LeClair for having a long term vision for the parks, but expresses concerns that budget constraints may make it difficult to complete some of the projects desired. Selectman Wojnar mentions several possibilities for obtaining funding for parks projects, as having excellent parks infrastructure is a great asset to families in town.

**2. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION TO START NEGOTIATIONS**

Chair Desroches reads a letter from the Fire Fighters Association, local 3281, requesting to meet with the town in order to begin negotiations for a new contract, as the current contract will expire on June 30, 2022. Chair Desroches suggests to Mr. Kelley that he reaches out to the association to set up a meeting. Selectman Gaspar volunteered to take on the contract negotiations with Mr. Kelley, and the Board agreed.

**3. NOTICE FROM FIRE CHIEF/EMS DIRECTOR REGARDING GRANT AWARD**

Chair Desroches reads a letter address to Fire Chief Gallagher from the Baker & Polito Administration awarding the Town of Acushnet Fire Department the amount of \$16,799.20 for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. Chief Desroches congratulates Chief Gallagher on applying for and being

awarded this grant.

#### IV. APPOINTMENTS

##### 1. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

###### i. ANIMAL CONTROL – MS. REBEKAH TOMLINSON

Ms. Tomlinson states that she is submitting a level funded budget, and that she believes she has all of the funding needed and is not requesting any additional funding. Selectman Gaspar moves to accept the budget as proposed by Ms. Tomlinson. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

###### ii. COUNCIL ON AGING – MS. HEATHER CHEW, DIRECTOR

Ms. Chew states that she needs \$500 for the re-establishment of the phone line at the COA that would allow her to transfer calls to and from the Town Hall phone system. She also discusses the biggest item on her wish list is hiring an outreach worker. Currently, she is taking on the duties of an Outreach worker on top of her duties as Director. Ms. Chew is requesting an outreach worker part time, 19.5 hours per week being paid at a rate of \$18.00/hour. Selectman Gaspar moves to accept the budget as proposed by Ms. Chew. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

###### iii. LIBRARY – MS. DINA ST. PIERRE, DIRECTOR

Ms. St. Pierre could not be present for the meeting.

###### iv. PLANNING DEPARTMENT – MR. DOUGLAS PIMENTEL, TOWN PLANNER

Mr. Douglas could not be present for the meeting.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF APPLICANTS FOR ANNUAL LICENSE APPROVAL

Chair Desroches states, "The purpose of this Agenda item is for the Board to further discuss and ratify the Board's actions taken as to each of the applicants for annual license approval that were considered and approved during our December 14, 2021 meeting. Due to a clerical issue, the version of the December 14, 2021 Agenda posted online on the Board's website did not include the list of applicants for annual license approval referenced under Agenda Item IV.2 for the December 14, 2021 meeting, at which time the Board voted to approve applicants for annual license approval. The Agenda for today's meeting as posted, and also made publically available on the Board's website, includes a copy of the complete list of applicants considered and approved for annual licenses during our December 14, 2021 meeting. The attached list for today's meeting as referenced in this Agenda Item No.1 includes the identities of each applicant and/or the addresses of the locations

to be considered, as well as the type of application that was considered and approved by the Board for annual license approval. Please note that the referenced list posted along with today's agenda is identical to the list of applicants referenced in, and considered and approved for annual license approval during, our December 14, 2021 meeting. Our consideration of this agenda item today will be limited to further discussion of the applications with respect to the Board's ratification of its prior actions as to each of the listed applicants for annual license approval"

Selectman Gaspar moves to ratify its December 14, 2021 approval of all licenses listed on the attachment to today's agenda. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. COMMON VIC APPROVAL FOR GOLDEN NET AT 164 S. MAIN STREET

Selectman Gaspar notes a discrepancy in the hours of operations between the menu submitted and the application to the Board of Health. Selectman Gaspar moves to approve the license pending the proper inspection by the Board of Health, and action taken to correct the hours of operation in the application. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

##### 2. MEMO FROM ASSESSORS REGARDING ALLEN STREET PARCELS SEWER ABATEMENTS

Selectman Gaspar discusses how this issue has needed to be addressed for some time, but there has been debate on how to take care of this issue. Selectman Gaspar explains that in the past the two parcels of land were deemed buildable, and then later deemed not buildable. He also explains that the land owners were being charged a betterment, and every year since then the BOS has been abating the property. Selectman Gaspar moves to approve an abatement on the properties as presented. Selectman Wojnar seconds the motion. All are in favor, motion passes.

##### 3. TOWN MEETING CHECKLIST DISCUSSION

Chair Desroches explains that the Town Meeting date is set for May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 7:00 PM. Selectman Gaspar discusses the deadline for article submission on the checklist (March 22), which he explains may need to be set earlier so that there is enough time to understand and vet them before the approval deadline. This would not affect the other deadlines. Selectman Gaspar makes a recommendation to the Board to move the deadline for article submission to an earlier date, possibly March 8<sup>th</sup> or March 15<sup>th</sup>. Chair Desroches expresses that moving the date would present some challenges as there is a lot that needs to be done to prepare the articles for submission and he wants to ensure departments and boards have enough time to prepare as well. Selectman

Wojnar thinks the recommendation makes sense. The Board comes to an agreement to set the deadline for article submission to Friday, March 11, 2022 @ 12:00PM.

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VII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

VIII. SELECTMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Selectman and Mr. Kelley commend the DPW on their work during the recent snow storm.

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: Thursday, February 17, 2022 @ 3:00PM

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

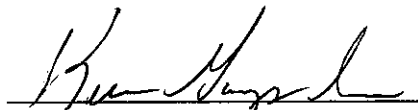
1. "Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(2) to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Calvin Downing, Kevin Andrews, Gary Bielski, Mike Lewis, Andra Ramos, Todd Krosschell) or to conduct negotiations with non-union personnel if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will not return to public session, review of matters presented; votes may be taken."

REGULAR SESSION ADJOURNED AT 4:45 PM

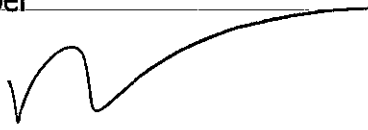
Approved:

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David Desroches,  
Chairman

  
Kevin Gaspar, Sr.,  
Member

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David Wojnar,  
Member