

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Selectman Michael Cioper- and Selectman Roger Cabral
Meeting Minutes Approved- None

MEETING MAIL

PATRIOT HALF MARATHON- Multi Sports Events requests permission to utilize selected roads through Acushnet for the Patriot Half Marathon. The affected roads will be through Quaker Lane, Main St., Lake St., Middle Rd. and Keene Rd. The Police Chief & Fire Chief/EMS Director have signed off on the event notification form with no restrictions.

Selectman Cabral motioned to approve the Patriot Half Marathon through the Town of Acushnet, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were favor. Motion Passes.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT- the Board received a letter from Paul Valente requesting to be appointed to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Valente feels that he would be gratified to be able to serve and help protect the area wetlands. There is an opening and the Conservation Commission has approved the request at their last meeting.

Selectman Cioper motioned to appoint Paul Valente to the Conservation Commission, Selectman Cabral seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

APPOINTMENTS

Board of Health, Soil Board -Draft Letter to the DEP Regarding P.J. Keating Issues. The letter to the DEP recapping the meeting from December 2017. The Town is requesting that MassDEP obtain additional information from P.J. Keating regarding proposed equipment changes and resulting in changes in air quality impacts in order to make an informed determination as to whether the proposed project triggers the need to modify the existing permit. Selectman Cabral motioned to approve and sign the MassDEP letter, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

Fiscal Year 2019 proposed budget for fire department operations (\$435,890) and Emergency Medical Services (\$537,288) totaling just over \$973,000 without anticipated pay raises under contracts currently being negotiated.

There were small increases in areas such as supplies and equipment due to the increased number of service calls over the past few years, the fire chief reported. Statistics show a 45 percent increase in calls for services to the two departments in the past two years, he said.

EMS responded to 1,021 calls for service in 2017, having just reached the 1,000 calls per year mark the previous year, Gallagher said. Fifty percent of medical calls are for residents over 65, and 72 percent of calls are for people 55 and older, he indicated.

In capital funding requests, the department is seeking three items, to be funded from EMS revenues: \$25,000 for new portable radios, replacing models seven to ten years old; \$22,000 for two Lucas automatic CPR compression machines for the two ambulances, replacing older models; and \$46,179 for a medical waste and needle shredder and sanitizer.

The department currently has a company come in and perform the needle shredding and medical waste sanitizing service at a cost of about \$5,000 a year. The machine he is proposing for the department would have a life span of 10 years or more, he predicted; and the service could be extended to the community at large, he suggested.

Chief Gallagher petitioned for a \$40,000 transfer from a reserve fund to buy a secondhand fire truck.

Chief Gallagher called the unexpected plea for funds "one of the most important requests I've ever made to a Board of Selectmen" in his 15 years as fire chief and EMS director in Acushnet. Selectmen Cioper and Selectman Cabral posed a number of precautionary questions about the potential purchase before voting to approve the request and send it on to the Finance Committee for endorsement.

"It would be a safety enhancement for our firefighters, first and foremost," Gallagher said in his initial presentation. "The most dangerous place to be in a fire is on the roof," and Acushnet only has ground ladders for such situations.

In wintertime chimney fire cases, it is not uncommon for the department to call on Fairhaven or Rochester for mutual aid – to borrow a ladder truck – rather than risk men on a snowy or icy roof, he suggested.

"Acushnet (fire department) has called on Fairhaven for a ladder truck to help with a chimney fire three times in the past year, and Rochester once, he indicated.

"We have numerous three story buildings" in the village area, and plenty of two story buildings in dense neighborhoods too, Gallagher said of the department's need for some aerial attack capabilities.

The ladder truck is equipped with a built-in piping extending the length of the 100-foot ladder, eliminating the need for a firefighter to haul hose up two or three stories to reach the roof. Gallagher said he talked to the apparatus company that serviced the vehicle and confirmed it has been regularly maintained, and in good condition. He highly recommended the town take advantage of the sales opportunity.

The purchase was supported by acting chairman Cioper, who suggested it was "about time we moved up" to the 21st century of firefighting technology. He believes the "new" addition to Acushnet's fire department fleet might have an added benefit of improving insurance ratings and lowering policy costs.

Selectman Cabral wanted some assurances that the used fire truck undergo a complete certified inspection before Acushnet writes a check for the purchase. He said he was willing to support the acquisition if the vehicle is certified as mechanically sound and in good condition.

Town Administrator Brian Noble said Lexington fire officials are willing to deliver the truck to Acushnet for such an inspection before completing a sale. "We'll have it certified" before signing an agreement, he promised.

Technically, the transfer of funds has to be approved by the Finance Committee, legal caretakers of the reserve fund for unexpected or emergency expenses, before it becomes official.

Police Chief Michael Alves said his FY2019 budget request is also showing a small increase to fund level services around \$2 million before contracted raises are added in.

Police department increases includes expanding a part-time administrative assistant position to full time, adding \$10,000 in training funds, and increasing stipends for emergency dispatchers. For capital items, \$80,000 for two replacement cruisers is being requested.

The Chief would like Acushnet commit about \$140,000 to help fund an upgrade of the police radio communications system from copper wire to microwave transmissions. The amount is the town's share of a partnership radio network with Freetown and Mattapoisett, the chief said.

The three towns have already jointly funded an engineering study to develop a new joint communications network.

He is also proposing the department acquire 10 new defibrillator devices, one for each of eight cruisers and unmarked cars, and two for the police station, at a cost of \$12,000.

Dan Menard of the Board of Public Works had a few increases in the Highway budget, first to hire a full-time individual and then for engineering costs due to multiple drainage projects that are upcoming in the town. Mr. Menard explained under Snow and Ice, they are currently under budget and in Water & Sewer both budgets presented with a slight increase for the New Bedford water and sewer rates increases. Mr. Menard also explained his two article requests for capital expenditures. The first is to replace a six-wheel sander truck with a 10-wheel sander truck which would cost \$250,000. The second request is for a mini excavator for the Water Department to use in their road work repairs of water "curb boxes" that would cost \$52,000. He explained that 'curb boxes' are at the end of everyone's home, about four feet under, and when it needs to be repaired the whole box needs to be pulled out by an excavator. They are currently using the equipment from the highway department, which interferes with their work. Mr. Noble explained that they would also have to put an article in for a new water server, which is the computer for the Water Department. He said the current water server is out of date and needs to be replaced.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

MELANSON HEATH AUDITORS CONTRACT- The Town has requested that Melanson Heath audit the basic financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018-2020. At this time the Board needs to approve and sign the agreement.

Selectman Cioper motioned to approve the Melanson Heath Contract from 2018 through 2020, Selectman Cabral seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

CITIZENS PETITION TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON JAMES STREET- James Street resident Mary Ellen Lamb requested that the speed limit on James Street be reduced from 35 M.P.H. to 25 m.p.h. Ms. Lamb stated that there are at least three bus stops on James Street, and that cars are always speeding, with driver's texting and driving erratically on that street. She had a petition signed by residents along James Street. "I'm fearful for our children," she said. Selectman Cioper motioned to reduce the speed limit on James Street to 25 M.P.H., Selectman Cabral seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

TRANSFER REQUEST FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT-The Chief Explained this in his budget presentation. Selectman Cabral motioned to approve the transfer and send it to the Finance Committee, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SEWER RESERVE FUND TRANSFER- the Board of Selectmen previously approved a Sewer Expansion Project to connect 15 houses to the current sewer lines. The project was small enough to be handled internally, and the DPW was able to keep the total costs within the limits of the

FY18 operating budget. However, certain line items were over-expended during the process, and this Sewer Reserve Fund Transfer is needed to cover those deficits through the end of the fiscal year. The current Sewer Reserve Fund has been appropriated with \$50,000, and this transfer would decrease that amount to \$13,500 which would still be available to cover unforeseen or unanticipated expenses during the remainder of the fiscal year. In addition, the costs for the Sewer Expansion Project have been charged to the 15 properties as a betterment, with the funds being reimbursed to the Sewer Enterprise Fund, so although we have paid these costs upfront, we will be reimbursed over a period not longer than ten years. Selectman Cabral motioned to approve the transfer and send it to the Finance Committee, Selectman Cioper seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

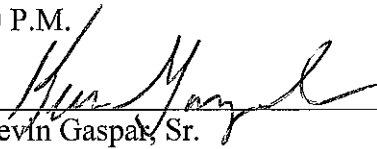
TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Brian Noble gave a brief overview of the audio from the school it is very poor. The School would like to utilize the funds from Comcast to update their machinery and add an access room so the students could to broadcasts. The school has decided to use the Town Hall Meeting Room for the Superintendent interviews due to the lack of good audio.

INFORMATION ONLY

At the meeting was Lucas Correia, a candidate for Eagle Scout. Mr. Correia stated he was a member of the 333 E. Freetown Boy Scouts and was looking for an opportunity to do community work and show leadership to assist in earning the rank of Eagle Scout. He said he wanted his project to be in Acushnet. Mr. Noble said there are a few projects coming up around Town and he would share the offer with the various department heads.

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 7:00 P.M.


Kevin Gaspak, Sr.


Michael Cioper


Roger A. Cabral

APPENDIX #X: FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS (SOURCES OF FUNDS)

#	Purpose	Depart
1	Accept Town Report	Selectmen
2	Snow & Ice Deficit	Highway
3	Omnibus FY2018 Budget	Finance
4	Apply for Grants	Selectmen
5	Accept Ch. 90 Funds	Selectmen
6	Treasurer's Authorization	Treasurer
7	Golf Enterprise	Golf
8	Golf Club - 40x8x8 Storage Shed & Walk Behind Brush Cutter	Golf
9	Golf Club - 5 Yr. \$1 buy-out Equipment Lease (\$200,000 total) <i>requires town meeting vote</i>	Golf
10	Sewer Enterprise Fund	Sewer
11	Sewer Tie-In Loan Account	Sewer
12	Radio Replacement - Fire/EMS	Fire
12	Transfer from EMS Receipts Reserved (Replace Ladder Truck Funding)	Fire
12	New CPR Devices (2 units) - EMS	EMS
12	Bio-Medical Needle Destruction System - EMS	EMS
13	Radio Replacement - Police	Police
13	Replace Defibrillators - Police Dept	Police
14	Personnel Bylaw	Selectmen
15	Conversion of Munis Chart of Accounts - Accountant	Accountant
16	Human Resources - Job Descriptions for Union Personnel	Selectmen
17	Technology Replacements & Upgrades - Parting Ways, Fire Department, Town Hall	Selectmen
18	Office Furniture/File Cabinets - Parting Ways Building/Town Hall	Selectmen
19	Accept MGL Chapter 41, Section 41B - Direct Deposit Payroll <i>DUT</i>	Selectmen
19	Accept MGL, Chapter 41, Section 111M & 111N (Moving EMS Personnel from Workers Compensation coverage to Injured on Duty coverage)	Selectmen
19	Accept MGL Chapter 64L, Section 2 - Adoption of a dedicated meals tax	OPEB
20	Establish OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund & Transfer Existing Stabilization Reserve for OPEB	OPEB
21	Authorize Deposit to OPEB Irrevocable Trust	OPEB
22	Capital - Highway Truck with 5 Ton Sander & Plow	Highway
22	Capital - Water Dept - Mini-Excavator	Water
22	Capital - Water Dept - Server	Water
22	Capital - Water Dept - Replace Truck #25 (2003 Pickup)	Water
22	Capital - Voting Equipment	Town Clerk
22	Capital - Chairs Purchase Senior Center	COA
22	Capital - Septic Tank Repair	Library
23	School Capital - Renovation to Boys Bathroom at AES	School Corr
23	School Capital - Roof Preventative Maintenance	School Corr
23	School Capital - Playground Reformation and Drainage	School Corr
23	School Capital - Security Cameras, Monitors, Related Equipment	School Corr
23	School Capital - Study for Scope & Design of School Roofs (AES,FMS)	School Corr
23	School Capital - Clocks & Related Equipment (AES,FMS)	School Corr
23	School Capital - Electronic Sign in Front of School Campus	School Corr
23	School Capital - Driveway Sealcoating & Crack Patching	School Corr
24	Create Special Education Stabilization Account	School Corr
25	Re-Authorize Soil Board and Define Membership	BOH/Select
26	Consultant for Review of PJ Keating Facility	BOH/Soil B
27	Building Repair/Maintenance Improvements - COA	COA

APPENDIX #X: FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS (SOURCES OF FUNDS)

#	Purpose	Depa
28	Transfer Funds from Overlay Surplus to Pay for Server Migration	Assessors
29	Amend Local Option Under Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41A to \$55,877	Assessors
30	Town Clerk - Elected to Appointed	Selectmen
31	Marijuana Moratorium Continuation	Marijuana
32	Marijuana General Bylaw	Marijuana
33	Marijuana Zoning Bylaw	Marijuana
34	Revision to Zoning Bylaw (Lot Minimum & Depth)	Planning
35	Revision to Zoning Bylaw (Allowance for Private garages or parking)	Planning
36	Revision to Zoning Bylaw (Clarify development standards for multifamily housing for elderly)	Planning
37	Adopt New Town Bylaw Requiring Town Clerk to be Repository of all Committee/Board Minutes	Town Clerk
38	Russell Memorial Library - Disposition of an Asset	Selectmen
39	CPA General Reserve Article	CPA
40	Veteran's Housing Architectural Plans (Russell Memorial Building)	CPA
41	Buzzard's Bay Coalition Request (Open Space)	CPA
42	Housing Authority Alarm System	CPA
42	Housing Authority Siding	CPA
43	Long Plain Museum Rehab Work	CPA
44	Parting Ways Vault	CPA
45	Pope Park Building	CPA
46	Quaker Meeting House	CPA
47	Rivers End Retaining Wall and Historic Restriction	CPA
48	School Athletic Fields	CPA
49	Amend Article 10 Annual Town Meeting of 5/2013 to expand use of funds for EMA (\$5,893)	CPA
50	Cemetery Board Authorization	Cemetery
50	Park & Recreation Board Authorization	Park & Rec
51	Library Revolving Fund	Library
51	Conservation Revolving Fund	Conservation
51	Park Revolving Fund	Park & Rec
51	COA Revolving Fund	COA
52	Authorization to Sell Books	Library
53	Transfer to Stabilization	Selectmen
54	Accept Resolution of Gratitude for Town Service	Selectmen
	Total	