

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 5, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Present: Chairman Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Selectman David Wojnar, Selectman Robert Hinckley, and Town Administrator James Kelley

Chairman Gaspar welcomed the room to the meeting with the Board of Selectmen on December 5, 2023 at 4:30 PM EST. Chairman Gaspar asked for a motion to call the December 5, 2023, regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order. Selectman Hinckley motioned to call the meeting to order. Chairman Gaspar seconded the motion and all were in favor. Chairman Gaspar asked the room to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MINUTES TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

III. MEETING MAIL

IV. APPOINTMENTS

Matthew Tripp, Jr., as well as Representatives Straus and Schmid, did not make it to their appointments.

V. OLD BUSINESS

7 Eileen Street

Chairman Gaspar stated that he received notices back from the Building Commissioner, Conservation Agent, and Board of Health Agent regarding the ongoing matters at 7 Eileen Street.

Chairman Gaspar read the report from Building Commissioner Andy Bobola. It stated that Mr. Bobola deemed the structure unsafe. He continued to state that immediate action must be taken to stop all work. The report continued to note that fines may be applied if protocol continues to not be followed, as well as legal action. Mr. Bobola's report closed with his hopes that Mr. Barriball will come to his department to use his resources and to continue his project properly.

Chairman Gaspar read the report from Conservation Agent Patrick Hannon. Mr. Hannon listed all of the viewable violations on Mr. Barriball's property. He stated that multiple permits are needed. He noted that the water quality may be at risk due to new soil deposits impacting the high-water table. Mr. Hannon listed several seize and desist orders.

Chairman Gaspar read the report from Board of Health Agent, Joe Correia. His report stated that there have been signs of clean-up on the property, and there are no order corrections to

be warranted. His report mentioned a Title V inspector being hired to inspect the system, but the outcome of that may no longer have relevance. Mr. Correia stated in his letter that monitoring will continue.

Chairman Gaspar stated that he had been by the property and noticed that the trash on the paper street has been cleaned up. He stated that all that remains is a pile of fire wood. A neighbor of Mr. Barriball stated that the trash on the property had not been cleaned up, and that the property "is still a dump," per her phrasing. Chairman Gaspar stated that he had not been onto the property, but what he could see from the street had been cleared. Chairman Gaspar removed the letter from Mr. Correia from his book and gave it to the resident. He instructed her to speak on it with Mr. Correia and report back his response.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of new Treasurer/Collector – Reconfirmation

Chairman Gaspar explained that Ms. Jennifer Garrant was appointed as Treasurer/Collector at the previous meeting on November 28, 2023. Selectman Wojnar stated that he wanted to reconfirm her appointment at the meeting on December 5, 2023 due to the absence of Chairman Gaspar at the previous meeting. He continued to state that Chairman Gaspar was the financial guru of the Board and wanted his approval, as well. Chairman Gaspar stated that Ms. Garrant came to the Town with highly praised words from the previous Interim Town Accountant, Mr. Todd Hassett. Ms. Garrant rose to the podium and thanked the Board for her appointment. She stated that she looks forward to her joining the team. No votes taken.

License Renewals

Chairman Gaspar stated that these will be postponed to a later date due to incompleteness of proper inspections. No votes taken.

OPEB Report

Mr. Kelley stated that the latest report had been presented at the meeting. He stated that the insurance carrier changed for this past fiscal year, resulting in a decreased cost in liability insurance. He stated that the means of investment have changed, so the situation will be bettered. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to place this report on file. Selectman Hinckley motioned to place the report on file. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Accept EMA Plan

Mr. Kelley stated that the plan was outdated and has been updated. He stated that these plans should be reviewed and updated, as necessary, on an annual basis. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to accept the plan, as presented. Selectman Hinckley motioned to accept the plan, as presented. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked for those in favor, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

VII. DPW

Snow Plow Contractors

Chairman Gaspar stated that the onboarding for contractors is positive, according to DPW staff. He stated that five more contractors have signed up, but the DPW needs 8 to 10 more plows. Chairman Gaspar stated that the \$1000 perfect attendance bonus is still applicable for this season. No votes taken. Mr. Kelley stated that snow plow training will be conducted for Town staff. There is a snow plow plan for the COA. He also stated that the DPW takes care of the fire department, police department, and EMS locations.

VIII. SELECTMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Selectman Hinckley stated that the sing-along and tree lighting event held at the Fire Department was a success. He noted that Santa and Mrs. Claus attended and there was a great turn-out.

IX. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kelley stated that advertising has been conducted for hiring a new Director of the Council on Aging. The plan for transition for this position is underway. He stated that advertisement for the maintenance position has also been posted. Mr. Kelley informed the Board that the prospective Building Clerk underwent her IT test. Mr. Kelley stated that more planning and information regarding the RFP sale of Russell Memorial Library has been collected. Mr. Kelley noted that the recalls for the Chevy Bolts have been corrected, at no cost to the Town. He did mention that the chargers in a couple spots around Town need readdressing. Mr. Kelley also mentioned that the State Supplemental budget regarding host community agreements and special purpose revolving towns is under review.

X. INFORMATION ONLY

XI. FUTURE BUSINESS

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. "Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation (Liquor License - Golf) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session."
2. "Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Negotiations) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session."
3. "Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to strategy on pending litigation (Supervisory Unit/United Steelworkers - CBA Negotiations and/or Department of Labor Relations Cases.) if an open meeting

may have a detrimental effect on pending litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.”

4. “Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (AFSCME) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.”
5. “Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation (MOA - Mattapoisett) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.”
6. “Executive Session under G.L.ch.30A§21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation (MCAD Mediation) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will return to Public Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.”

Chairman Gaspar read each of the six Executive Session items in full. Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to transition into Executive Session Selectmen Hinckley motioned to enter Executive Session. Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. All motions were made for each of the six items, separately. Chairman Gaspar asked for a roll-call vote to enter Executive Session for each of the items, separately. Selectman Hinckley said yes, Selectman Wojnar said yes, and Chairman Gaspar said yes. Executive Session began.

Selectman Gaspar stated that the Police Negotiations Executive Session will be conducted. He stated that this is an education process for the rest of the Board, and this is intended to be resolved as soon as possible.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gaspar asked if there was a motion to adjourn the December 5, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting. A Motion to Adjourn the December 5, 2023 Selectmen’s Meeting was motioned by Selectman Hinckley, and Selectman Wojnar seconded the motion. Chairman Gaspar asked if all were in favor, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Approved by:

Kevin A. Gaspar, Chairman

Robert Hinckley, Member

David Wojnar, Member

Inventory of Meeting Documents
Acushnet Board of Selectmen
December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting

Appointments

1. Matthew Tripp – *discussion only*
2. Email with Jessica Katon “Acushnet COA Grant”

Old Business

1. Letters of Correction from BOH Agent, Conservation Agent, and Building Inspector

New Business

1. Resume – Jennifer Garrant
2. OPEB report
3. EMA Plan

DPW

1. *Discussion only*

Executive Session

1. Liquor License (Golf) – *documents not yet authorized for disclosure*
2. Police Negotiations - Town’s Package Proposal
3. AFSCME – *discussion only*
4. MOA Mattapoisett – *documents not yet authorized for disclosure*
5. MCAD Mediation – *documents not yet authorized for disclosure*