



TOWN OF ADAMS

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2015 – 7:00 PM

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

CLERK

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** and held a meeting at the **Adams Town Hall** at **7:00 p.m.** **Chairman Blanchard** presided the meeting. Present were **Vice Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian** and **Members Joseph Nowak, John Duval** and **Arthur Harrington**. Also in attendance were **Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco** and **Town Counsel, Ed St. John III**. *The Select Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.*

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF THE MINUTES

- June 3, 2015
- June 10, 2015

Motion made by Member Snoonian to waive the reading and accept the minutes for June 3, 2015 and June 10, 2015 as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

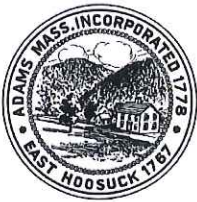
Code Enforcement, Board of Health

Jeff Lefebvre advised he went to the Board of Health Meeting and asked if there was any way to keep the Code Enforcement Officer because when looking around town he sees blight.

There are still finalizations being made and a final answer on this is not available at this time.

Bruce Shepley, a member of the Board of Health addressed the Select Board regarding concerns about the plan going forward regarding the proposed elimination of the Code Enforcement Officer position. He noted he spoke with Community Development Director Cesan this morning and no information was exchanged about the plan. He expressed concern as the Town is 13 days away from the end of the fiscal year, with 20 open cases on the docket. He noted that there is a home on Albert Street that is in receivership by Attorney General's office which has a status pending the ability to have accountability by frequent contact of a health inspector. He advised that the home is part of the *Right Of Way* for Scenic Railway and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and having it suspended may complicate the project.

The situation is currently in the middle of collective bargaining, and these agreements take time to work with the bargaining partners. There is an expectation of having an answer by next week from the Union. Collective bargaining items must be confidential until they are completed, and the Town is able to make them public.



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Mr. Shepley said he is not sure how the Board of Health is expected to act and to handle the 20 open cases and housing courts, plus handle issues that occur every week that need to be acted on immediately. He expressed concern that the Board Members don't have the credentials needed to perform the duties. He asked for a more frequent exchange of information.

When the question was first brought up there was an outline for how to handle it, and included more participation from the Board of Health and Town Counsel handling more in court. The Board of Health portion was based on things the Board could handle. Money has been set aside for things like septic tank inspections and the Town is not going into it blindly. There is an expected transition.

Member Harrington and Board of Health Chairman Allen Mendel both attended the Berkshire Health Alliance meeting last week and got the estimated cost for food and sanitary inspections to be done through the Alliance. Additional negotiations are taking place and a new quote should be in shortly from the Committee. The Board of Health Members will have to manage issues that come in if an arrangement is not finalized by the first of the Fiscal Year.

Chapter 90 Fund Plan

Jeff Lefebvre asked for a plan for Chapter 90 money, and said in the last 4 or 5 years there has been no plan so he would like to reinstitute it.

The DPW Director has a plan going on and the Town Administrator will check with him.

Cheshire Proposition 2 ½ Override Vote

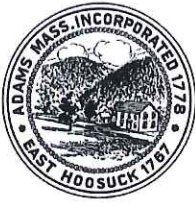
Jeff Lefebvre commended the Town of Cheshire for voting down Proposition 2 ½ Override.

Run to Read Road Race

Myra Wilk reported a successful *Run to Read Race* that benefitted the C.T. Plunkett School Reading Program. She thanked the Select Board, the DPW, Chief Tarsa, Adams PD, Dick Kleiner, the Forest Wardens, and Adams Ambulance for their support. She noted that BART Charter School also participated in the event. Ms. Wilk thanked the school teachers, staff, and superintendent, as well as the sponsors that supported the event.

Youth Center Chair Auction

Francie Anne Riley, representing the Youth Center, gave an update on the Chair Auction and advised that posters have been put up around town to explain how people can donate and help. She recommended those wishing to donate or help call (413) 743-3550 or the Youth Center to speak with Sonia DiSanti. The Youth Center Chair Committee will be soliciting businesses to take out advertisements. Information will be available on what items are being auctioned off and the artist who painted them. Donations are still being accepted at 20 East Street.



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NEW BUSINESS

Endorsement of Election Workers

The Town Clerk submitted a letter to the Select Board requesting endorsement of Election Workers.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the names submitted for Election Workers for the 2015/2016 Elections

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

The names were chosen by number of years in service doing this job, the need in the precincts, and availability for the rotating schedule. Twenty people are needed during day and 12 people at night, which is why list is extensive.

Motion made by Member Harrington to authorize the Town Clerk to appoint Emergency Election Workers as needed

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Facility Use Requests by Events Committee

The Events Committee requested use of

- The Visitors Center, August 9, 2015 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. for Dash for Dana Road Race
- The Town Common, July 26, 2015 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for Annual Pedal & Plod
- The Visitors Center, Sundays July 12th through August 23rd, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the Summer Concert Series
- Town Hall Lawn, July 24, July 31, August 7, August 14, 2015 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. for the Friday Night Movies
- Town Hall/Park Street, July 29, 2015 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the Historical Society Event "Past Life of Town Hall".

Motion made by Member Duval to approve all 5 Facility Use Requests from the Events Committee

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request by the Youth Center

The Youth Center requests use of Russell Field and Russell Field Tennis Courts from July 6, 2015 through August 14, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Russell Field Park Program.



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Motion made by Member Duval to approve the Facility Use Requests by the Youth Center

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility use Request by Christopher La Casse and Kathleen Sage

Christopher La Casse and **Kathleen Sage** submitted a Facility Use Request for Greylock Glen for a wedding on October 3, 2015 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. There are approximately 50 attendees expected.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the application by Christopher La Casse and Kathleen Sage to use the Greylock Glen on October 3, 2015 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request by the American Red Cross

Nicole Parmentier of the *American Red Cross* requested to use the Visitors Center parking lot on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. with access to the Visitors Center for the Bloodmobile. The Bloodmobile would take up approximately 6 parking spaces. Approximately 40 participants are expected to attend.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the use of the Visitors Center and parking lot by the American Red Cross on August 19, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Ratification of Part Time Custodial Position

Subject to the Board's ratification, as provided in Section 10 of the Town Charter, the Town Administrator has appointed Kyle Wilson to the position of Custodian at the recommendation of DPW Director Bettis. Interviews were conducted and Mr. Wilson comes to the Town with a good work history and knowledge sufficient for this position. He will begin the 19 hour per week position on June 29, 2015 at a rate of \$13.56 per hour. There were approximately 4 interviews done and since the cleaning contract was eliminated this position will be taking on the duties and this candidate will be an excellent choice.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve Kyle Wilson to the position of Part Time Custodian

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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Applications to Place Temporary Signs on Public Way by the Events Committee

The Events Committee applied to place signs on the Town Hall Lawn and at the Visitors Center to advertise upcoming events.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the placement of temporary signs on the Town Hall Lawn and at the Visitors Center

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Applications to Place Signs on Public Way by the Adams Farmers & Artisans Market

The Adams Farmers & Artisans Market submitted applications to place 2 temporary banners at Memorial Park and in front of the Tourist Booth on Park Street by the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail two weeks before the Farmers & Artisans Market begins, and lawn signs on Depot Street, Hoosac Street, East Road, Route 8 at the Adams/Cheshire Town Line, Route 8 at the North Adams/Adams Town Line, and on Orchard Street at the Adams/Cheshire Town Line from July 12, 2015 to October 4, 2015.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the applications for all signs requested by the Adams Farmers & Artisans Market

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Economic Development Commission

Town Administrator Mazzucco announced the Town is ready to move forward with the *Economic Development Commission* and outlined information regarding the formation of the Commission. He advised the intention is to roll it out slowly by getting a letter of interest by those wishing to be on the Commission and the Town Administrator would then make appointments. The Commission would be comprised of 15 members and it may be possible for additional interested parties to serve on a Sub-Committee or to take a position on one of the Ad Hoc committees. Commission positions are open to those outside of Adams who have knowledge and wisdom on economic development.

The Mission of the Economic Development Commission was read aloud.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to ratify the formation of the Economic Development Commission and its members to be appointed by the Town Administrator

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Parks Commission

Member Nowak reported he attended the Parks Commission meeting and commented that they are very thorough. He updated the Board that at the meeting discussion surrounded the Youth Center using the tennis courts and making sure there are posted signs when they are being used by the Youth Center to avoid conflict.

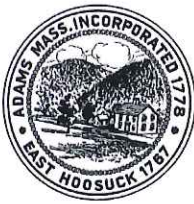
School Committee

Member Nowak advised he went to the School Committee meeting in Cheshire and noted that people are interested in how the vote will take place since Cheshire voted not to approve the Proposition 2 ½ Override. He gave a quick overview of what happened at the meeting, and advised the School System made a selection of their new Technology Supervisor to oversee the technology at the schools. The School System also chose Jill Pompi as the new Curriculum Development Director. He noted that the two positions were not state mandated but highly recommended. He advised that he received an update from the Cheshire Principal about the Boston Bruins donating floor hockey equipment, the Boston Celtics setting up a computer lab free of charge for the kids and free tickets to the kids from the Red Sox. The kids wrote hand written letters to each team.

The Town Administrator gave an overview of where the Town of Adams goes forward in the wake of the Cheshire vote. He gave scenarios and outcomes of what would happen depending on which direction the School Committee went with the Budget, and what the Town's choices would be for each scenario. He advised there is only one shot for the Town of Cheshire to approve the new budget submission, and if it fails again it goes to a district-wide vote. If the budget fails at the district-wide vote the Department of Education will take over and allocate a budget for the school. He advised the School committee is going to take some time to decide what their approach will be. Adams will need a subsequent Town Meeting if the number is higher than what was put forward before. A Special Town Meeting could happen in the fall.

For every month the budget is not approved the School operates at 1/12 of their last approved budget to operate on each month until the budget is decided. This could create cash flow problems as it is only allocated monthly.

Discussion took place to cover scenarios of what would happen if the State took over, and if the budget submitted by the State was higher than the School Committee had submitted. If the school is legally obligated to run at a higher budget and there is no override for it, there is nowhere to find the money currently. This situation is relatively unprecedented in the Commonwealth. The School District is currently at a Level 3 but if the State comes in it will be in receivership. If the State takes over after December, it is theoretically possible for students to come back after the Holiday Break and have fewer teachers.



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There were questions asked about whether the State looks at the current model, and if they set a budget whether they would determine how the money is spent. The State would bring a formula but would not likely tell the school how to utilize the money. They would set a foundation budget. If the communities are unable to come to a solution they will lose the element of control over their school district.

The State is forcing unfunded mandates, and it was proposed that people contact the State legislators to make it heard that the State cannot expect communities like Adams with its current fiscal state to be mandated and not provide assistance to get there. Massachusetts Municipal Association is constantly advocating for the communities, and covers 72 regional school districts that are impacted.

If things don't change in way the Towns are running their schools, the communities will be in the same boat each subsequent year and cuts are beginning to affect the services in the Towns and the School District. It is vital to find a way to change the way things are going.

Berkshire Health Alliance

Member Harrington attended the meeting as an alternate, and **Allen Mendel** attended as a Member. A report will be distributed to the Select Board and the Board of Health. They are working at solutions to the Board of Health problem and working with other committees, which is a lengthy process. They are learning about different regulations that have to be looked at before moving forward on it.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Adams Cheshire Regional School District

Town Administrator Mazzucco gave an update on progress with communication with the Schools.

Town Meeting Workshop

Town Meeting Workshop is June 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. 4 Volunteers put together the presentation and are comprised of a veteran Town Meeting Member, a new Town Meeting Member, Chairman Blanchard and the Town Clerk.

New England Holocaust Museum

The New England Holocaust Museum will be setting up a meeting with the Library Trustees to finalize arrangements for a display to be set up in early July at the Adams Free Library.

TOWN COUNSEL REPORT

Town Counsel St. John III advised he had drafted documents for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, for the Exhibition at the Adams Free Library, answered a permitting question for Cell Towers and handled a public records question. He also reviewed the Economic Development Commission establishment.



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TOWN CLERK REPORT

Chairman Blanchard read a letter received by the Town Clerk indicating the Annual Census population was 8521 persons, which was a decrease of 278 persons from last year's numbers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Upcoming Events

The Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost of registration is \$1.00, and the deadline is July 17, 2015. A Map of the tag sale locations will be provided beginning August 3rd at local businesses.

Susan B. Anthony Days will begin Saturday, July 25, 2015 and run through Friday, July 31, 2015.

There will be a **Street Fair** on Monday, July 27, 2015 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., with a rain date of Tuesday, July 28, 2015.

Cruz Nite will take place on Thursday, July 30, 2015 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Center Street. This will be in conjunction with a concert at the Town Common.

Dana Labbee Memorial Road Race will take place on Sunday, August 9, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the Adams Visitors Center. Both a 5K and a mile-long walk through downtown Adams will be available. Registration forms will be available at Town Hall and on the Town's website at www.town.adams.ma.us

Town Meeting Workshop will be held June 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitors Center. Both Town Meeting Members and interested public are welcome to attend.

Get Cuffed Clinic has been *rescheduled* and new dates are upcoming.

Annual Town Meeting will be recorded Tuesday, June 23, 2015 and played on Wednesday, June 24, 2015. The public is invited to watch it live from the audience at C.T. Plunkett School auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

Adams Farmers Market will take place on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. beginning July 12, 2015 through October 4, 2015. Interested vendors are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Passing of Joe Greenbush

Member Nowak expressed sorrow in hearing of the passing of Joe Greenbush who served on the Zoning Board, and commented that he was a very nice person.



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Speeding on Friend Street

Member Nowak advised he was asked about the speed of drivers going up Friend Street. It is posted at 25 mph but many people are going at a faster rate.

Chief Tarsa advised this is one of the most heavily patrolled areas and the majority of tickets given are issued in that section. He has set up the speed trailer there in the past and it is heavily patrolled. As cars come around the corner there is a perception that they are going faster than they really are, and the majority of people going faster than speed limit are those that live there. The Police Department will continue to monitor that area.

Pedestrian Safety

Member Nowak advised that with school getting out and kids with energy running around it is important to be careful when traveling with vehicles and keep an eye out for pedestrians.

Town Meeting Workshop

Member Nowak recommended the public come to the Town Meeting Workshop and noted that one of the most positive things is the transparency of the new Town Administrator. Rather than making allegations that are not true, instead be informed. He encouraged those who don't know to come learn how Town Meeting runs.

Member Snoonian echoed the encouragement and noted there are some very important warrant articles coming up at Town Meeting.

School Budget Scenarios

Member Duval requested the Town Administrator provide the Board a defined process of what is next since Cheshire's Proposition 2 ½ Override did not pass.

Annual Town Census

Member Duval noted the decrease of census population and inquired if the Town Clerk had broken down the metrics for the reduction of population.

Town Clerk Meczywor advised she encourages people to answer the census and she sends out approximately 200 postcards each year to citizens whose status is uncertain and gets back only about 20 or 30 before having to "inactivate" the person. A person must be kept on the list for two federal elections before being inactivated. There are currently less births than there are deaths and that has been a trend. Chapter 90 and grants received are based on Town population.

Parking Meters, Bike Lanes, Crosswalks

Member Harrington gave a reminder that the parking meters are working and being enforced. The bike lane will be in place for bikers and look out for bikers when opening a car door. The crosswalks are all painted, but arrows are still needed on the signs to indicate where the crosswalks are.



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The Handicapped parking spaces were not able to be put on the street due to Mass DOT regulations for the size of spaces.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjournment by Select Board

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to adjourn

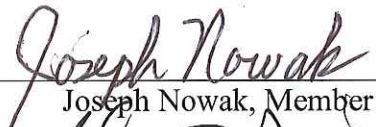
Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

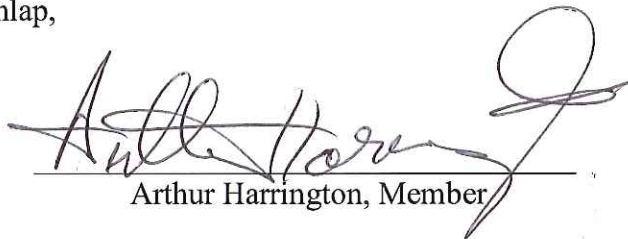
Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

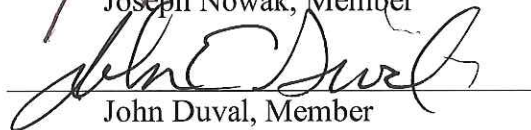
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary.



Joseph Nowak, Member



Arthur Harrington, Member



John Duval, Member

Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman



Richard Blanchard, Chairman