



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2015 – 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** and held a regular meeting at the **Adams Town Hall**. **Chairman Blanchard** presided the meeting. Present were **Vice Chairman Snoonian**, 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

- July 1, 2015
- July 8, 2015

Motion made by Member Duval to waive the reading and accept the minutes for July 1, 2015 as written

Second by Member Harrington

Abstention by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Voted in Favor: Chairman Blanchard, and Members Nowak, Duval, Harrington

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Snoonian to waive the reading and accept the minutes for July 8, 2015 as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC HEARING

FY2013 CDBG Public Hearing, 7:10 p.m.

7:10 p.m. Motion made by Member Harrington to open the FY2013 CDBG Public Hearing

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Community Development Director Donna Cesan gave an overview of the 2013 Grant of \$913,000 in CDBG Funds and what they provided. Activities included the *Adams Housing Rehab Program*, and *Park Street Improvement Project*; program delivery to carry out activities including staffing costs, and general administration funds. \$886,830 of the funds was spent, and the final drawdown has been submitted. She expects all bills will be paid and all activities will be closed out by the end of the month.

Substantial progress had been made and the 2013 Rehab Program funds were used to rehab residential units for low to moderate income residents. The goal was for rehab of 10 units but because some needed such extensive work only 9 units were done. The units were basically vacant, and are now up to code to provide safe and sanitary housing.

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15 AUG - 7 PM 3:45
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
CLERK



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The *Park Street Improvement Project* bid opening in June, 2014 produced the low bid from J.H. Maxymillian, but it was still higher than the original estimate. With approval to use *Chapter 90* money, the Town secured additional funds to go forward. They encountered some surprises with the underground work and difficulty with installing new catch basins and utility service that created conflicts and caused delays. Curbing, handicapped ramps, street paving, and hardware planters, and benches were installed. The project was satisfactorily completed in late spring 2015. Director Cesan thanked Mr. Palumbo and Mr. Alibozek for their work and acknowledged that the Town's DPW also provided technical expertise. The final cost is just under \$905,000, and Director Cesan will give the board a final update before closing it out.

Jeff Lefebvre advised he would like to get a list of the projects that have received money and have them explain what they have done with the money. He commended Director Cesan and her staff and noted that Director Cesan is one of the best grant writers he had ever seen. He advised he was waiting for information from *Representative Gail Cariddi* about project follow-up.

Motion made by Member Harrington to adjourn the FY2013 CDBG Public Hearing
Second by Member Nowak
Unanimous vote
Motion passed

Verizon Telephone New Pole Installation at 217 East Road, Public Hearing, 7:20 p.m.

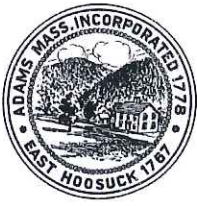
Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to open the Verizon New Pole Installation Public Hearing
Second by Member Duval
Unanimous vote
Motion passed

Richard Ladd represented *Verizon* and addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the placement of the pole on East Road. The pole placement is assumed to be part of the solar array arrangement, and the reason the pole has to be placed is because it avoids an aerial trespass and provides service to the Solar Array.

Light discussion ensued, and there were no additional questions by the Board or public brought to Mr. Ladd.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the pole location as identified #T33 1/2/E57/50
Second by Member Duval
Unanimous vote
Motion passed

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to close the Verizon Telephone New Pole Installation Public Hearing
Second by Member Harrington
Unanimous vote
Motion passed



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PUBLIC COMMENT

Outstanding Emergency Services Performance

Jeff Lefebvre thanked the *Adams Police*, *Adams Ambulance*, and *Adams Fire Department* for their involvement solving a recent problem and noted that they did an outstanding job.

National Night Out

Kathy Morrisette announced that *National Night Out* will take place on August 4th. There will be games, a cookout and prizes. The Police and Fire Departments attend this event and she encouraged the Town of Adams to be a united front. She requested the Town support the event by providing a barbecue or donating money to the event. There will be a meeting held on Monday evening, July 20th for those who are able to attend and help with the event.

Motorcycle Noise

Ann Morris of 40-42 Meadow Street advised the Select Board that Meadow Street used to be a quiet street until the past year. She inquired if the *Adams Police Department* had a decibel meter for motorcycles because according to the *Massachusetts Registry of Vehicles Website* there is a decibel limit. She said that according to *Massachusetts General Laws*, motorcycles are inspected and after the sticker is received people take off their muffler and run a straight pipe, which cannot go over 99 decibels. She also indicated she had asked the Police Department for a neighborhood watch.

Ms. Morris was advised to meet with Chief Tarsa to discuss this at a later date, and told her that the Chief works with neighborhood watches which are already in place.

Chief Tarsa advised this was the first time he had heard of the motorcycle issue, and the last issue of excessive motorcycle noise was several months ago at Barrett House which fell several decibels lower than the limit. He noted that it sounds loud, especially late at night. He will take notice, but has not received any complaints directly regarding motorcycle complaints. If it is a continuing problem, notifying the Board of Health or the Building Inspector, who has the meter, can be the first step.

Bicycle Safety Day

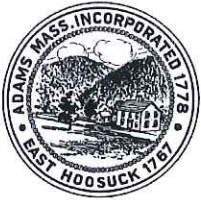
Chief Tarsa updated the Board that at the end of May, *Linda Cernik Greenbush* sponsored *Bicycle Safety Day* and *Officer Wandrei* participated. 53 helmets were given out to children between the ages of one and seventeen and numerous inspections of bicycles were conducted. The Police Department took initiatives for bicycle safety and operation and it was a very successful event.

Compliance Checks

Chief Tarsa advised the Board that on June 19th compliance checks were conducted with the local alcohol establishments, and all those checked were found to be compliant. These checks were conducted by *NB Coalition NB21* and *Officer McWhirt*.

Animal Control Officer Training

Chief Tarsa informed the Board that in June 2015 both Animal Control Officers trained in Boylston to become State certified. Adams is the only community in the Northern Berkshires that is certified. There is a new State requirement of a mandatory 12 credit course. The State will be offering 30 credit training classes in 6 locations. In the next budget year the Town will need to have an increase in the Animal Control Officer budget to comply with the new State mandate.



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Request for No Trespassing Signs

Chief Tarsa told the Board that Adams Visitors Center has had an increase in after-hours congregation of individuals between the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and the Town parking lot. He noted that since October, 2014 picnic tables have been overturned, and there was a problem with an individual urinating and defecating at the back corner of the building. Adams Police Department has increased efforts in that area, and he suggests that signs be put on the property indicating ***No Trespassing between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.*** to give the Police Department more potency in law enforcement efforts. Those who don't move on would be subject to arrest. Currently Officers are moving kids out of there several times a night. Signs will not deter those who use the bike trail at daybreak. The Police Department is doing the best they can to approach the situation from different angles. Putting up signs is better than enforcing a curfew.

This item will be placed on the next Select Board Workshop agenda. A suggestion was made to put in motion sensor lights or a camera, but cameras can be moved and removed.

Member Nowak noted that when he managed the Visitors Center there were also teenager problems but after talking with them it stopped. He expressed concern that if signs are put up teenagers will go to more secluded areas to do improper things, and if they are at the Visitors Center they may not be doing things too illegal like selling drugs.

Town Counsel St. John III advised the Select Board can approve putting up signs there without a bylaw.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Board Changes

Chairman Blanchard advised he attended the Zoning Board meeting. Hugh West is now the Representative to the Traffic Commission and Peter Gutman moved from an Alternate to full time Zoning Board Member position. These changes will be placed on the next Select Board Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion with Representative Gailanne Cariddi

Member Nowak advised that *Representative Cariddi* was not in attendance due to illness. She will attend in August.

Social Media Policy

Town Administrator Mazzucco gave an overview that the *Social Media Policy* was created so the Town can start launching its own Social Media sites.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the Social Media Policy as presented

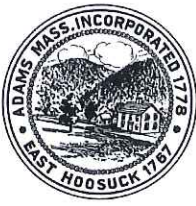
Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor Job Description

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised that the *Personnel Subcommittee* had reviewed the *Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor Job Description* and made one change to the position. The position used to have lab instead of mechanic responsibilities and this job description is reversing that. There was no change in pay scale or grade.



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Motion made by Member Duval to approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor Job Description as presented
Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian
Unanimous vote
Motion passed

New Officers Application – Forest Park Country Club

Forest Park Country Club met all requirements with the exception of the *Department of Revenue Good Standing Certificate* that ensures all taxes are paid; they have requested it numerous times and are awaiting its arrival.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the New Officers Application for Forest Park Country Club contingent on receipt of the Department of Revenue Good Standing Certificate.
Second by Member Nowak
Unanimous vote
Motion passed

Dog Kennel Overview

Member Harrington gave a summary of what needs to be done at the *Town Dog Kennel* including an outline of what was seen, what needs to be done and a schedule of time in which it needs to be done. Some things hopefully will be donated and other things will need to be purchased. Wasp nests were eradicated by *Chief Tarsa* and some preliminary items will be addressed prior to the service project. Those interested in helping with the project should call the Administrative Assistant to the Select Board to be notified of what needs to happen and when.

Ratification of Part-Time Financial Assistant II Position

Town Administrator Mazzucco requested the ratification of *Georgina Reopell* to the part-time position of *Financial Assistant II* for the Office of the Town Assessor. There were over a dozen applications received and this is the first of two part time positions. More interviews are forthcoming. This is an 18 hour per week position at the rate of \$16.43 per hour.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to ratify Georgina Reopell to the position of Part-Time Financial Assistant II to the Office of the Town Assessor
Second by Member Harrington
Unanimous vote
Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Parks Commission Meeting

Member Nowak attended the *Parks Commission* meeting. There was discussion of the use of fields by the *Youth Football League* and the use of fields by *BART*. The Parks Commission is looking for compensation from *BART* for use of *Russell Street* and *Valley Street* Fields. They will address this topic at their next meeting to resolve it. There was also talk about the use of *Bowe Field* by the *Agricultural Commission* and their contract was reviewed. Member Nowak advised there are some problems with *Bowe Field* that make it less than ideal for use by sports groups.



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Select Board Members noted that there are approximately 65 to 70 kids are being educated by *BART*, which is a school in this town and it is absurd for them to have to pay to use the field. One Member advised he did not like the way it was handled, that he felt being called "freeloaders" was inappropriate and he hopes they never have to pay to use the fields.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Joint Finance Committee/Select Board Workshop

July 21st there will be a joint Finance Committee and Select Board Workshop, which is expected to last less than an hour. The topic is *Basic Municipal Finance* and in August the topic will be *School Finance*. Other future topics will include *Labor Costs* and *Assessing*. The August meeting may be at BART School, and the date is pending.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award

Town Administrator Mazzucco attended a ceremony in Boston today in which the Town of Adams was awarded \$587,728 in funds for the *CDBG Grant* for the Visitors Center parking lot engineering and Housing Rehabilitation.

Director Cesan and her staff were thanked for their excellent work.

Train Service and Station Update

Director Cesan updated the Board that major improvement work is being done on the Adams Line to be able to focus on tourist trains, but *Specialty Minerals* and *Holland Company* will benefit from the upgraded rail service as well. *Berkshire Scenic Railway* will not be able to operate trains until Labor Day because the service is qualified through the *National Transportation Safety Board* in Lenox and Lee, and must complete the same standards for the Adams Line prior to operation. The service is developing as a volunteer organization from North Adams to Renfrew for the first year, and will do themed and special train rides for the fall and holiday season. They also plan to work with the Thunderbolt event. The track to Hoosac Street has been purchased but the State will not have the labor funds approved to complete it until July 1, 2016. Adams hopes to have the train run to Hoosac Street by autumn 2016. The Train Station is awaiting roofing material, the railroad ties will be installed within a few weeks, the contractor is putting on siding, and it is expected to be completed by mid-August.

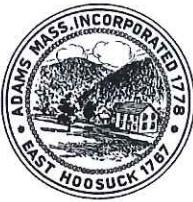
TOWN COUNSEL REPORT

Town Counsel St. John III advised he continued to work on easements for the *Rail Trail Project*; he did research and attended meetings regarding potential litigation; he researched and responded to a Zoning question and responded to a question regarding Executive Session reasons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Adams Farmers & Artisans Market

Member Harrington did work for the first *Adams Farmers & Artisans Market* both Saturday and Sunday. Vegetables should be forthcoming. There were 12 vendors and an about 17 or more expected this week. It was a good crowd, a great site and it drew quite a few people. The Deacon also announced the commencement of the Farmers Market at the church service.



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Murray Street

Vice Chairman Snoonian pointed out that the individual on Murray Street was caught, which is a victory for the area. He noted that the operation was pretty nifty and handled quietly. He advises that if a citizen sees something or has a shifty neighbor, they could talk to them to get a sense of who they are and go to the Police if warranted.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

#3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to enter Executive Session #1

Second by Member Duval

Roll Call Vote – Chairman Blanchard, Vice Chairman Snoonian, and Members Nowak, Duval and Harrington

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed

Executive Session began at 8:08 p.m. after a 5 minute recess.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to enter Executive Session #1

Second by Member Duval

Roll Call Vote – Chairman Blanchard, Vice Chairman Snoonian, and Members Nowak, Duval and Harrington

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed

8:31 p.m. Executive Session #1 concluded and Executive Session #2 commenced

Motion made by Member Nowak to exit Executive Session #2 Nowak

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Roll Call Vote – Chairman Blanchard, Vice Chairman Snoonian, and Members Nowak, Duval and Harrington

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed

8:55 p.m. Executive Session #2 concluded

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjournment by Select Board

Motion made by Member Snoonian to adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



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Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary.

Joseph Nowak
Joseph Nowak, Member

John Duval
John Duval, Member

Arthur Harrington
Arthur Harrington, Member

Jeffrey Snoonian
Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman

Richard Blanchard
Richard Blanchard, Chairman