



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2015 – 7:00 PM
MAHOGANY ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the Board of Selectmen and held a meeting at the Adams Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Richard Blanchard presided the meeting. Present were, Members Joseph Nowak and Arthur Harrington. Absent were Vice Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian and Member John Duval. Also in attendance was Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco.

The Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF MINUTES

October 14, 2015
October 21, 2015
October 28, 2015

Motion made by Member Nowak to waive reading the October 14th minutes and to approve them as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Nowak to waive reading the October 21st minutes and to approve them as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Nowak to waive reading the October 28th minutes and to approve them as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC HEARING

Tax Classification Hearing

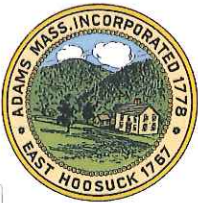
Motion made by Member Harrington to go into the Public Hearing for Tax Classification

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

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15 NOV 19 PM 3:14
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
CLERK



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Town Assessor Donna MacDonald advised the Town would be redoing the Tax Classification Hearing at the request of the Department of Revenue. There was a paperwork submission issue and a PILOT Agreement had to be reworded before it could be accepted, causing the need for this second Public Hearing.

There were no comments from the public. The Board discussed reaffirming the vote from two weeks prior to fulfill the full board's desire at this meeting, since two members are absent.

Motion made by Member Harrington to reaffirm the Tax Classification split from two weeks ago

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Nowak to exit the Public Hearing

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Coffee with a Cop

Police Chief Tarsa advised beginning Saturday, November 7th 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Daily Grind, there will be free "Coffee with a Cop". Officer Cunningham will be available for questions from the public, with free coffee.

Forensic Program at Hoosac Valley High School

Chief Tarsa informed the Board that in January 2016 Adams Police Department will work with 6th and 7th grade students in a forensic program at Hoosac Valley High School. Officer Onorato be leading the program for an hour per week and will cover several different aspects of police work. Time and budget restrictions will determine how much can be done.

Board members expressed appreciation for the police program for the age group.

Inspection Fees

Francie Anne Riley read a letter she had written about her experience with attempting to get a wire inspection. She informed the Board of a significant lack of response and delay in scheduling by the Inspector, and asked for consideration of this regarding the fee increase the Wire Inspector had requested.

Police Training with Schools on Drugs

Chief Tarsa informed the Board about a seminar about drugs that he has been working with Adams Cheshire Regional School to coordinate. Additional training is being scheduled in January about gangs. BART, McCann, Mt. Greylock and Drury schools have also been invited to these seminars at ACRSD.



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NEW BUSINESS

Board of Selectmen Award for Excellence for Public Service

A memo was read to the Board regarding Mary Beverly, Town Accountant, providing excellent public service to a local business. A Citation will be awarded to Ms. Beverly on behalf of the Board.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the Citation to Mary Beverly for outstanding work

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Resolution for Retirement of Library Director

A Resolution was read aloud by Chairman Blanchard to recognize Deborah Bruneau's 23 years' service.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the Resolution #2015-001

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Debbie Bruneau gave some background about her experience and expressed her honor in serving citizens and working with the historic building. She expressed thanks for the solid foundation and support of the Town.

Holiday Free Parking Request

A letter from the Events Committee requesting *Free Holiday Parking* from Friday November 27, 2015 until January 1, 2016 was read by Chairman Blanchard.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the Free Parking for the Holidays as outlined

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Increase Request for Inspection Fees

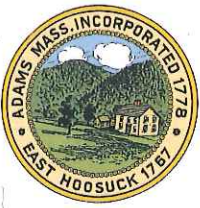
David Rhinemiller, Electrical Inspector, wrote a letter requesting an increase in inspection fees. The Town Administrator requested the Board wait until staff can assess the full fee structure and review practices and procedures to see if an increase is justified. Electrical, Plumbing and Gas Inspectors are paid per permit, not by salary. Weights and Measures have a contract fee. Concern was voiced about Ms. Riley's experience previously expressed to the Board.

Motion made by Member Harrington to table the topic in order to perform a comprehensive review of fees and to investigate concerns brought to the Board

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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Town Hall Staff Training

The Board was requested to authorize closing Town Hall up to two days for staff training, with a focus on communication and customer service.

Motion made by Member Harrington to authorize the Town Administrator to close Town Hall up to two days to train Town Staff

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Ratification of Per Diem Van Driver for Council on Aging

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised he had appointed Gregory Trottier to the Per Diem Van Driver position pending ratification by the Board. There is ongoing recruitment for on-call drivers.

Motion made by Member Nowak to ratify Gregory Trottier to the position of Per Diem Van Driver

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Ratification of Chief Mechanic

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised he had appointed John Schaffrick to Chief Mechanic pending ratification by the Board, as he has filled in for the last few months and is doing a good job.

Motion made by Member Harrington to ratify John Schaffrick to the Chief Mechanic position

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Ratification of DPW Contract

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained the contract and its inclusions. Changes were reviewed. No questions were received by Board Members regarding the contract.

Motion made by Member Nowak to ratify the DPW Contract as submitted

Second by Member Harrington

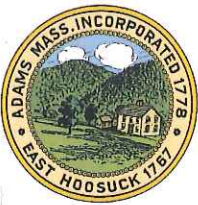
Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

ACRSD School Committee Meeting

Member Nowak attended the ACRSD School Committee Meeting and reviewed the meeting content. Covered were the lack of the Deans' job descriptions, disciplinary problems, and an open forum scheduled on November 19th to discuss the school budget with the public.



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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator Report

There will be a Strategic Planning November 14th, 10 am. The Public Comment CDBG period is over. Community Development Staff put out an RFP for the 20 East Street property, and a successful proposal will enter into an agreement with the Town. The Green Communities Application has been submitted. The Harvest Market will be held on November 15th at the Adams Memorial School. An MCLA Internship program is being developed through the Town Administrator's office. There will be a Veterans' Service on November 10th at the Monument at Town Hall, and a Veterans Event with a 21 Gun Salute at noon at the Visitors Center. The Ad Hoc Solid Waste Committee met for the first time tonight, and may take on the Styrofoam container issue. A Mohawk Trail Regional Partnership meeting is forthcoming.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel advised he worked on the Show Cause Hearing, provided assistance with a Public Records Act Request and a Dog Bite, assisted the Building Inspector with permit questions, and the Assessor with a proposed PILOT Agreement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GOOD OF THE ORDER

Hoosac Valley High School Playoffs

Hoosac Valley High School will play on Friday 7:00 pm at Renfrew Field in the playoffs for Western Mass Football Team. Hoosac Valley High School is ranked #1 and playing against Frontier Regional School, which is ranked at #4.

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Project

The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Project meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m. at McCann Technical School. BRPC and Franklin Regional Council of Governments will be doing a public outreach to explore a partnership. This will increase the economic development in a 21 town area utilizing sustainable forestry practices.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Member Nowak

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous Vote


Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.




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Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member

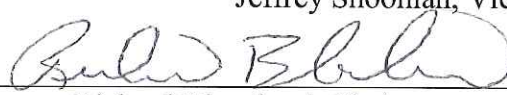


Arthur Harrington, Member



John Duval, Member

Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman



Richard Blanchard, Chairman