



# TOWN OF ADAMS

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, February 3, 2016 – 7:00 PM  
ADAMS TOWN HALL, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Arthur Harrington and John Duval. Vice Chairman Snoonian was absent. Also in attendance was Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco, and Town Counsel, Ed St. John III.

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

*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

### READING OF MINUTES

- *Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2016*

*Motion made by Member Harrington to waive reading the minutes from January 20, 2016 and to approve them as written*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

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### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### *CDBG Grant*

Jeff Lefebvre advised that he is glad the Town is not applying for the CDBG Grant this year.

#### *ACRSD Budget*

Jeff Lefebvre inquired if the Town had met with the ACRSD regarding the budget.

The Town and the School met last month and both are in the same financial situation. 3% is estimated this year for the budget, but they will need between 7% and 9%. Another meeting is planned between the ACRSD and representatives of Adams and Cheshire to review the budget.

#### *Town Hall Change of Hours*

Jeff Lefebvre inquired if the Adams Town Hall is going to reduce to four days a week.

The Board of Selectmen has not made a decision yet regarding a change of hours.

#### *Finance Committee Meeting*

Jeff Lefebvre advised the Finance Committee had a good meeting and the Town Administrator made good points. He noted that the free cash certifications are about \$300K less than last year and could be higher, but it is lower than last year. He pointed out in the last five years the tax rate went up.



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### ***Adams Farmers Market***

**Jeff Lefebvre** said in his opinion the Town should not be paying to run the Farmers Market, and that it should be run by the private sector.

### ***Municipal Aggregation***

**Jeff Lefebvre** inquired what is happening with the *Municipal Aggregation*.

*Colonial Power* will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen next week to get information out to community and to create a media strategy.

### ***Northern Berkshire Adult Basic Education Program***

**Corinne Case** announced the *Northern Berkshire Adult Basic Education Program* provides free and available education and job coaching opportunities for adults. This is a bridge to college for adults to earn high school diploma equivalency and search for career opportunities. Evening classes are available at C.T. Plunkett School, and there are openings and a rolling enrollment. For more information call (413) 662-5330. Monthly testing is held at the MCLA library.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Police Department Presentation***

**Chief Tarsa** and the **Adams Police Department** came before the Board of Selectmen to recognize eight year old **Cody Stodja** for his quick thinking, calling 911 to request assistance for his mother and ultimately saving her life on November 18, 2015. A plaque of recognition was presented to Cody, and he was made an *Honorary Officer* for a day. He will report to Sergeant Wright, who will work with him.

Board Members noted that being a police officer is a difficult position. Chief Tarsa, the Adams Police Officers and *Honorary Officer Stodja* were appreciated and thanked for what they do.

### ***Appointment – Historical Commission***

A letter was received by *Anthony Archambault* indicating his interest in being appointed to the *Historical Commission*.

***Motion made by Member Nowak to appoint Anthony Archambault to the Historical Commission***

***Second by Member Harrington***

***Unanimous vote***

***Motion passed***

### ***One Day Wine & Malt License Application – Balderdash Cellars***

A *One-Day Wine & Malt License* application was received from *Balderdash Cellars* for *Thunderfest*, on March 5, 2016.

**Chief Tarsa** advised he is looking for a plan from the vendor to prevent underage sales and a lapse in security measures prior to the event. The plan should be provided to the Chief by next week.





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*Motion made by Member Duval to approve the One Day Wine & Malt License for Balderdash Cellars for March 5, 2016 12pm to 5pm with the stipulation that a plan for security measures of sale of alcohol be provided to Chief Tarsa before the next meeting*

*Second by member Harrington*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### *Presidential Primary Warrant*

The *Presidential Primary Warrant* was provided to the Board of Selectmen by the Town Clerk.

*Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the Presidential Primary Warrant for the Town of Adams, on March 1, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Garage*

*Second by Member Nowak*

*Unanimous vote*

*Motion passed*

### *Annual Town Election*

A letter from **Town Clerk Haley Meczywor** was read by Chairman Blanchard indicating nomination papers must be filed by **March 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.** It was noted that many positions in town are not elected and are appointed so those interested should call Town Hall. Those who wish to vote should register soon because the deadline to file to vote is twenty days prior to the election.

### *Town Hall Hours*

A review was made of the board discussion on the proposed change of hours to reduce costs by a few thousand dollars. Proposed hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. A draft of a press release was given to the Board for review. There are no concerns and the collective bargaining unit would be governing overtime. A survey was done to elicit information from other towns in the Commonwealth regarding Town Hall hours. No action was taken by the Board and information was shared. A six-month trial of proposed hours is being considered, and if implemented could begin around March 15, 2016. Tracking of citizens using the later hours could be done to see if it is effective or if hours need to be adjusted. Community perception and economics were discussed as it is a small way to save money. Later hours would accommodate citizens working out of town, and during tax season accommodations will be made to be open on Fridays.

## SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

### *Adams Cheshire Regional School District*

**Member Nowak** attended the ACRSD meeting and there was discussion about meeting with officials of Adams and Cheshire to look at budget requests. The District agreed to a lease/purchase agreement to replace a truck used at the high school that is fifteen years old and falling apart.

### *Mt. Greylock Advisory Board*

**Member Nowak** attended the *Mt. Greylock Advisory Board* meeting and noted there was discussion concerning people not knowing Mt. Greylock is in Adams. If a sign is placed near the top of Mt. Greylock the Board of Selectmen would need to approve it so it could be installed. Also discussed was the rededication of the War Memorial where the spokesman was from North Adams.



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### ***Berkshire MPO***

**Member Duval** attended the Berkshire MPO meeting and advised that District 1 reports the Rail Trail project from Hoosac Street to Lime Street has been awarded to Maxymillian and will begin in a few weeks. In regards to the Railway, the state has purchased ties and rails to complete the railway but there is no labor funding in the current fiscal year budget or in next year's proposed fiscal budget. The Berkshire Scenic Railway showed a positive "soft opening" and the Town of Adams and Mayor Alcombright propose express concern about having the railway completed for this year. The next part of the *Ashuwillticook Rail Trail* from Lime Street to Hodges Cross Road is a \$1 Million TIP amount. The Town of Adams issued a request for proposals (RFP) for anticipated construction of the extension, and 2019 is the timeline for the next leg of the trail. Member Duval advised that project requests should be submitted now. Last year the Route 8 Project was submitted but needs to have a completed engineering study to be considered. The Board of Selectmen was urged to consider using *Chapter 90* funds to get the engineering study done to complete that construction. BRTA was also in attendance and potential bus route changes were reviewed. One recommendation indicated the bus route may not go down Summer Street in the future but down Park Street instead, where there is no bus parking. Summer Street could be an "on-call" location, but no decisions have been made.

### ***Events Committee Banquet***

**Chairman Blanchard, Member Duval and Town Administrator Mazzucco** attended the final banquet of the *Adams Events Committee*, where service appreciation plaques were presented to members.

### ***Berkshire County Selectmen's Association***

**Chairman Blanchard** advised he attended the *Berkshire County Selectmen's Association* meeting.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Town Administrator's Report**

#### ***Annual Census***

The Town of Adams is collecting census forms. If you did not get one or have questions contact *Town Clerk Haley Meczywor* at (413) 743-8300 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Completed Town Census forms help with getting state aid.

#### ***Annual Budget***

Town budget work is ongoing and is anticipated to have a similar schedule as last year. The budget meeting schedule will be out soon.

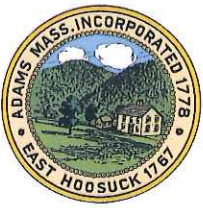
#### ***Open Positions***

The Town will begin interviewing for the *Building Commissioner*. There are currently two qualified applicants. The *Health and Housing Inspector, Community Development Specialist, and Library Director* positions will begin interviewing soon. The town will also be filling the *DPW Maintenance Technician/Operator 1* position shortly.

#### ***Building Repairs***

There was a small leak in the Library caused by an interior pipe that deteriorated. The carpet was soiled and some books were lost, but insurance is covering it. The final repair work at Police Department from a small fire is not yet complete. The Chief and the Building Inspector were not satisfied with the quality of work that was done and the contractor is coming back to change a few things. This is also covered by insurance.





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### ***State Aid***

State aid seems to be up this budget year but cherry sheets are not yet out, and must go through the House and the Senate.

### ***Permit***

The former DPW Director was contacted regarding the former *Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain* and assured that the contractor was responsible for permits. The contractor was under the impression that the Town was responsible for the permits. Both the Building Inspector and Health Inspector were aware of the project, which was approved in late summer. Community Development Director Cesan and the Town Administrator are working with the Conservation Commission Chair to make sure this does not happen again.

### ***School Events***

*BART School* Science Fair is tomorrow and *C.T. Plunkett School* is Dr. Seuss Day on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### ***Elm Tree Sale***

The DPW will have elm trees for sale in the spring, which was also successfully done years ago.

### ***Berkshire County Education Task Force***

There was a *Berkshire County Education Task Force* meeting this past weekend and are continuing to work on securing funding to have the *Donohue Institute* of UMass come in and do an analysis of work the group has done to create a plan for sustainable education in Berkshire County.

### ***Greylock Glen Project***

There was a Board of Selectmen workshop on the *Greylock Glen* where progress to date was reviewed. The Town is looking at how to shuffle resources to make the project a priority. It is a critical project for Adams and for Berkshire County and Western Massachusetts. Members of the Board of Selectmen will be ambassadors to the State House and other state agencies, and the legislators beyond our districts on the importance of moving this project forward.

### ***Strategic Plan Project***

The Board of Selectmen met briefly to review the *Strategic Plan* input and continue to hone down and draft the plan. The Town intends to have it completed by Town Meeting.

### **Town Counsel Report**

Town Counsel St. John III advised since his last report he provided advice to Board of Selectmen concerning a licensing issue, and the posting of hearing notices. He continued preparing the case before the *ABCC* concerning the *Mt. Club*, and had discussions with the *Mt. Club* attorney concerning that hearing. He also advised staff concerning compliance with the statute regarding settlement disbursements.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER**

#### ***Events Committee***

Chairman Blanchard thanked the *Events Committee* for all their years of service to Adams.



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### EXECUTIVE SESSION

*#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 Member Nowak to enter into Executive Session for purpose #3 only to adjourn after completion*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Roll Call Vote: Chairman Blanchard, Members Nowak, Duval, and Harrington*

*Motion passed*

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made to adjourn by Member Harrington*

*Second by Member Duval*

*Unanimous Vote*

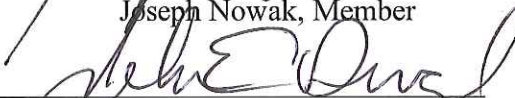
*Motion passed*

*The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

  
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Joseph Nowak, Member

  
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Arthur Harrington, Member

  
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John Duval, Member

  
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Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman

  
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Richard Blanchard, Chairman