



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2016 – 7:00 PM
ADAMS TOWN HALL, 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 **Vice Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian**, **Members Joseph Nowak, Arthur Harrington and John Duval**. Also in attendance was **Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco**. *Town Counsel, Ed St. John III was absent.*

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF MINUTES

- December 30, 2015
- February 3, 2016
- February 10, 2016
- February 17, 2016

Motion made by Member Nowak to waive reading the minutes from December 30, 2015, February 3, 2016, February 10, 2016, February 17, 2016 and to approve them as written

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Meeting Postings

Jeff Lefebvre asked about whether sub committees have been posted.

There have not been any sub-committee meetings since Jeff asked about this and the question about whether they need to be posted has been posed to Town Counsel.

School Budget

Jeff Lefebvre noted that the school budget meetings have started and they are looking at needing \$1.7 Million more.

Closing a School

Jeff Lefebvre advised the *Adams Cheshire Regional School District* talked about closing a school and though there is no confirmation they came to a consensus at the school. He asked if the Board would find out for certain whether this decision was made.

Adams Arts Advisory Board

Francie Anne Riley of the *Adams Arts Advisory Board* advised that in the Town Hall their display is up through March 30th during business hours at Town Hall. The *Adams Arts Advisory Board* started a Facebook event page for the Art Show. *Adams Informed* will have a link to it on there or search on Facebook for

RECEIVED-POSTED
16 MAR 17 AM 9:10
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
CLERK



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Adams Arts Advisory Board Art Show. A sub-committee has begun preparing for the *Berkshire Mountain Fairy Festival* on June 10th at the Agricultural Fairgrounds. They are running out of materials to create decorations and costumes, so donations of odd fabrics, fake flowers, bells, bits and pieces of other materials can be dropped off at Izzy's Diner. Citizens are encouraged to get involved and ideas are always welcome. Volunteers for the Festival are invited. Connect at artsinadams@gmail.com or send a message on the Facebook page *Adams Arts Advisory Board*, or send a letter to the Adams Arts Advisory Board at the Adams Town Hall at 8 Park Street, it will be picked up.

NEW BUSINESS

Records Restoration

Ed Driscoll, Town Moderator advised he had done research to see what parliamentary procedure was used historically in Adams. He located the oldest book with original town meeting minutes, which is in a condition of serious deterioration. It would take \$800 from the Town of Adams and \$800 from the City of North Adams to do an assessment, take the book to make a copy and store the original copy, with intent of putting all records on the internet. The document is stored in North Adams because there were two communities with a recreation area in the middle, so the town decided to amicably split into two communities, North Adams and Adams. North Adams kept the records and Adams kept the name, as the agreement. Eugene Michalenko has more information on it.

Town Administrator Mazzucco will look into this.

Discussion regarding placement of signs at Mt. Greylock Summit

Member Nowak noted that Mt. Greylock does not have road from Adams to the summit, but the summit is in Adams. He brought it up to the Mt. Greylock Regional Advisory Council. It is designated a scenic byway, so signs may be limited in design.

The DPW has already reached out to the *Department of Conservation and Recreation* (DCR) and having the Board support would give authorization to write a letter to have signs requested.

Board Members gave input on locations of the signs and their designs. A standard town line entrance sign, *Welcome to Adams* was recommended. An additional sign at the summit was suggested as well, giving the elevation. Though an artistic sign would be admired, being a Scenic Byway may limit the style of designs allowed.

Motion made by Member Nowak to initiate establishing "Entering Adams" signs at the top of Mt. Greylock

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Alternate Building Commissioner

The Town has the opportunity to bring on another Alternate Building Inspector to keep things moving in the Building Department. Don Torrico has agreed to begin temporarily at \$50 per hour for work done, which is the same as Ryan Contenta. Those in need of services are advised to come into the office and services will be set up from there.



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Motion made by Member Harrington to ratify Don Torrico as Alternate Building Commissioner to the Town of Adams

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Building Commissioner Appointment

A position has been offered but the Town has not heard back yet.

Community Development Specialist

The ratification of the Community Development Specialist position is not ready to go forward at this time.

Change of Club Officers Resubmission

The American Legion hoped to be ready to have their resubmission of Change of Club Officers ready for the Board but the paperwork required further changes, and will be brought forward at a future date.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to take Building Commissioner, Community Development Specialist and Change of Club Officers off the agenda

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Municipal Aggregation

Town Administrator Mazzucco gave the Board a list of current energy rates and initiated a discussion regarding contract terms and selection of energy mix if the Board wishes to move forward. The difference between energy options was covered. Sourcing energy in a green way includes the additional cost of buying a label that says the Town is buying "green".

The process of how *Municipal Aggregation* works was reviewed again. Clarification was given of both the contract terms and what they mean, and also the combination of residential and commercial rates. The recommendation was given to leave the mix the way it is and not complicating it by adding in commercial rates as well. Hydro energy was noted as being 6/1000th of a penny, and unless the public indicates they would like the Town to spend the extra money to be "green" the Board will select the lowest price. The opt-out process was reviewed again, and it was pointed out that there is no fee to either opt in or opt out, which residents may do at will. A mailing will go out to community members explaining the process. Board Members discussed the strategy of whether a twelve month or eighteen month contract would be more beneficial. National Grid locks in their pricing in early March, and it was recommended to wait to see what the National Grid rate is before locking in a rate. The rates dip closer to summer and spike in the winter, making it important to select the strategy to utilize the lower rates.

Motion made by Harrington to enter 18 month term with least expensive option of regular mix

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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Fire District Agreement

The *Intermunicipal Agreement* between the Fire District and the Town of Adams has not been finalized. Originally there was a fee but it was changed to have no charge to the Town, and the agreement is only to cover liability. This is the same agreement from last year and the Town Counsel for the Fire District reviewed it. It was clarified that the agreement represented fire protection services as conditions exist today.

Richard Kleiner, of the *Adams Fire District*, advised this agreement puts in writing a benefit already in place. The Fire Department would respond to a call outside of the Fire District, and this agreement being signed would eliminate liability.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Fire District and the Town of Adams outside of the Fire District and within the limits of the Town of Adams

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Member Nowak and **Vice Chairman Snoonian** attended the ACRSD meeting where Superintendent Gordon tendered her resignation. There was discussion about working on the budget.

School Committee Member Ed St. John IV advised that the School Committee is exploring options for their strategy for replacing the Superintendent. He also advised the Committee is working on the budget, which is a priority due to deadlines.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

Vice Chairman Snoonian advised the BRTA meeting was postponed as they did not have a quorum to hold the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Annual Town Election

Annual Town Election is May 2nd. Open positions for election were listed. Contact the Town Clerk's office to get information on open positions and to take out papers, at (413) 743-8300 x176.

Member Nowak encouraged citizens for run for the open positions, and to take out papers to get on the ballot.

Budget Schedule

Budget meetings will be held on March 21, 22, 23, and 24th at the Visitors Center at 6:00 p.m., and will be joint meetings with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. The vote will be scheduled tentatively for March 30th. The schedule will be posted online. The budget books should be available early next week for the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, and posted online for residents.



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Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III was absent and a written report delivered by *Ed St. John IV* advised that he had reviewed a question concerning posting a public meeting, reviewed a proposed easement, provided advice concerning a presentation at Town Meeting, reviewed the *Intermunicipal Agreement* between Town and the Fire District, and reviewed a potential claim by the Town against a roofing manufacturer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Voting Location

Member Harrington noted that this year there were issues with voting at the DPW garage. There were no cones or speed limit signs, causing several near accidents. The lights were flickering and the building was very cold. He suggested the Board consider looking into relocating the voting to Memorial School in May. Memorial School is handicap accessible, has plenty of parking, and can hold Town Meeting there as well. Usually Town Meeting is held at *CT Plunkett School*, but acoustics are terrible and handicap accessibility is poor. He asked Chairman Blanchard to place this topic on the agenda for the future and to talk to the Town Clerk to find out what needed to get building ready to use it.

It takes the DPW three days to clean up the garage, relocate equipment, and dedicate staff time to make it ready. The condition of the auditorium was discussed, and the Building Commissioner will have to be consulted to see what needs to be done.

Thunderfest

Chairman Blanchard reminded everyone that *Thunderfest* will be held in Adams on Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed before and after the event to help with setup and cleanup.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Executive Session #1:

#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;*

Executive Session #2:

#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 into Executive Session for purpose #3 at 7:53 p.m.

Second by Member Harrington

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

Motion passed

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to exit Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

Second by Member Harrington

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

Motion passed



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ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Member Nowak

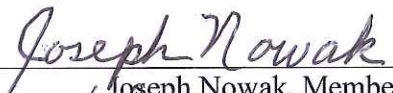
Second by Member Duval

Unanimous Vote


Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

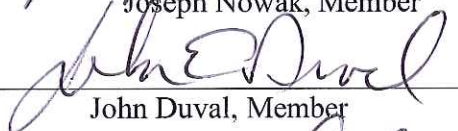
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member



Arthur Harrington, Member



John Duval, Member



Jeffrey Snoonian, Vice Chairman



Richard Blanchard, Chairman