



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, April 20, 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 were **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

- March 21, 2016
- March 22, 2016

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to waive reading the minutes from March 21, 2016 and March 22, 2016 and approve them as written

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Road Repairs

Jeff Lefebvre inquired when potholes would be fixed. He noted that about six years ago the Town picked a few streets to get paved during the year and asked if the same would be done this year.

The blacktop plant in Pittsfield is not open yet so the DPW is going out further to get it, but later in the year they hope to get a hot box. Every year the DPW assesses street conditions and a paving plan for the year.

Maple Grove Civic Club

Jeff Lefebvre thanked everyone who attended the Maple Grove Civic Club meeting and reminded everyone to vote at elections on May 2nd.

Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival

Dick Tavelli of the *Adams Arts Advisory Board* advised that the Board is looking for vendors and performers for the Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival. There will be buskers at the event, and **Francie Anne Riley** is having a costuming workshop. There is public media coverage and posters are available. The Berkshire Mountain Faerie Festival will be held on Saturday, June 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Adams Agricultural Fair on Bowe Field. There will be food, musicians, story tellers, crafts, events and activities for children. It will be a fun, whimsical event for the whole family.

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Prescription Drug Roundup

Chief Tarsa advised that on Saturday, April 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. there will be a Prescription Drug Roundup. There is a drop box kiosk in the Police Station where unwanted over-the-counter medications can be dropped off. Any sharps, such as used needles, need to be in a proper container. No needles may be dropped in the box for safety reasons but may be put in a used soda bottle, capped, and and duct taped in place, or put in a “sharps” container.

Grants for Police Enforcement

Chief Tarsa advised the Police Department received a grant for traffic enforcement regarding “Distracted Driving”, and in the beginning of May will be “Click It or Ticket”. August will be a “Drunk Driving” deployment. It will be made public through the media and information sessions.

IRS Scam

Chief Tarsa advised there have been a lot of complaints received regarding an IRS Scam. He played an audio of the scam recording for the audience, which came from a Seattle Washington address. He advised anyone who receives a message not to fall victim to the scam because the IRS does not operate like this.

Farmer’s Market

Henry Jaeschke inquired if Farmers Market is happening this year.

The group that had stepped up to do the Farmers Market was not able to get enough Farm Vendors so it will not happen this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership

A brief overview was given on the process and to update that the Board’s vote is only the first step in the process.

Tom Matuszko of *Berkshire Regional Planning Commission* answered questions for Board Members and briefly reviewed the process that had transpired to date in past meetings. He advised that they had done an analysis of some other communities in the region, and those with Chapter 61 and Chapter 61A had greater tax reductions. A Board vote would support the legislative two-step process. Step 1 is to create the framework, and if the state legislation passes, he would come out in about a year to see if towns want to actively participate. If the program works and tourists come to use enhanced trail system, there could be additional rescue needed and a payment would cover costs to the town. It is up to the discretion of the Town whether to vote on it at Town Meeting. There are permanent or term-limited restrictions, but it was unclear what the length of terms would be. A farm viability program is in place now in a term-restriction, and after a certain number of years it falls by the wayside. Landowners may not know what they want in perpetuity so there are different options. If a private land owner takes out a restrictive covenant on their property and sells it, the buyer will have to stay within the restrictions as a permanent deed restriction. This is similar to the Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR).



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Motion made by Member Nowak to support the legislative intent of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Remote Participation

Town Administrator Mazzucco gave a draft of a Remote Participation Policy to the Board of Selectmen. Parameters and technology requirements were reviewed. If the participant doesn't have the proper technology, the Town is not required to provide it. The Town currently has audio but does not have video capabilities, and each Committee or Board could provide their own. The conference phone system works well. If adopted, training should be provided for the Boards and Committee Members. The procedure that the Board Chair must go through at the beginning of the meeting was outlined. There is a requirement of a Roll Call Vote, and a physical quorum must be in the room when this policy is in use. Additional restrictions could be added to the policy as needed. It was noted that if the Board of Selectmen adopted the policy all Boards also have to adopt it, even if not used.

Town Counsel St. John III advised he had no concerns and the policy and it did not vary from the Attorney General guidelines.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to adopt the Remote Participation Policy as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Children's Librarian

Pending ratification of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Mazzucco advised that he had appointed **Lyn Wilson** to the position of Children's Librarian at the **Grade 5, Step 9** rate of **\$18.37 per hour**.

Motion made by Member Duval to ratify the appointment of Lyn Wilson to the position of Children's Librarian

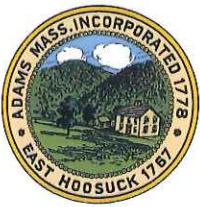
Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Ratifications of Adams Police Department Reserve Officers

Chief Tarsa advised the Board that extensive fair and impartial background checks have been conducted on the Reserve Officer candidates, Benjamin Alibozek and Dakota Baker. Both candidates successfully passed the reserve academy and one did an internship with the Adams Police Department while in college as well as doing Field Training Officer training on his own funds. Both made this commitment around their full-time jobs, showing determination and commitment. Chief Tarsa requested the Board's appointment of the ratifications. Full Time Academy is 800 hours of training and Reserve Academy is 315 hours. Reserve officers will be able to carry weapons.



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Motion made by Member Harrington to ratify Dakota Baker to the position of Reserve Officer at rate of \$17.91 per hour

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Duval to ratify Benjamin Alibozek to the position of Reserve Officer at a rate of \$17.91 per hour

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous Vote

Motion Passed

Ratification of Seasonal Laborers

Pending ratification of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Mazzucco advised he has appointed the following Seasonal Laborers to be selected from the list as needed: **Ryan Boody, Shawn Marko, Tessa Garcia, Raymond Keele, Joseph Messer, Ryan Bailey, Ian Hill, David Marko and Aaron Christopher**, at the rate of \$10.00 per hour.

Motion made by Member Nowak to ratify appointments of the DPW Seasonal Employees as listed at rate of \$10 per hour

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Proclamation, Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Chairman Blanchard read the *Proclamation of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week*

Corinne Case gave information about mental health issues that affect children in the community. She praised the local police efforts working with local people with mental health issues. She reviewed the stigmas that affect people with mental health and listed services available. She gave statistics for how many youth with mental health issues drop out of school, commit suicide and have police contact. An upcoming event will be held where people will wear placards to bring awareness to the community regarding mental health issues, and gave information from the *Department of Mental Health*. She recommended contacting NAMI 413-443-1666 to answer questions for people.

Motion made by Member Harrington to approve the Proclamation of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week as Written

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Requests

Vice Chairman Snoonian attended the *Parks Commission* meeting and all applications were glowingly approved at the meeting.



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Renfrew Field – *North Adams Babe Ruth*

Renfrew Field – *Berkshire Americans Baseball (NABR)*

Renfrew Field, Russell Field – *Hoosac Valley High School*

Russell Field – *Youth Center, Inc.*

Russell Field Tennis Courts – *Youth Center, Inc.*

Motion made by Vice Chairman Snoonian to approve the facility use requests of North Adams Babe Ruth, Berkshire Americans Baseball, Hoosac Valley High School, and the Youth Center, Inc. with the dates and times listed on the applications herein

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Cemetery Commission

Member Nowak attended the *Cemetery Commission* meeting and wished Larry Clairmont well in his future. Green burials were discussed and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is not able to do them currently. Cremated remains are only placed in certain locations.

Parks Commission

Vice Chairman Snoonian advised the *Parks Commission* meeting went well.

Greylock Glen, Scenic Railroad

Vice Chairman Snoonian noted that the *Greylock Glen* and the *Scenic Railroad* were discussed at a meeting last week.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Taxes Due

Real Estate and Personal Taxes are due by May 2nd. The Tax Collector's Office will be open on Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to allow for public accommodation in meeting the deadline.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are due and can be paid at the Town Clerk's office.

Brownfields Environmental Assessment

Town Staff is waiting to hear about the Brownfields environmental assessment work on the Route 8 corridor. If accepted, the amount could be as high as \$400,000.



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LED Lighting

An RFP to upgrade lights to LED replacements is in progress. The Town is required under procurement law to do a State bid.

20 East Street

The Town will revise and reissue an RFP for 20 East Street.

Senecal Terrace

Working on bid documents for retaining wall for Senecal Terrace;

Projects

Chapter 90 funds are being considered for a Commercial Street reconstruction project. The culvert on Jordan Street has also been identified as an issue and is being assessed so that it may be addressed.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III reviewed that he performed an investigation regarding issues about the war memorial and prepared documents for ongoing litigation, tax assessments and land.

Member Nowak advised that David Meyers said according to his deed he is the owner of the War Memorial. It was noted that the War Memorial is in deplorable condition. There is a sculptor that may be willing to redo the monument free of charge, and he spoke to the American Legion Post, who didn't have a problem with it. It was important to know who the owner was before doing it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Voting Location

Member Harrington advised at the March 2nd meeting he brought up issues regarding the location of voting. At that time, there was a consensus of the board to look into relocating it from the Town Garage, and he inquired why it didn't happen. It was asked to be put on the agenda and to have the Town Clerk give input on what would need to happen to change location.

Town Administrator Mazzucco spoke with the Town Clerk and she had reservations about holding it in the Memorial School because of air quality, and where electricity and phone lines would be located. Once these are resolved it will be brought back to the Board.

Pedestrian Safety

Member Harrington noted that he had requested to place on the agenda discussion on speeding and pedestrian safety in the downtown areas of Park and Summer Streets, which were redesigned to accommodate pedestrian safety. He advised he had both witnessed and heard complaints of excessive speed and vehicles not heeding pedestrians in the crosswalks. He requests input be solicited from the Police Chief, DPW Director and others.



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100th Anniversary of Elks

Member Nowak advised he attended the 100th Anniversary of the Installation of the Elks in Adams, which was well attended. It was a large gala, and a reflection of the dedication of the organization to keep it going for 100 years.

Property Auction

Member Nowak advised that there is an auction sign on the gas station next to the C.T. Plunkett School, which could provide more parking for the school if the Town was interested. There could be some cleanup required, but perhaps money coming back from the school budget could be put toward it.

Voting

Member Nowak encouraged all residents to vote on May 2nd regardless of the candidate residents are voting for.

Town Social Events

Member Duval advised that *Holly Days* will take place and be sponsored by a local business. The **Greylock Ramble** will be sponsored by ProAdams, and the **Pedal and Plod** will also take place. *Movie Night* will potentially have 4 movies and the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen are working to make that come together. Other events do not yet have sponsors and anyone wishing to get involved, contact Town Administrator Mazzucco.

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 Vice Chairman Snoonian to enter into Executive Session for purpose #3 at 8:04 p.m.

Second by Member Nowak

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

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Nowak to exit Executive Session at 8:31 p.m.

Second by Vice Chairman Snoonian

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

Motion passed

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Vice Chairman Snoonian

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed



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The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary

Joseph Nowak
Joseph Nowak, Member

Richard Blanchard
Richard Blanchard, Member

John Duval
John Duval, Member

Arthur Harrington
Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman

Jeffrey Shoonian
Jeffrey Shoonian, Chairman