



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, May 18, 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 Jeffrey Snoonian presided the meeting. Present were Vice Chairman Arthur Harrington, Members Joseph Nowak, Richard Blanchard 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

- April 6, 2016
- April 13, 2016
- May 4, 2016

Motion made by Member Nowak to waive reading the minutes from April 6, 2016, April 13, 2016 and May 4, 2016 and approve them as written

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dispatch Regionalization

Jeff Lefebvre inquired if the Town got the full dispatch regionalization grant yet.

The Town has been awarded the funds and is working on the process. The target date of the switch over is July 1, 2016 depending on when the state is ready.

School Consolidation

Jeff Lefebvre inquired when the Town will talk with the School District about the buildings.

Confirmation was just received from the Collins Center to look at this and outline the budgetary impacts of the decisions by the end of the summer.

Bullying

Jeff Lefebvre told the Board that the Town needs to sit down with the School District to address bullying, which he felt is getting out of hand. He noted situations that had been brought to the attention of the School District and wanted to be sure it was being addressed.

Town Meeting Warrant Article

Jeff Lefebvre inquired why on Article 20 on the Town Meeting Warrant the Town is putting in the money and not the School District. He asked the Town to get and estimate before allocating the funds.

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TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
CLERK



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The Town is not giving the School District \$130,000 but is getting estimates for the roof. The ceiling underneath the roof is also disintegrated. The Town will take care of managing the project. A rough estimate from a roofing company was over \$100,000 so the Town is requesting \$130,000. Engineers will give their best and most economical recommendation for a product. Free Cash gets allocated now for use in the new Fiscal Year and if not utilized, the funds go back to Free Cash.

Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival

Francie Anne Riley announced that the *Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival* will be held on June 25th at Bowe Field. A Faerie Door, designed and created by Robert Norcross, was presented to the Town of Adams. The *Faerie Ambassador Squad* made a presentation to the Board about events happening at local libraries. On May 21st at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and on May 28th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. there will be an event at the *Adams Free Library*. An event will be held at the *North Adams Library* on June 4th 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and at the *Pittsfield Athenaeum* on June 11th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Adams-Anthony Center

Bill Kolis of the *Adams-Anthony Center* announced that there will be a meeting on Regionalization at the *Adams Free Library*, in the *Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall* on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Designated Safe Zone

Chief Tarsa announced that the *Adams Police Department* is a designated **Safe Zone** for online purchases and transactions, providing a safe and secure area for citizens to meet the seller of items from places like Craig's List. Police Department personnel will not be involved in transactions. This service is provided at no cost to the Town or the Police Department.

Member Nowak thanked Chief Tarsa for the information provided on car break-ins and securing vehicles.

Agricultural Fairgrounds Sign

Gail Sellers pointed out that the Agricultural Fairgrounds sign was not on Curran Highway, and would be needed to direct people to the upcoming *Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival*. She advised the Board that she had mentioned it to Member Nowak and the sign has been put back up. She thanked him and the full Board for the job that they do.

NEW BUSINESS

Berkshire Consumer Services Program

Kate Alexander of the *Berkshire Consumer Services Program* (BCS) informed the Board that BCS provides resources and outreach in conjunction with the *Attorney General's Office* in Berkshire County. The program provides education, information, counseling, and referrals to other agencies for consumers. Free mediation services are also provided to assist citizens with consumer issues. She noted that identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes, and BCS assists with issues like Craig's List sales and recent IRS Scams. Services from BCS are free of charge. The program was originally implemented by the *Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority* to aim at preventing, reducing, or eliminating homelessness and poverty. Other topics aiding consumers are purchasing automobiles, managing credit and debt, and tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities. Contact can be made through www.bcrha.org or call (413) 344-4861. The office is on Fenn Street, Pittsfield.



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Facility Use Request

Dana Labbee Basketball submitted a Facility Use Request for Renfrew Field on

Greg Charron is running the Dana Labbee Basketball Program at Renfrew Field for the sixth year and numbers are increasing. The program will run from Jun 6, 2016 to Aug 19, 2016 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Once the light installation takes place the hours will run from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so kids are there instead of somewhere else. The request was previously approved by the Parks Commission.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the Dana Labbee Basketball Program use of Renfrew Field from June 6, 2016 to August 19, 2016 contingent upon receipt of insurance documentation

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Lights at Renfrew Field Basketball Court

A letter from Greg Charron was read aloud by Chairman Snoonian requesting approval for installation of additional lights, consisting of a 25-foot pole and LED floodlight on each court. Installation will be provided by Kevin Kordana and contractor Mr. Labbee. Labor will be provided by Greg Charron and Mr. Kordana, meeting needs outlined by an engineer. The lights are expected to be on for a half hour at most, and will be adjustable to address any complaints that may occur. All costs are either donated or taken care of by the summer program. The League can pay for extra expenses if they are substantial.

Members noted that it was very generous of the League to take care of the installation, and the Town can take care of maintenance and the cost of electricity. The Town will assure there is some way to lock the electricity and put it on a timer. The DPW offered to dig the holes, and the biggest part is a trench from one pole to the other and 50' to the court for underground wiring. DigSafe will be contacted prior to digging.

Motion to approve installation of two light poles and lights by Blanchard

Second by Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

One Day Liquor License Application

Adams Ale House submitted an application for a *One Day Liquor License* for a private event at Bowe Field on Saturday June 4, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adams Ale House will control underage drinking by checking IDs at the gate of the private event and will have wrist band control at the entrance. They provided active liquor liability insurance and have been issued prior One Day Wine and Malt licenses in the past.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve the One Day Liquor License for Adams Ale House on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Bowe Field for a private event

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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Town Meeting Warrant

Town Administrator Mazzucco reviewed the Town Meeting Warrant for the Board approval and pointed out a change on the **Article 20** allocation of *Free Cash* for the Boiler Room for C.T. Plunkett since the amount of a rough estimate exceeded \$100,000. The roof needs work and the ceiling has substantial failure, so it may need to be engineered. The school budget went down and the Town is doing what is possible to assist maintaining the Town building, which is leased by the School District. There will be other repairs for the future, and it is a current recommendation to appropriate \$130,000 instead of \$100,000. He noted that anything not expended goes back to Free Cash.

One Member requested a quote in writing. C.T. Plunkett did not expend funds to get engineering on the roof done yet to get a final cost due to expense. Since Free Cash expires on June 30th it would have to be voted on because the Town cannot appropriate Free Cash after the fiscal year ends. Wording on the Warrant Article was discussed to indicate extra funds can be used on other capital projects in C.T. Plunkett School, such as the cafeteria floor, brick repointing or other building maintenance projects. Roof warranty for 20 to 30 years was outlined, and utilizing students probably would not give a warranty. This is a specialty welded rubber roof and McCann School doesn't have the equipment needed for the job. Board Members viewed pictures of the failing roof and ceiling taken by the Town Administrator.

Article 21 was noted as being a late addition of \$38,000 to pay down the bond from Tropical Storm Irene one year early. Next year the plan is to do the same thing for the Flood Channel charge and by Fiscal Year 2019 the Town will have \$100,000 for debt service. The *Jordan Street Culvert Project* was discussed and the cost will be over \$500,000. The Town is looking at different engineering and funding options and will have to borrow for that to cover the cost. This will give a buffer and put the Town in a better position for future financial decisions. Concern was expressed about engineering costs for culverts and the need to cut down engineering costs by having generic engineering plans, but they have to be individually engineered due to uniqueness.

Article 5 was discussed. **Town Administrator Mazzucco** brought up the topic of having a paid internship for High School or College students, and suggested moving money from the DPW Seasonal Employee line to the Town Administrator line for an intern to work one day a week in the office to give them administrative experience for the summer. An intern can then give a presentation to the Board to show what they worked on, and this program would invest in giving kids job training experience at \$10.00 per hour. The position would be in the office on Monday and mow lawns on the other weekdays. The Town Accountant will make changes for the Finance Committee if the Board approves the adjustment. Projects the intern would handle are transferring data to the Town's new website, creating a comparison study of communities to create a document, and making calls on a daily basis. This position could also work in other offices if there is a need.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to amend the warrant to move \$1,500 from DPW Temp Salaries to Town Administrator Temp Salaries

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Article 20 was briefly discussed and suggested wording was given as "...and, or capital expenses for the Town to be for Plunkett School".



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Motion made by Member Duval to amend Article 20 with the suggested wording

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Article 22 was noted as having changed wording that clarified the \$40,000 amount would be split out as \$30,000 for Greylock Glen and \$10,000 for Downtown Marketing and Infrastructure. This split will change annually based on the needs. Funds could be used for banners for the downtown area or other items, but this will make sure the Greylock Glen is the priority.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to close the warrant

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the Town Warrant with the amendments noted

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Member Duval advised there is a BRPC meeting tomorrow and he will report about it next meeting.

Board of Health Liaison

Vice Chairman Harrington advised he visited the Board of Health office and they had gotten training on FDA food inspection. The second round is next month. The Board of Health will move forward with online inspection services and if there is a problem a certified inspector from another community can come here because it is all standardized.

Vice Chairman Harrington also reported that he attended a training for The Bridge in Lee which does workshops and seminars on how to deal with multi-cultural issues in the workplace. They covered youth prevention of substance abuse, tobacco, alcohol and marijuana. He advised the service numbers are down but they are above the national average. Other topics covered were the heroin epidemic and adult substance abuse.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

Chairman Snoonian noted that the BRTA meeting will be held tomorrow.

Parks Commission

Member Nowak advised the Parks Commission discussed Dana Labbee Basketball and the need to install lighting.



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ACRSD/McCann School Committees

Member Nowak advised that the ACRSD School Committee reorganized. The School Committee will be submitting a letter against the charter school limit being lifted. The MCAS and PARCC testing is dependent on the use of computers and this year they are testing it. School choice pros and cons were discussed, and school bullying was addressed by a parent and handled by Principal Ames. A temporary Superintendent was selected and a committee will be put together to search for the new Superintendent.

Conservation Commission

Member Nowak advised the Conservation Commission meeting highlights included the Rail Trail and a concrete bridge in bad shape where drainage when through. An engineer got permission to remove the bridge and put in a culvert to alleviate the problem. The Commission addressed a wall at Hoosac Valley Coal & Grain near where the bike path was and gave permission to take down a rock wall for safety purposes. Concrete block placement at the old Stanley Lumber by the new owners was discussed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Mazzucco reported that:

- The Collins Center Study has begun and the Town administrator will be working on it.
- Library statistics and performance metrics were read to the Board.
- The Board of Selectmen Workshop next week will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.
- The Town Wide Tag Sale will be held August 13th; information is at the Tax Collectors office.
- Town Administrator Mazzucco advised he attended Career Day at Hoosac Valley High School.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised that since his last report he did research concerning a potential litigation matter; he researched and reviewed additional Town Meeting warrant articles and performed work concerning a matter pending before the *Zoning Board of Appeals*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Taxes

Member Nowak inquired how the Town did with taxes.

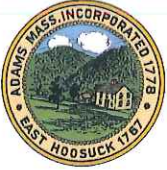
The Town is still waiting for the final number, and it is tough to get before the end of the fiscal year.

Hoosac Valley Service

Member Nowak informed the Board he is working with Principal Michelle Colvin at C.T. Plunkett School to have the children create letters about the train to give to Donna Cesan to send to Mass DOT and Governor Baker to do whatever possible to get money quickly to extend the rail line.

Property

Member Nowak informed the Board that the O'Connell property near C.T. Plunkett School did not get sold at auction and he was inquiring about the minimum price so he could report back. He noted that one setback of the school is lack of parking.



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Walking Bridge

Member Duval pointed out that the walking bridge at Murray Street Extension is in terrible shape with serious holes in it and the blacktop is gone. When the bike trail is complete more people will be using the bridge.

Town Wide Tag Sale

The Town Wide Tag Sale will be held on August 13th rain or shine. Information and applications can be gotten from the Tax Collector's Office.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Member Blanchard

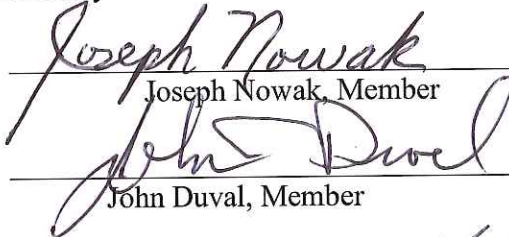
Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous Vote

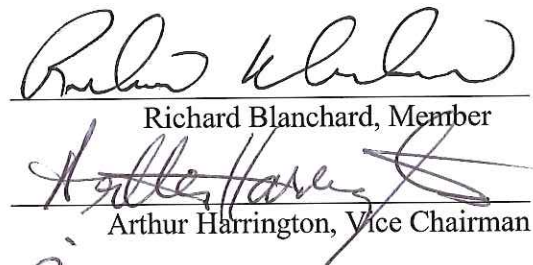
Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

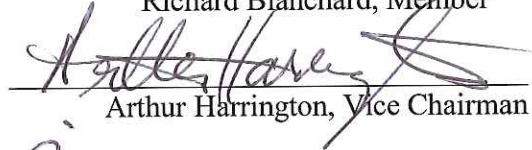
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member



Richard Blanchard, Member



Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman



Jeffrey Snooman, Chairman