



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, June 8, 2016 – 6:00 PM

ADAMS VISITORS CENTER, 3 HOOSAC STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** and held a workshop at the **Adams Visitors Center** at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian presided the meeting. Present were **Vice Chairman Arthur Harrington**, **Members Joseph Nowak**, and **Richard Blanchard**. *Member John Duval was absent*. Also in attendance were **Town Administrator, Tony Mazzucco**, **Town Clerk, Haley Meczywor**, **Community Development Director Donna Cesan** and **Steve Melito**.

The Select Board Workshop was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

Town Meeting Member Workshop

Steve Melito gave a presentation explaining what Town Meeting is and does. He noted there are only 136 active members of the 150 Town Meeting Member positions in the 5 precincts. The Town Meeting process was reviewed including seating arrangements, Rules of Order, and how to be recognized to address questions to the Moderator. The Moderator, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Counsel, Town Accountant and Finance Committee Chairman's Town Meeting duties were explained briefly. He reviewed how to amend articles on the floor, and the final vote on the articles.

Town Clerk, Haley Meczywor reviewed the Town Clerk duties at Town Meeting and the importance of having a quorum. She gave an overview of what a Town Meeting Warrant is and when it is posted, depending on whether it is a regular Town Meeting or a Special Town Meeting. She briefly reviewed the steps necessary to amend an article and guidelines for discussion on the articles were reviewed. She explained how to hold articles, and to approach the microphone when speaking.

Audience discussion took place and covered when a 4/5 vote is required, and that there is no conflict of interest in Town Meeting due to exemption from the Conflict of Interest Law and Open Meeting Law.

Community Development Director Donna Cesan gave the audience an update on the Greylock Glen and other projects. She advised next month a Campground RFP for 140 sites, tents, cabins and eco-shelters would be coming forth. A marketing and feasibility study received \$250,000 and would start the design process for the Welcome Center which was expected to have an RFP ready in July. The multi-use trail system work is already underway. She noted the Town had leveraged over \$5.5 Million for the project and has been able to go very far with the initial appropriations. The first wave of work has been done to put in a 500,000 gallon water tank on Gould Road, and there is expected to be both public water and sewer.

Chairman Jeffrey Snoonian reviewed the Warrant Articles and explained them individually.

Articles 1 – 6 were explained briefly and there were no questions.

Article 7 on *Free Cash* was discussed and it was explained how the Animal Control Cruiser came to be due to training and insurance issues.

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Article 8 on School Funding was briefly discussed and the State formula was outlined in regards to the assessed cost as part of the School District.

Article 9 was summarized without discussion.

Articles 10 – 12 Transfers to Special Funds were explained and how *Free Cash* and the *Stabilization Funds* can be used were detailed.

Article 13 for handling of Unpaid Bills was noted as requiring a 4/5 vote, but the Town has no unpaid bills.

Articles 14 – 18 were explained as allowing the Board of Selectmen to authorize application for Grant Funds, covering Perpetual Car Funds, and authorizing the Town Treasurer to borrow in the event of a revenue shortfall.

Article 19 showed the Salary Annual Rate Table, and discussion included explanation of Unions and the Step and Grades of pay for the positions.

Article 20 covered the funds for the C.T. Plunkett School, and the repair needs.

Article 21 was explained as saving the Town a small amount of money and giving more borrowing power in the future.

Article 22 allows the Town to expend the collected meals tax funds on economic development efforts and to focus on *Greylock Glen* and *Downtown Revitalization* projects.

Article 23 would allow restaurants to provide liquor sales at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays as requested by a local business for brunches.

Article 24 was explained as allowing changes to the bylaws regarding adjusting Building Permit fees to allow more flexibility.

Article 25, regarding Plastic Bag Reduction, was discussed at length. The Board of Health and Building Departments will provide enforcement and there will be biodegradable options. Those primarily affected would be *Big Y*, *Rite Aid*, *Dunkin Donuts*, and they have been approached regarding the issue.

Article 26 is a Citizens Petition from the Agricultural Fair, which was discussed. The Agricultural Fair has a lease agreement for Bowe Field with the Town. Questions were asked about why this Citizens Petition comes before the Town every year.

Article 27 was explained as closing the meeting.

Brief comments were exchanged to express appreciation for the Town Meeting Workshop by Board Members and audience members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Member Nowak

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous Vote

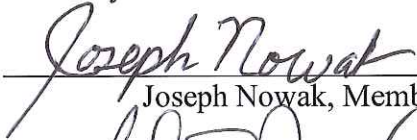
Motion passed

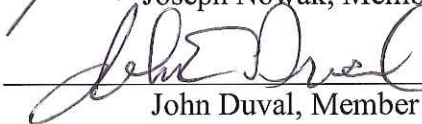


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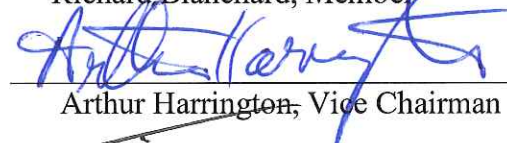
The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary


Joseph Nowak, Member


John Duval, Member


Richard Blanchard, Member


Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman


Jeffrey Spoonian, Chairman