



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, September 21, 2016 – 7:00 PM
ADAMS TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** 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

September 7, 2016 Minutes

Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive the reading and approve the minutes for September 7, 2016 as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Francie Anne Riley of the *Adams Arts Advisory Board* announced that the *Great Chair Walk* is officially open. The Great Chair Auction will be held on October 16th to raise money for the Youth Center. More information is on the Facebook page called *A Great Chair Auction 2016*.

Gary Trudeau advised the Board there were unreported Republican Candidate votes during Primary voting as published in the *Berkshire Eagle* as 0 votes. He asked the Board to put together a policy to report all votes, and not just votes of the discretion of the Town Clerk. He advised the Town Clerk was asked to put a correction in the paper which was printed.

Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk clarified that as Town Clerk only has control of voting at *Department of Public Works (DPW) Garage* and has no control of what the media reports. She explained that the zero reported in the paper for Ms. Canning's results was brought to her attention and she contacted the paper to put in the correction. She noted she explained it to the candidate as well, and every vote counts. She invited the public to come into the Town Clerk's office to get results because she takes the job seriously. Voting will be held on Tuesday, November 8th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the DPW Garage and residents should call the office to make sure they are registered to vote before the deadline. The State instituted an early voting time and hopes for a higher turnout in November.

PUBLIC HEARING

Transfer of Liquor License, C&J Sports Pub/AJ's Trailside Pub - 7:15 p.m.

All Alcohol Liquor License Transfer Application

Craig Pekosz of *C&J Sports Pub* at 12 Pleasant Street, Adams submitted a request to transfer the All Alcohol Liquor License to *AJ's Trailside Pub* at the same location. **Amy McCarthy** and **Benjamin Hansen** submitted all necessary documents to assume the All Alcohol Liquor License in the transfer to *AJ's Trailside Pub*.

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TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS
CLERK



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Motion made by Member Duval to open the public hearing for the Transfer of the Liquor License from C&J Sports Pub to AJ's Trilside Pub

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

The application was briefly reviewed, and **Amy McCarthy** and **Ben Hansen** introduced themselves to the Board. They advised no major updates were planned, and were wished luck and welcomed to Adams. *The public was invited to ask questions or give concerns and there was no response.*

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve the transfer from Craig Pekosz dba C&J Sports Pub to Amy McCarthy and Ben Hansen dba AJ's Trilside Pub

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve the application for an All Alcohol Liquor License for Amy McCarthy dba AJ's Trilside Pub for the property at 12 Pleasant Street, Adams

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Duval to come out of the public hearing

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Classification Hearing – 7:30 p.m.

Motion made by Member Duval to open the Public Hearing for Tax Classification

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Donna MacDonald, Town Assessor, gave a brief presentation on the Tax Classification, and The Board of Assessors gives the Board of Selectmen enough information to decide whether to split or shift the tax rate. Options were given, and the Tax Levy and Debt Exclusion were explained. The Single tax rate was \$22.22 last year, and this year would be \$21.92 because of the revaluation. The valuation of the town went up by \$25 Million, which affected the tax rate.

Board Members asked for clarification on some of the numbers and asked questions on the revaluation. The Town Administrator recommended the single tax rate because if there was a larger commercial base it would have a larger benefit. Lengthy discussions on the rates took place and included the split, what a shift means, the revaluation, compromise, and the impact to the taxpayer versus the business owner on each option. Blight removal was considered and it was noted that there are a lot of empty apartments that landlords don't rent out, and a significant number of multi-family homes in Adams. *The public was invited to ask questions, and give input.*

Jeff Lefebvre asked the Board for 117, 112 shift because people are struggling.



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Motion by Member Blanchard to set the tax rate at the 112 shift

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

In opposition was Member Duval

In favor were Chairman Snoonian, Vice Chairman Harrington, and Members Nowak and Blanchard

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Blanchard to come out of the Public Hearing

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

One Day Liquor License Applications

Timothy Burdick, of ProAdams, Inc. applied for a One Day Wine & Malt License for Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Adams Visitors Center for Ramblefest. Outside alcohol vendors did the event in the past, and this year ProAdams asked take the liquor license out in its name to take in more income in its name. Three Members of the ProAdams Board are TIPS certified and ProAdams will be hiring staff from David Nicholas at Bounti-Fare.

Town Counsel St. John III advised the statute allows the Town to allow a license to be issued to a "responsible manager". There is a list of authorized distributors that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission allows to have direct sales to a licensed person.

The distributor has to deliver and pick up the product, or the license holder would have alcohol transportation issues. The Licensing Sub-Committee has gotten opinions from Town Counsel and the ABCC and will do additional research to have a policy going forward to issue One Day Licenses including criteria and guidelines for One Day Licenses, as well as the size and nature of the event. As there is not a definition in place for a "Responsible Manager" the *Local Licensing Authority* must objectively review what a responsible manager is.

Member Nowak explained he felt a policy should have been in place before the vote.

Motion made by Duval to approve the one day liquor license for Ramblefest 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Second by Member Blanchard

In opposition was Member Nowak

In favor were Chairman Snoonian, Vice Chairman Harrington, Members Duval and Blanchard

Motion passed

Matt Tatro, from **Grazie** applied for a One Day Liquor License for Wednesday, October 19, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 49 Park Street, Adams for a staff meeting/gathering at Bishop West Real Estate.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to table this application until next meeting

Second by Member Blanchard

In opposition was Chairman Snoonian

In favor were Vice Chairman Harrington and Members Nowak, Blanchard and Duval

Motion passed



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Don Sommer of Haflinger House applied for a One Day Wine & Malt License for Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Adams Visitors Center for Ramblefest. Wristbands are required. The Local Licensing Authority amended the time to 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the One Day License for wine only on October 9, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Requests

Berkshire Running Center requested use of the *Adams Visitors Center* on Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Ramblefest Event, for a Half Marathon.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the request to use the Visitors Center October 9, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

BART Charter School requested use of Adams Memorial School gymnasium from November 14, 2016 to February 28, 2017 from 3:40 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. for basketball practices.

Board Members discussed a contingency that use would be pending the approval of the Board of Health regarding potential mold in the building, and the Board was notified that nobody can use the building until the Building Commissioner signs off on it. Hay had been stored in the building, there was concern about issues with alarms and smoke detectors, and the use of the locker rooms was determined to need air handling. The Town Administrator will get a better assessment and analysis and to come back to the Board with a plan at a future workshop. BART Charter School will be notified and may need to make other plans. It was noted that at a past meeting the Board was told the mold was remediated, and is gone.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to table the facility use request by BART for use of gymnasium at Adams Memorial School pending this information

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

The Boy Scouts Troop 38 requested use of the *Greylock Glen* fields and ponds from 7:00 a.m. October 16, 2016 until 12:00 p.m. on October 18, 2016 for the *Boy Scout Fall Camporee*.

Motion made by Member Nowak to allow the Boy Scout Troop 38 under guidance of Don Girard to use the Greylock Glen Property from 7:00 a.m. October 16 until 12:00 p.m. on October 18, 2016 for the Boy Scout Fall Camporee

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



TOWN OF ADAMS BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Ratification of Substitute Van Driver, Council on Aging

Subject to the Board's ratification, the Town Administrator advised he had appointed **Eric LaRoche** to the position of Per Diem Substitute Van Driver for the Council on Aging. Mr. LaRoche is expected to begin this position on September 22, 2016 at the Grade 4, Step 1 rate of \$14.11 per hour, subject to passing a Mass DOT physical.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve ratification of Eric LaRoche to position of Substitute Van Driver for COA at Grade 4, Step 1 rate of \$14.11

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Application for Permit to Place Sign on Public Way

Myra Wilk of *ProAdams* submitted an application to place a sign at *McKinley Square* by the statue from September 30, 2016 to October 10, 2016. The two sided sign for the Mt. Greylock Ramble will be five feet high by four feet wide, and three feet wide, made of wood.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve the application to place a sign on public way at McKinley Square as outlined

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Request to Play Holiday Music – Martin K. Bush, D.D.S.

Martin K. Bush, D.D.S. submitted a letter requesting to play low volume holiday music from 8:00 a.m. through 8:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve Martin K. Bush, D.D.S. playing holiday music from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day from 8:00 am to 8:30 p.m.

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Berkshire Eagle Request to Place Vending Machines

Nathan Samson of the *Berkshire Eagle* submitted an email request to place newspaper vending machines on Park Street.

Board Members noted that the *Courier* and *Review* paper vending machines appeared on Park Street but did not come before the Board or Town Administrator's Office for approval to be installed. Discussion ensued regarding whether it would be a snow removal issue, and that the Department of Public Works should be consulted for input. The Town Administrator will contact the *Courier* and *Review* regarding submitting requests for approval.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to table this request for a future meeting

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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Request to Place Sign on a Public Way – Jaeschke's Orchard

Chuck Wandrei submitted a request to place a sign on a public way giving directions to Jaeschke's Orchard. A sign sample was provided for review, and is intended to be placed north of McAndrews King on the same side of the road. He will coordinate the location and installation with the Building Commissioner and the Department of Public Works.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve the sign request contingent upon approval of the Building Commissioner and working with the DPW for installation

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Contract with Building Commissioner

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised the contract is for compensation for taking on additional inspections for Dalton and New Ashford. The base wage is not adjusted and if the agreements are discontinued the additional amount will go away. The agreement includes salary plus mileage. A detailed breakdown will be given to the Board at a future time. No more communities will be taken on if they are not on the online system because it adds to the overall amount of time needed by the Building Commissioner. The total benefit to the Town of Adams is between \$8,000 and \$10,000, which is built in for part time inspectors. This will also provide coverage when the Building Commissioner is on vacation or out sick. Sharing of inspectors on the software system is an easier prospect across the county and facilitates the process.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the Building Commissioner Agreement

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Replacement of Dispatch Position

Dispatcher Piscioneri submitted his resignation and the 911 Dispatch has gone to the Berkshire Sheriff's Office. It was recommended by the Town Administrator to replace this position with a full time patrol officer rather than a dispatcher, to help with staffing issues. The cost difference between an officer and a dispatcher is \$10,000. There will need to be impact bargaining through the Clerical Union and the Town Charter and bylaw requires an officer be present at the station twenty-four hours per day.

Chief Tarsa advised he reallocated resources during the regionalization understanding he would need to bring on a complement of reserve officers. An officer can do intake reports that a dispatcher couldn't do, and this position is vital because the daytime position is the busiest time for walk-ins.

Motion made by Member Duval to replace the dispatch position with a patrolman

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Setting of Town Hall Hours

Town Hall business hours were reviewed and proposed to set 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday through Thursday as permanent open hours. Few citizens came in between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Thursday, and the extra hour was not utilized. Staff will report to work at 7:45 a.m. and extra time will expand open hours earlier in the morning. A suggestion was made to place a small sign at the street level for public messages.



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Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve Town Hall hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. effective October 3, 2016

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Fall Leaf Pickup Schedule

The Board reviewed recommendations for shortening the window of leaf pickup by the *Department of Public Works (DPW)* to November 1st through November 21st to be more efficient. This is done to get leaves out of storm drains and culverts, but the DPW cannot dispose of or store bags in a pile. This requires the DPW do to a constant drive around during the three week window because putting in a neighborhood schedule would take time. Other communities don't provide this removal. It was noted that it was inefficient to use a bucket loader to haul leaves, and getting a leaf compressor was suggested but would be too expensive.

Motion made by Member Duval to approve the three-week leaf sweeping window

Second by Chairman Snoonian

In opposition were Vice Chairman Harrington, and Members Nowak and Blanchard

In favor were Chairman Snoonian and Member Duval

Motion failed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

School Committee

Member Nowak attended a lengthy School Committee meeting. The numbers of homeless students and those needing special education requirements in the school district were reviewed. Transportation reimbursement was also discussed.

Parks Commission

Member Nowak attended the Parks Commission meeting where they discussed having better communication with the Lassie League.

Adams Arts Advisory Board

Member Nowak attended the Adams Arts Advisory Board meeting. There are a number of things happening including a mural on the Rail Trail, and a future mural on the Wastewater Treatment Plant to give nice view from the train. There was also a speaker from Cheshire regarding geocaching.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Chapter 90 Funds

Chapter 90 approval was received to get a Recycler and Hot Box. The State will allow Chapter 90 funds to be used for the Jordan Street Culvert.

Chair Walk

The ribbon was cut opening the Chair Walk, in preparation for the auction.



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Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

There will be a meeting at the School District with the Collins Center on September 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and Board Members are asked to attend if available. The location is forthcoming.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised since his last report he made an appearance at and defense of the Town at the Mountain Club appeal before the ABCC in Boston; he worked on a pending litigation matter, and made a review of and commented on a proposed contract. There is no decision yet from the ABCC, and he is providing additional information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Brush

Member Nowak advised something needs to be done at the landfill to stop commercial haulers with brush, because it is causing more time from the Town employees to chip it.

Recycling Center

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised the Town is getting a work station installed for the Recycling Center attendant for coverage in winter. The Recycling Center is being rearranged, and a solid waste potential is being considered.

Health Exposition

Chairman Snoonian noted there was a nice event and health exposition at the Visitors Center today, and he thanked the *Department of Public Works* for pitching in to make the town a better place.

Rail Trail Extension

Vice Chairman Harrington noted that people have been using the Rail Trail Extension, and it is at their own risk and they should be careful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#6. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body;

Motion made by Member Nowak to enter into executive session for Reason #6 at 9:10 p.m.

Second by Member Harrington

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

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Nowak to exit executive session at 9:23 p.m.

Second by Member Duval

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

Motion passed



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ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

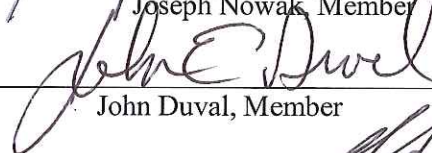
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



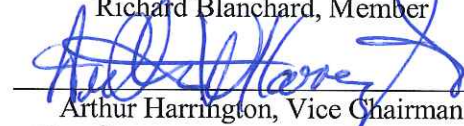
Joseph Nowak, Member



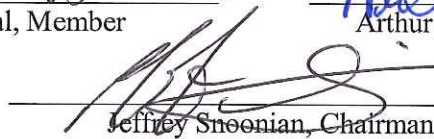
Richard Blanchard, Member



John Duval, Member



Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman



Jeffrey Snoonian, Chairman