

TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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

September 14, 2016 Minutes

September 21, 2016 Minutes

Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive reading and approve the minutes for September 14, 2016 and September 21, 2016 as written

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greylock Glen Campground

Jeff Lefebvre inquired about the status of the RFP on the Greylock Glen Campground, which was extended to the middle of December.

School Consolidation

Jeff Lefebvre requested an updated on the consolidation of the schools in the district. **Chairman Snoonian** met with the Collins Center, the School District Superintendent, Cheshire Selectman Astorino, and Adams Selectman Nowak. The Collins Center will be scheduling a public forum on a Saturday.

Dispatch Regionalization

Jeff Lefebvre inquired what the savings is from the dispatch center regionalization, and what the overtime usage has been for the police department. The overtime is about the same, budgeted \$45,000 for overtime and \$45,000 for Reserve Officers. July and August numbers were unremarkable.

Staff Reduction

Jeff Lefebvre inquired about the Town going to part-time secretaries instead of full-time. **Town Administrator Mazzucco** advised he is evaluating where he can reduce positions to part time.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Privatization

Jeff Lefebvre asked for clarification on the Wastewater Treatment Plant privatization versus paying someone to manage it. An explanation was given on the difference between the two.

School Test Scores

Jeff Lefebvre advised the Board that the school district test scores went down 14%.

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Community Events

Francie Anne Riley of the Adams Arts Advisory Board (AAAB) advised that this weekend is Ramblefest and the Ramble where the AAAB will be selling magical wizard walking sticks. The Great Chair Auction is next weekend, and pieces are on display on Park Street and Spring Street. October 16, 2016 at Bounti-Fare the auction will take place. The Mill Children Exhibit is moved to 1Berkshire Gallery, on the lower level at 1Berkshire and is looking for volunteers. Interested volunteers should look up the Facebook page, walk into the gallery or connect with AAAB.

OLD BUSINESS

One Day Liquor License Application – Grazie, October 19, 2016

Grazie had applied for a One Day Liquor License which was tabled at the September 21, 2016 meeting. Additional information was received from Matt Tatro of Grazie regarding what type of license was being requested and further information was received regarding 1Berkshire being a Non-Profit organization.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to take off the table the One Day Liquor License Application by Grazie for an event on October 19, 2016.

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Motion made by Member Duval to approve the Full Alcohol One Day Liquor License for Grazie on October 19, 2016 between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. at Bishop West Real Estate at 49 Park Street, Adams

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Part Time Outreach Coordinator

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised this item was not ready to go forward.

Appointments to 100th Anniversary of Suffrage/Susan B. Anthony Committee

Town Administrator Mazzucco submitted a list of people who expressed interest in being on the Committee, including Pam St. John, Joe Nowak, Wayne Piaggi, Bill Kolis, and Ann Scott.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to ratify the appointments to the Committee as submitted

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Abstention by Member Nowak

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

Motion passed

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to appoint Pam St. John to Chair the Committee

Second by Member Duval

Abstention by Member Nowak

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

Motion passed

One Day Wine & Malt License Application, Balderdash Cellars, October 9, 2016



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Christian Hansen of *Balderdash Cellars* submitted a completed application for a One Day Wine & Malt License on a new form that was created to eliminate confusion for all alcohol and non-profit organizations.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the One Day Wine License for Balderdash Cellars on October 9, 2016

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Set Halloween Hours

Proposed Halloween Hours are 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on October 31, 2016.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to set Halloween Hours from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on October 31, 2016

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

School Committee Meeting

Member Nowak attended the School Committee meeting and standardized testing scores were not promising. He correlated poverty and test scores. He noted it was fault of teachers or administrators and people should not be alarmed about this.

Chairman Snoonian noted that numbers can be deceiving and there is evidence that the kids are going to great colleges and getting good jobs so it is patently unfair to call a school a Level 3. There are a lot of great things about the school district.

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership

Member Nowak updated the full Board regarding the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. Legislation is at the State House currently but needed wording correction before being put into final stages and submitted. Sponsors from the Senate and House of Representatives will be bringing it forward, and advocates went to Washington D.C. to look into funding. So far, nineteen of twenty-one communities approved it to move forward.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Member Duval advised there is a BRPC meeting upcoming and he will report on it during the next meeting.

Licensing Sub-Committee

Vice Chairman Harrington and **Member Blanchard** will be at the *Licensing Sub-Committee* meeting tomorrow to revamp forms, and develop a policy for liquor licenses. He noted the *Local Licensing Authority* created a short policy several years ago for compliance checks, and want to be sure there is a good policy in place. Other communities have been contacted for reference and once completed this policy draft will come to the Board for approval.

Rail Trail Extension

Vice Chairman Harrington advised he could not attend the Rail Trail meeting currently taking place in Pittsfield but almost all the paving is done and some landscaping needs to be completed, hopefully by the end of the month.



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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Senecal Terrace

The retaining wall at Senecal Terrace has been completed and work will begin soon on the road.

Hot Box and Recycler

The *Department of Public Works* purchased the Asphalt Recycler and Hot Box to help with winter pot holes.

Tax Bills

Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills will go in the mail tomorrow, and are due in November. There will be extended hours before the due date.

Annual Conference

The Town Administrator reported his attendance at an annual management conference which had sessions on labor management committees, citizen friendly budget processes, medical marijuana in California, building ethical organizations, and other leadership/management courses.

Pavement Management Plan

There will be a meeting with *Berkshire Regional Planning Commission* at end of the month to review the draft of the pavement management plan. This will be worked into the Capital Improvement Plan.

Route 8 Corridor Project

The contract has been signed with the VHB Engineering Firm for 25% design match for the southern portion of the Route 8 Corridor, so work will begin on that soon from Park Street to the Cheshire line. Project completion is estimated 2019 for the whole project but it is split into two pieces.

Tax Numbers

Preliminary tax collection numbers are available but still need to be audited and corrections made. For FY16 the Town levied \$10,730,020 in taxes and \$345,896 were uncollected, for a collection rate of 96.87%. The Town is doing better on back tax collections, which is helping free cash and the overall financial picture.

Assessors Report

The Total Property Sales report was submitted and Arms-Length Sales were noted as over the assessed value.

Building Statistics

Approximately \$15,523 were collected in building permit fee sales.

Newspaper Vending Boxes

The Berkshire Courier and the Berkshire View were contacted regarding the placement of newspaper vending boxes on Park Street.

Town Hall Lawn Sign

A sign similar to that from the Library is being looked into for Town Hall.

Board Members asked what streets were paved this year, how much Chapter 90 money goes to engineering costs, the status of the Walking Bridge, the status of the LED lights, and whether the Economic Development Commission has met recently.



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Town Administrator Mazzucco will get a list of streets paved this year from the DPW. The Walking Bridge is in the works. Community Development Director Cesan is releasing the RFP on the demolition of two buildings on Summer Street. The LED model that will fit is forthcoming, but the money is available and will happen within the week. Economic Development Commission has not met in a few weeks but he advised he is working with them.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised he obtained and forwarded additional documents to ABCC concerning the Mountain Club appeal. He researched an issue and provided advice concerning public access to town facilities, and provided communication with a private party concerning a potential land acquisition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Things to Do

Chairman Snoonian advised the Mill Children exhibit is open and wonderful for field trips, and Ramblefest will be a great event for the community.

McKinley Statue

Member Nowak expressed that decorating the McKinley Statue is discourteous and not respectful of a President of the United States, though the intentions are good, and there is excitement for the Ramble.

Next Meeting

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised he will be posting a regular meeting next week at 6:00 p.m. in the Mahogany Room. There are two contracts for FY18 that need work begun on them.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Nowak to adjourn


Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous Vote

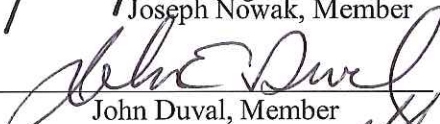
Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member



John Duval, Member



Richard Blanchard, Member



Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman



Jeffrey Snoonian, Chairman