



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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

October 5, 2016 Minutes

Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive reading and approve the minutes for October 5, 2016 as written

Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment made at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Conservation Commission Member

Chairman Snoonian read a letter submitted by **Zachary Bantle** expressing interest in being appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Member Nowak to appoint Zachary Bantle to the Conservation Commission

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Acknowledgement for Excellent Service to the Community

Sharon DeMyer Nemser was acknowledged by the Board of Selectmen for excellent volunteerism in the community. An award was issued to her for Woman of Achievement in Williamstown last week. A brief biography of her volunteer work was read by Chairman Snoonian.

American Legion Post #160 Poppy Drive

A letter was submitted to the Board of Selectmen requesting permission to hold a Poppy Drive at multiple locations around Adams. Poppies will be given for free and donations are gratefully accepted.

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the American Legion Poppy Drive to be held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Adams Transfer Station

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

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SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Mt. Greylock Advisory Committee

Member Nowak attended the Mt. Greylock Advisory Committee meeting. The season was reviewed, and a letter was received regarding funding for positions as there is a state hiring freeze on state hiring, which is causing a staffing issue for the winter. The Mt. Greylock Memorial work is almost complete and the Governor will come out to rededicate it upon completion.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Member Duval advised he will be attending the BRPC meeting and annual dinner tomorrow.

Board of Health

Chairman Snoonian advised he attended the Board of Health meeting where they adopted the Tobacco 21 statute, which is effective on February 1, 2017. There are severe penalties for non-compliance.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Chairman Snoonian noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals approved a permit for an Asian Restaurant.

Adams Cheshire Regional School District

Chairman Snoonian noted the Hoosac Valley High School Student Council will be hosting a dinner for Thanksgiving, and the bus and food will be donated by Big Y. A new ACRSD *District Improvement Plan* is available on their website. Discussion included getting a grant to include virtual high school, which would allow for a larger class enrollment. Classroom observation will be increased and the District's *School Accountability Program* is growing to improve test scores. The District is working with MCLA on a curriculum for science. There will be a tabletop discussion with the UMASS Collins Center tomorrow from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and the public is encouraged to attend. It was noted that the virtual classroom has been very successful in North Adams.

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project

Vice Chairman Harrington advised the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project is completing phase three, and asked the Board to consider planning a kick-off event with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the early spring.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report

Taxes Due

Real estate and personal taxes are due on November 7th, so hours will be extended to accommodate the public.

Early Voting

Early voting ends tomorrow, and by 2:00 p.m. today 500 people had already utilized the early voting system.

Parking Ban

The Parking Ban will be in effect November 1st.

Department Statistics and Updates

The *Adams Free Library*, *Building Department*, and *Council on Aging* monthly statistics were read aloud and the Council on Aging van program was briefly reviewed.



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The Town is meeting with Savoy's Council on Aging to collaborate to assist them with the van system. Community Development bids have been received for the Summer Street Demolition, but an addendum was needed for a railing. The Town Assessor's monthly property sales report was provided to the Board and new assessed values and increases were reviewed.

Economic Development

The Ilvermorny Group is looking at technology programs and working with other towns on a technology grant.

Shared Services

The Town Administrator advised he is working with North Adams to create a shared dog pound facility.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Removal

The Town Administrator noted he met with a vendor regarding sludge removal for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and pricing going up 20%. He is looking for other hauling companies but there is a limited market. He advised he is researching other options and working with engineers to find ways to reduce costs.

Pavement Program

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised there will be a meeting with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission tomorrow for a pavement program.

UMASS Collins Center Meeting

The School Committee will be hosting a meeting at Hoosac Valley High School with the UMASS Collins Center.

Board Members inquired if the Town Administrator was preplanning the budget to include maintenance of the Rail Trail Extension that is now the Town's responsibility, and about information regarding the MassWorks funds being awarded to three local communities. A question was asked about the status of the newspaper vending boxes on Park Street.

The Town Administrator is working with the Department of Public Works to add Rail Trail Extension maintenance to their work list and will increase seasonal staff next year. He advised he is looking at purchasing a golf cart style vehicle to maintain and take care of the Rail Trail Extension. The MassWorks funds that were released were not areas the Town of Adams applied for. He advised he is setting up a meeting with the newspaper vendors and the issue was caused by a miscommunication with Community Development.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised he performed work on negotiations regarding potential land acquisition; he researched zoning questions, and prepared for a hearing in Boston regarding a litigation matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

BART School

Chairman Snoonian gave congratulations and farewell to Julia Bowen at BART School, who will be leaving at the end of the year. He noted she has done a great job and it has been a pleasure working with her.

Police Athletic League (PAL) Program

Member Duval inquired about the status of the Police Athletic League program and asked Chairman Snoonian to address it.



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Chairman Snoonian explained an ongoing disagreement between parties on how the PAL program should be run, and that it has been operating for 65 years. He noted that it should be a compromise for the kids, especially since tryouts were ongoing.

PAL Program organizers, the Town Administrator, Officer Charon, and Chief Tarsa addressed Board Members with information about their experience with the process and its status, including a change of management, restructuring, and communication challenges. The distinction between the Travel Team and Home Team was discussed and the challenges presented by the proposed structure of a board running the league instead of one person. Concern was expressed about negative comments made about potential PAL Administrative Board members, and a subsequent breakdown in momentum which required regrouping and hashing out. Additional citizens came into the meeting to express their concerns. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen has no control over this issue but would be willing to help mediate the issue. Further discussion covered the content and need to adjust the PAL Charter. After hearing lengthy and numerous citizen concerns, a *Point of Order* was called by Vice Chairman Harrington because of the size of the issue, the issue neither being on the agenda nor under the purview of the Board.

Town Counsel St. John III advised though citizens and Board Members were not notified of this issue on the agenda there was a degree of urgency to the situation and it came up during Public Comment, which would lend an exception to the rule. It was recommended discussion continue after the adjournment of the Board of Selectmen meeting to mediate and resolve all issues immediately. Chairman Snoonian and Member Duval offered to help with the process.

UMASS Collins Center Public Meeting

Member Nowak advised that there will be a public meeting with the UMASS Collins Center regarding the future of the School District tomorrow evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria at Hoosac Valley High School.

Voting

Member Nowak encouraged citizens to vote next Tuesday, and noted there are important ballot questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Nowak to adjourn


Second by Member Duval

Unanimous Vote

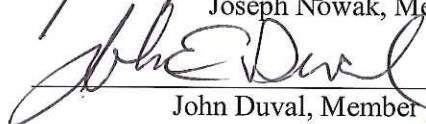
Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

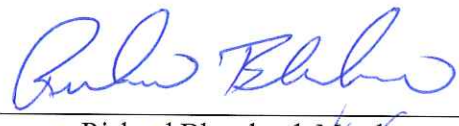
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



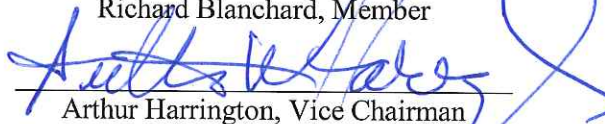
Joseph Nowak, Member



John Duval, Member



Richard Blanchard, Member



Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman



Jeffrey Snoonian, Chairman