



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 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.

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Barbara Meczywor.

READING OF MINUTES

October 12, 2016 Minutes

Motion made by Member Blanchard to waive reading and approve the minutes for October 12, 2016 as written

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment made at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

RECEIVED-POSTED
17 JAN 10 AM 9:34
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
C L F R K

Appointment of American with Disabilities Coordinator

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained the reason for the appointment recommendation.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to appoint Town Administrator Mazzucco to the position of American with Disabilities Coordinator

Second by Chairman Snoonian

Abstention by Vice Chairman Harrington

Voted in favor were Chairman Snoonian and members Nowak, Duval and Blanchard

Motion passed

Appointment of Full Time Patrol Officer

Town Administrator Mazzucco advised the transfer of the position was not ready to go forward.

Motion made to table the appointment of the Full Time Patrol Officer by Member Nowak

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous Vote

Motion passed



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Approval of New Fee Schedules:

Building Inspection Fees

Town Administrator Mazzucco reviewed the fee changes and clarified where the funds go. Trench Permits were explained. The new fee schedule will be posted on the Town's website. It was noted that it has been some time since fees increased, and it was time to be current.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve Building Fees for January 1, 2017 start

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Parking Fees

The parking fees were last updated in 2008. It was noted that the fine for obstructing emergency vehicles went from \$25 to \$250. A member requested a clause be put in place for a one-time warning for a violation. Handicap accessibility fees are set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The cost for a parking ticket appeal is for the time it takes for the Town Administrator and Chief to hold the appeal.

Chief Tarsa noted that if the Board enacts a one-time warning for the obstruction of emergency vehicles there would be no simple enforcement mechanism. He explained the complexity of being able to keep track of a first offense for parking tickets and the additional steps required to put it in place. Motor vehicle offenses can be kept track of in the MDT system in the cruiser but parking tickets are not available the same way because they are a log entry. Approximately 200 parking tickets were issued last month since the parking ban.

One Member suggested keeping paper copies in the police files and noted it would not be an overburden for police officers to do it. Another Member pointed out that for a \$250 fine the delay is worth the cost and word would get out about it after only a couple are issued. The fees and second and third offenses were reviewed briefly.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve parking fees as provided effective April 1, 2017

Second by Chairman Snoonian

Voted in opposition were Vice Chairman Harrington and Member Nowak

Voted in favor were Chairman Snoonian and Members Duval and Blanchard

Motion Passed

Town Clerk Fees

A brief review was made to the changes to the Town Clerk fees.

Motion made by Member Duval to approve submitted Town Clerk fees effective January 1, 2017

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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Trench Fees

The *Trench Fees* were last updated at least 2008. They are mostly paid by Berkshire Gas or utility companies. Street opening permits were reviewed. All changes would be effective January 1, 2017

Motion made by Member Nowak to approve Trench Fees as submitted effective January 1, 2017

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Holiday Season Parking

Chairman Snoonian advised the Holiday Season free metered parking was proposed to be November 25, 2016 to January 1, 2017. Other parking tickets may be issued.

Motion made by Member Nowak to waive the fees and allow free metered parking from November 25, 2016 to January 1, 2017

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Discussion on Newspaper Vending Machines

There are a couple newspaper vending machines installed currently. *The Edge* got verbal approval from Community Development, but the Department of Public Works has snow removal concerns.

Town Administrator Mazzucco pointed out that the Town doesn't have a formal process for approval of vending machines and some newspaper machines have not caused an issue. He proposed just experimenting with it this winter. He noted any new vendors can come before the Board to outline where they want to put them.

Board Members expressed having concerns about the content and what is allowed as free on the streets in some communities. One Member advised he would not like any more installed, and another member pointed out that people have a right to freedom of speech. Local stores already sell the papers so there is a minor impact when stores are open. It was noted that the Town should have a policy and it was requested to have further discussion on this topic in a workshop.

Motion made by Member Nowak to table the discussion of locating newspaper stands until workshop

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request, Town Common

Adams Community Bank requested use of the Town Common for Holly Days on November 27, 2016 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and was thanked by Chairman Snoonian for taking on this event. The Forest Wardens have agreed to assist with traffic. This event was formerly done by the Adams Events Committee.



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Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the use of the Town Common by Adams Community Bank from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. to celebrate Holly Days on November 27, 2016

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facility Use Request, Town Roads

The Western Mass Athletic Club (WMAC) requested use of Town roads for the 5K *Turkey Trot*. The route was reviewed and will take place from 9:00 am to 10:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning. Adams Forest Wardens will assist with traffic.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve the request from WMAC for the Turkey Trot as submitted on Thanksgiving morning

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Cemetery Commission

Member Nowak attended the Cemetery Commission meeting. Discussion involved Bellevue being hallowed ground where only soldiers are buried and family wishing to be buried with the soldiers have to purchase a plot. The fee structure is not changing.

School Committee

Member Nowak attended the School Committee meeting. A report was given by the Superintendent on scholarship recipients, the Senior Class having exceptional performance on MCAS, the LEO Club leadership, experience and opportunity, and National Honor Society students were inducted.

Collins Center Study Meeting

Members Nowak and Blanchard attended the second public meeting put on by the UMASS Collins Center regarding the future of the schools. Many people participated and everyone is looking forward to the results. The report is expected to be available in January.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC)

Member Duval reported that the BRPC Annual dinner celebrated 100 years of BRPC with only two or three directors over that time. The current director is planning to retire. There was a prestigious award with outgoing Senator, Ben Downing. The BRPC meeting will be held tomorrow night and Member Duval will be attending. He received an environmental study packet and public input regarding the extension of train line part of process.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS



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Town Administrator's Report

Grant Funds

The Town of Adams received \$2.6 Million from Secretary Ash of the Economic Housing Development Office to complete the project for the train to make it to Downtown Adams. Community Development Director Donna Cesan and her team were praised. North Adams received funding for their project as well.

Parking Ban

The Parking ban is in effect and approximately 200 tickets have been issued so don't park on the street overnight.

It is a year-long ban and doesn't matter if it is snowing or not. The ban is enforced November 1st to May 1st so warnings and tickets may be issued, and the ban can be lifted at the instruction of the Police Chief. It is in place for plows and emergency vehicles.

Retirement

Larry Roberts of the Department of Public Works is retiring in January and has been with the Town 39 years. Town Administrator Mazzucco noted that Larry is an outstanding guy and fantastic employee, so it will be a big loss for the Town.

Workshop Topic

The December workshop will likely be talking about Community Development Block Grant projects.

Board Members inquired about the demolition of two buildings, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension project, the Hoosac Street and Park Street intersection, and stormwater runoff.

Asbestos abatement must be done before the building demolitions will be completed. The Ashuwillticook Trail Extension is almost completed; fencing was part of the plan between the trail and the train. The next step to finish the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project leg from Lime Street to Hodges Cross Road is that engineering has to come back and work needs to be done on easements. The next process is that environmental work needs to be done. MPO discussions indicate funding in 2019 is appropriated for that leg, and the northern section will be scheduled for 2020. A draft of the BRPC pavement management plan has been received on town roads that have not been accepted but the Town has been maintaining for decades. The roads were never officially reported by the Town to the State as accepted, but will do so to increase Chapter 90 funds before the end of the calendar year. This plan includes the assessment and categorization of the quality of the sidewalks as well. The Adams Art Advisory Board was acknowledged and praised for the beautification and projects being done. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is taking a look at the intersection and funding has been received to do a study at Hoosac, Columbia, Park St intersection and McKinley Square section on improvements. Community Development Director Donna Cesan and DPW Interim Director Dave Nuallie are working on the stormwater plan, which is mapped out and in a good place.



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Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised he prepared and appeared in Boston regarding a hearing on a litigation matter; he performed follow up tasks from a litigation matter hearing including correspondence and telephone conversations with the adversary counsel and reports to the Town; he has been researching licensing questions and statutory requirements for certain licenses issued by the Town. He noted in regards to the newspaper stand issue that a good point was made regarding the free speech aspects and asks the Board to take it into consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Thanksgiving

Board Members wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Scenic Railway

Chairman Snoonian thanked and acknowledged Community Development Director Donna Cesan for persevering and hard work with the success of the Scenic Railway.

Barbara Meczywor

Member Nowak acknowledged the service and impact that Barbara Meczywor has made in the community, and noted that she will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn

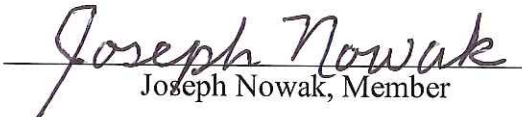
Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous Vote

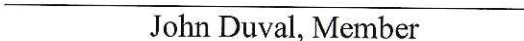
Motion passed

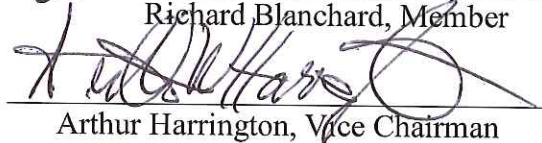
The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

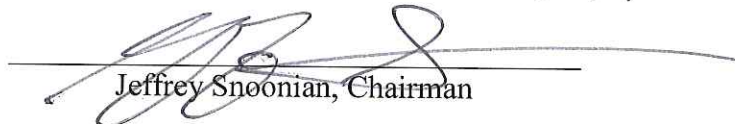
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary


Joseph Nowak, Member


Richard Blanchard, Member


John Duval, Member


Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman


Jeffrey Snoonian, Chairman