



TOWN OF ADAMS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016 – 7:00 PM
ADAMS TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR MEETING ROOM, 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 was **Town Counsel, Ed St. John III**. *Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco was absent.*

The Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

READING OF MINUTES

There were no minutes presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Memorial School

Jeff Lefebvre inquired if the Town will have public meetings regarding fixing up the Memorial School and if the mold problem was taken care of. He said he has a problem with the Town taking on another building with taxes going up. He advised he will call the state if it goes further and wants to know when will stop.

The mold has been tested but it is not yet clear whether it has been abated.

Soldiers Away at the Holidays

Jeff Lefebvre thanked the soldiers and asked everyone to think of those who are not at home during Christmas.

Economy

Henry Jaeschke of 23 Gould Road gave information on the DOW and advised that Adam Hinds will be having meetings at the Maple Grove Civic Club.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of MGL Chapter 32B Sections 21-23

Chairman Snoonian gave an overview of the health care costs. He explained the adoption of *MGL Chapter 32B Sections 21-23* simplifies employee health care for municipalities. He explained that *Berkshire Health Group* gives a voice to Teachers Unions, Fire and Police unions. There are a lot of options such as HRAs Flex-Spending, and High Deductibles and *Berkshire Health Group* recently voted to change options on health care. Brief explanations of each were given and the law was summarized. If approved, the vote would give authority to the Town Administrator to enter into negotiations with collective unions and meetings will be scheduled with Union Representatives. The *Value Health Plan* is too expensive, and *Berkshire Health Group* voted to put in the basic plan of \$250 deductible. At this time there is not enough information to get into an HRA, HSA or flex- spending plan. Mary Beverly, Town Accountant was acknowledged for the hard work she put in to cut costs without making it unfair to employees, and the group that met is comprised of employees of municipalities and making changes to themselves as well. \$250 deductible is a compromise which will save the Town money.

Board Members gave their thoughts on the proposed change.

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TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
CLERK



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Motion made by Member Blanchard to adopt MGL 32B Sections 21, 22, and 23

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Ratification of Reserve Police Officer

Chief Tarsa advised citizens going away for the holidays not to advertise on social media, to leave lights on and have neighbors and the police station check on the house to be sure it is secure. He then requested the Board of Selectmen ratify Corey Revett, the candidate for Reserve Police Officer. He gave a brief background about Mr. Revett and advised he would be an asset to the Police Department and the Town. He gave a brief overview of Mr. Revett's training and military background. If ratified Mr. Revett would begin the Reserve Police Officer position at a Grade 7, Step 1 rate of \$18.27 per hour. The hiring and full time training process for officers was summarized and it was noted that Mr. Revett had committed hundreds of reserve academy training through his own expenses and was sponsored by Chief Tarsa. Letters were read by Chairman regarding Mr. Revett.

Motion made by Blanchard to ratify Corey Revett to the position of Reserve Police Officer at a Grade 7, Step 1, rate of \$18.27 per hour

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Town Holidays

Chairman Snoonian read a letter from the Town Administrator requesting a half day off for employees working Christmas Eve. Discussion included Christmas Eve being a Saturday, and the time would be for those who have to work on Saturday. There would be no budget change or financial impact to the Town.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve Town Hall holiday hours as requested by the Town Administrator to give Town Hall employees and those required to work four hours of compensatory time

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Facilities Use Request, Adams Lassie League, Russell Field

Adams Lassie League submitted a request to use *Russell Field* for youth softball, which was approved by the Parks Commission. Attendees will clean up and maintain the field and shed. A new insurance policy will be provided upon renewal. The Lassie League was commended for a timely application.

Motion made by Member Duval to approve the use of Russell Field for the Adams Lassie League from April 22, 2017 to August 31, 2017 between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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Common Victualer Application, Biggdaddy's Philly Steakhouse

Xavier Jones submitted a *Common Victualer* application for *Biggdaddy's Philly Steakhouse*, opening at 85 Commercial Street, next to Viking Pub. Opening date is January 4, 2017.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Harrington to approve the Common Victualer license for Biggdaddy's Philly Steakhouse at 85 Commercial Street

Second by Member Blanchard

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Liquor License Policy

This policy was distributed in draft format previously and tabled by Member Duval at a prior meeting.

Motion made by Member Duval to remove the Liquor License Policy from table

Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Town Counsel St. John III advised the policy was well written and addressed items that he has had to deal with. He noted he appreciated that these are covered in this policy, and he had no issues with it.

Board Members expressed no concerns with the policy and that it was sorely needed to fill the gap.

Motion made by Member Duval to approve the Liquor License Policy and Regulations as presented

Second by Member Nowak

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Discussion and response to Open Meeting Law Violation complaint

Chairman Snoonian reviewed the alleged *Open Meeting Law* violation complaint, and Member Duval referred it to Town Counsel. Member Nowak noted that as a Board they have been very careful to stay within the parameters of the Open Meeting Law.

Town Counsel St. John III requested to provide the answers to this complaint with his findings.

Motion made by Duval to refer to legal counsel

Second by Vice Chairman Harrington

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

There were no Sub-Committee or Liaison Reports given at this meeting.



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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator Mazzucco was not in attendance and no report was submitted for this meeting.

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel St. John III advised he continued working on a litigation matter, did research regarding an alleged Open Meeting Law violation, reviewed the Liquor License Policy, and responded to potential zoning violation questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year
Board Members wished everyone happy holidays in every form celebrated, to have safe travels.

Time Warner Cable

Vice Chairman Harrington noted that people were complaining about Time Warner Cable intermittent service, and other technical issues. He advised Time Warner Cable needs to come here to explain what is going on

Scam

Vice Chairman Harrington advised of a scam pretending to be National Grid asking for money or they will shut off electricity. When asked they are not able to give any information, and you cannot send them a check. They ask to have you get a "green" card. He advised this is a scam and citizens should be aware so they don't get duped.

Shoveling Sidewalks

Vice Chairman Harrington advised citizens and businesses to shovel their sidewalks to keep them safe for people to walk on. He pointed out that during the day melting snow can make them wet but at night parking lots and sidewalks may have black ice and sometimes roadways as well, so be careful.

Free Metered Parking

Vice Chairman Harrington reminded everyone there is free metered parking during the Christmas season. He suggested spending the money needed to get bags with red ribbon to put over the meters to indicate the free parking.

Emergency Situations

Member Duval acknowledged the possibly dangerous and sensitive situation that the Police Department was involved with and thanked the Police and special responders. There were no injuries and a job well done. Also, McDonalds had a fire on the roof. He noted that responders are volunteers and thanked them for their response.

C.T. Plunkett Students

Member Nowak noted that C.T. Plunkett School students were given the opportunity to choose a gift for their parents and it was heartwarming to see how many people donated and wrapped the gifts for them. He expressed happiness that so much good happens in the schools and that Santa is alive and well in our hearts.

Senator Downing

Member Nowak expressed congratulations to Ben Downing for the hard work he put in for over ten years as a Senator, and wished him well in his future.



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Representative Cariddi Public Meeting

Chairman Snoonian announced that Representative Gailanne Cariddi will be holding a meeting on January 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Adams Town Hall Board of Selectmen Meeting Room. on the topic "It Ought to Be a Law".

Snow Management and Removal

Chairman Snoonian announced that the Department of Public Works has asked citizens not to blow, plow, or shovel snow into the roadway because it makes more work for them and causes a safety issue.

Transfer Station Closed

Chairman Snoonian announced that the Transfer Station will be closed on Saturday, December 24, 2016 and will reopen Wednesday, December 28, 2016.

Licenses Ready

Chairman Snoonian announced that all renewed licenses are ready and can be picked up in the Board of Selectmen Office Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fire and Police Community Assistance

Chairman Snoonian acknowledged that both the Fire and Police Departments helped out families. Officers Greg Onorato and Colby Clark spearheaded the drive and were assisted by Officer Cunningham. Other officers joined them that evening, and they were able to make a huge difference to some families.

Regionalized Animal Shelter

Chairman Snoonian announced that the Towns of Adams, Williamstown and North Adams are collaborating to regionalize an animal shelter.

Special Education (SPED) Collaborative

Chairman Snoonian announced that the school has \$150,000 to put together a SPED Collaborative that hopefully will be put in the Memorial School and will save all local school districts money.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Duval to adjourn


Second by Member Harrington

Unanimous Vote

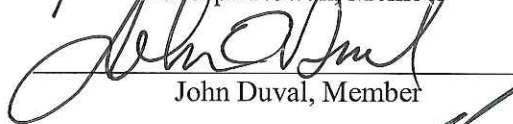
Motion passed

The Board of Selectmen Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member



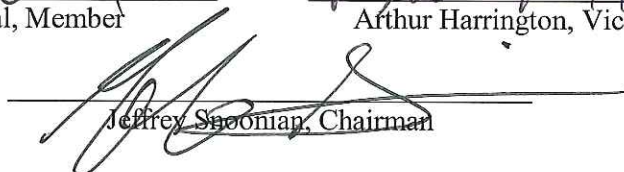
John Duval, Member



Richard Blanchard, Member



Arthur Harrington, Vice Chairman



Jeffrey Snoonian, Chairman