

TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS
ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES May 15, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 7:00 p.m. Present were Vice Chairman Nowak, Members Blanchard, Hoyt, Bush, Town Administrator Green, and Town Counsel St. John III. Also in attendance were Barbara Ziemba and Paul Butler.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: *Motion made by Member Bush to nominate Member Hoyt to serve as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, second by Member Blanchard. Voted in opposition was Member Nowak. Voted in favor were Members Duval, Blanchard, and Bush. Motion passed. Motion made by Member Nowak to nominate Member Bush to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *April 10, 2019, April 17, 2019, and April 24, 2019 minutes were submitted to the Board for approval. Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to waive reading and approve the Minutes for April 10, 2019, April 17, 2019 and April 24, 2019 as written, second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *John Bianchi* gave information about the proposed Veterans Work Off program. He advised it would most likely be paid above minimum wage and he gave suggested work duties and types of work that would be appropriate for those accepted into a program such as this. He advised that work could begin in 2020 and a person could be a trained mechanic or do road work. He offered suggestions and solutions so the Board can continue with making progress on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Adams Police Department Patrolman: Christopher Whitney. Chief Tarsa thanked the Board for bringing forward another Patrolman. He advised the department has only had one lateral transfer, Officer Onorato. He noted that Mr. Whitney will give approximately 17.5 years of knowledge to the department, and outlined that he had worked for North Adams Police Department, then Pittsfield Police Department. He explained that Mr. Whitney has worked on patrol, and held numerous certifications and trainings and he comes with a wealth of knowledge. He advised Mr. Whitney is well versed, his training and experience speaks volumes and he will be a tremendous asset to the department and the Town. Chairman Hoyt read the letter from the Town Administrator to the Board requesting ratification. *Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to ratify the appointment of Christopher Whitney to the position of Patrolman for the Adams Police Department, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.* Officer Whitney was then sworn in by Town Clerk Meczywor.

Service Recognitions:

Chairman Hoyt noted that Barbara Ziemba had provided 32 years of service to the community and advised that Barbara had walked through the marijuana bylaws with her. Board Members noted that there was logic in what she said and acknowledged the decisions and input she has provided to make a positive impact. She was acknowledged for her commitment to the Town of Adams, and congratulated. All Board Members thanked Barbara for her many years of service and provided her with a Certificate of Recognition for serving on the Planning Board from 1987 to 2019.

Chairman Hoyt explained that Paul Butler served for 19 years on the School Committee. She noted there were difficult decisions along the way. Board Members thanked him for his service not just for the Town of Adams but also for the School District and Northern Berkshire County, the Berkshire County Education Task Force as well as the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee. He was thanked for being there during the difficult closing of the school in Cheshire, and for time given to the community.

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It was expressed that every decision he helped make has been in the interest of the children and he never had an agenda except to do what was best for the kids. He was given respect for the work he has done even when there were disagreements over the years with the School Department Paul was wished well and thanked by all Board Members. Paul Butler thanked the Board and expressed that it has been an honor to serve the Town of Adams and the School District. The Board Members gave Paul Butler a Public Service Recognition for 19 years of service on the School Committee, from 2000 to 2019.

FY19 ACRSD Assessment Discussion and Decision: *Superintendent Vosburgh* advised he reviewed documents and went over the data on how the error impacts the Fiscal Year 2019 budget and reduction on the minimum local contribution causing Adams to be under assessed by \$107,000 and Cheshire over assessed by the same amount. He explained that while we are still in Fiscal Year 2019 the School Committee voted to use Excess and Deficiency funds to reduce the Town of Adams over assessed amount in half, to \$53,517 and showed options that Business Manager Snyder created. He advised she did not feel comfortable using the full amount from Excess and Deficiency but was comfortable with option #3 which reduces the overall value to the amount stated. The School Committee approved this on Monday, but Cheshire and Adams must be in agreement to do this as well and have 45 days to do so. *Town Administrator Green* advised that Superintendent Vosburgh has been communicative throughout the process and tried to find ways to resolve it and minimize the impact. He advised that he worked with the Town Administrator of Cheshire on it and the Town Accountant can work with this over time without significant impact to the Town. It will have no impact to the Fiscal Year 2020 budget for Adams and the budget that the Board of Selectmen brought forward to the Finance Committee. *Superintendent Vosburgh* advised that the root cause of the error took place two years ago when the Department of Education put out a cherry sheet in a different manner than in the past. He explained that it was a district assessment and town assessment, which included the assessment to the Vocational School. He advised that it was brought to the District's attention this year, and when double checking found the same mistake last year. He noted that the District fixed the Fiscal Year 2020 situation before and had to find a way to fix Fiscal Year 2019 to make it easier to the Town of Adams. It was noted that Mount Greylock Regional School District experienced the same error. Board Members expressed that they appreciate the School District is taking responsibility and taking on some of the financial impact. *Superintendent Vosburgh* explained that the funds will go back to the District and Cheshire receives a reduction because Excess and Deficiency is a 75/25 split for Adams and Cheshire based on enrollment. It was clarified that it has to go to Town Meeting for the additional costs that the Town will have to pay. He proposed a timeline for September for Town Meeting to include Town Administrators for both communities and to meet with the Finance Committee to have a map with checks and balances along the way. He advised he is drafting a plan that can be presented in the summer. Board Members acknowledged that mistakes happen and it was not intentional but it is a significant amount of money for this community. It was noted that there need to be better checks and balances and it effected this budget cycle and the Town will have to make up that \$53,517 in the future, which is a kind of mistake that cannot happen again. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to accept Option #3 for \$53,517, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion made by Member Duval that the Town Administrator come back to the Board with a plan going forward, working with the Town Accountant and the School District with actions that will be taken by the Town Administrator and the School District to report back information on the budget that all is in order to be trusted, second from Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

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Approval of Town Wide Tag Sale, August 10, 2019, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chairman Hoyt read a letter from Kelly Rice asking permission to have the Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, August 10, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Applications will be made available at the Town Hall, Adams Free Library, Council on Aging and online. All applications are due by July 18th for maps and letters to be completed for participants. She requested the Board waive the \$2 Tag Sale fee and allow a \$1 fee for applicants. Member Nowak expressed disdain about illegal parking and tag sale signs being left up after the event. He advised he has noticed packaging tape around telephone poles and town poles and it strips off paint. It was explained that Ms. Rice has notified the Chief of Police, who is aware that this is going on. She notifies Good Will in advance and lets participants know they are responsible to take down signs in the letters that go out to them. Chief Tarsa noted that there has only been one motor vehicle accident once, but that is all. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the Town Wide Tag Sale on August 10, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and to waive the \$2 Tag Sale fee, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Review of updated paperwork for Transfer of an All Alcoholic Beverage Package Store License from Victor Lampiasi and Patricia Lampiasi, Lampiasi, Inc. dba Val's Pipe & Package, 5 Columbia Street, Adams, to Vivek Sharma and Vandana Kumari Sharma, Ambnik, LLC dba Val's Variety, at 5 Columbia Street, Adams: Chairman Hoyt updated the Board that the ABCC requested clerical errors on the application be corrected and the corrections have been provided for approval. Town Counsel reviewed them and approved them to move forward, as the errors in terms of the names have been corrected in the new submission. Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the corrected paperwork for the Transfer of an All Alcoholic Beverage Package Store License from Victor Lampiasi and Patricia Lampiasi, Lampiasi, Inc. dba Val's Pipe & Package, 5 Columbia Street, Adams, to Vivek Sharma and Vandana Kumari Sharma, Ambnik, LLC dba Val's Variety, at 5 Columbia Street, Adams; second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Letter by the Board to support Amendment #1293 to H3800, for Susan B. Anthony Memorial Park in the Town of Adams: *Town Administrator Green* advised the Town received communication from Senator Hinds' office regarding funding in the amount of \$50,000. A standard letter from the Board of Selectmen is recommended and if the authorized, he will have it drafted. It was clarified that the Susan B. Anthony Memorial Park is assumed to mean the Town Common. *Member Nowak* clarified that the money would be going toward the statue which would go in the park and the name was on the legislation that went forward. He expressed that when the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee was given their charge they were not told that if they wished to solicit money it had to go to the Board of Selectmen. He explained that they are volunteers and it is difficult to try to raise \$300,000 so a letter of recommendation from the Board of Selectmen would be a great help. *Chairman Hoyt* advised that the Town was made aware in 2018 that it was a request of the State Representative and Senator, and there needs to be notification again in 2019. She asked that the Board be kept informed with an update from fiscal year to fiscal year. *Member Duval* asked the Town Administrator to see if the Town Common can be changed. It was suggested that there could be a park within a park, and the Susan B. Anthony statue could be in a small area within the Town Common. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to authorize the Chairman to send a letter to support Amendment #1293 to H3800, for Susan B. Anthony Memorial Park in the Town of Adams, second by Member Duval. Abstention by Member Duval. Voted in favor were Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush, and Members Blanchard and Nowak.***

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Set Transfer Station Annual Fees: DPW Staff that work at the Transfer Station were commended for doing a great job. It was explained that it costs the Town for every commodity brought up there and a \$50 sticker fee and \$1.20 each for bag tags is competitive. Citizens must have a sticker to use the facility, and two weeks ago the attendant turned away 20 people arriving without a permit. The enforcement of stickers at the Transfer Station was praised. A suggestion was made to mirror what is done in other communities for a second permit, and offer a \$10 replacement permit fee. Brush was noted as being estimated to cost the Town \$15,000 to remove with a grinder. Investigation is being done on regional waste management to get other options for brush removal and there may be other options in the future. An additional fee was proposed for brush but the Town is not ready to do that. It will take another year of operation to monitor and evaluate the situation. It was noted that there are no outlets viable for plastics and papers and the recycling market is in trouble because China doesn't want recyclables. It was explained that because of this, TAM will have to charge much more for the removal of these items over time. It was pointed out that some of the signage has not been placed in a good position and the DPW was asked to put up a sign board around the green island so people don't have to worry about traffic. It was brought to the Board's attention that some of the brush had been brought in by commercial providers in the past, and this service is for residential use. The Town is doing its best to keep permit fees down and manageable. It was noted that the Town gets paid for scrap and has tightened up security so the scrap income has increased. Grant money will be looked at for its most efficient and effective use. Additional summer hours on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. from May 1st to September 15th were approved previously by the Board to alleviate traffic jams. NBSMD donated one composter to raise awareness for recycling to raffle off to anyone who buys a sticker by July 1st. Treasurer Rice will be on site at the Transfer Station to sell stickers if it is not raining, for four Saturdays during open hours. It was noted that if residents wish to purchase a composter they should stop by the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District Office at 3 Hoosac Street, on the 2nd floor and more information is on the website. ***Motion made by Member Duval to approve the \$50 Sticker Fee and \$1.20 bag tag fee, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

Facility Use Requests:

Greylock Glen and Gazebo: *Western Mass Athletic Club*, June 16, 2019 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a Trail Race. Cars will only park in designated areas to allow for emergency access. ***Motion made by Member Bush to allow Western Mass Athletic Club to use the Greylock Glen and Gazebo on June 16, 2019 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a trail race, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

Russell Field: *BART School*, March 25, 2019 to May 31, 2019, Monday through Thursday from 3:40 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. for Ultimate Frisbee. BART representatives were not present. As Russell Field has high usage and they want to use the open field area for practice it is was noted that this item should be tabled until someone regarding this application is able to attend. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to table this request until the next meeting, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Russell Field: *Adams Cheshire Little League*, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. May 1, 2019 to July 1, 2019. The request is for use of the open field for practice only and it was noted that previously approved use would take precedence. DPW and the Parks Commission approved the use. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of Russell Field open grassy area by the tennis courts by Adams Cheshire Little League on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. May 1, 2019 to July 1, second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.***

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Russell Field Tennis Courts: *Youth Center, Inc.*, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from June 25, 2019 to August 9, 2019. Feedback was received from Town staff, and a reminder is given to all users to please take care of the facilities, ensure bathrooms re clean and doors are locked after use.

Motion made by member Blanchard to approve the use of Russell Field Tennis Courts by the Youth Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from June 25, 2019 to August 9, 2019, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.

Russell Field: *Youth Center, Inc.*, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from July 9, 2019 to August 9, 2019, Monday through Friday. This information was provided by the Parks Commission. **Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of Russell Field 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from July 9, 2019 to August 9, 2019, Monday through Friday, second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.**

Renfrew Field: *North Adams Babe Ruth / Berkshire Americans*, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, times to be determined by Parks Commission. Aaron Booth on behalf of Quinn Gladu advised that the group will play Friday night games from the beginning of June to the end of July, and double headers on Saturday for up to four games on Saturdays. He advised that they coordinate with other team and no fence will be put up. Parks and Grounds Foreman Skrocki indicated on the application the use was for games only and not for practices. It was noted that there is reason to limit use because of wear on that field as surfaces are getting thin and the turf is slowly coming back. Limited use reduces maintenance cost. **Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve use of Renfrew field by North Adams Babe Ruth / Berkshire Americans from May 11, 2019 to August 1, 2019, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings for games, second by Member Duval. Vote: unanimous.**

Approval of the Town Meeting Warrant: The articles on the warrant were explained. The Special Articles include a Special Tax Assessment for B+B Micro Manufacturing, an article renaming the School District to Hoosac Valley, an article on the Greylock Glen Commission, Route 8 Project Right of Way approvals that must go before Town Meeting and the funding program for the Town Common Rehabilitation Project. *Chairman Hoyt* requested that the Board Members hold an Article for further discussion if they wished otherwise the Articles would be voted on en masse. Each article was read aloud. Articles held for discussion were Articles 13, 26, 27, and 29. **Motion made by Member Duval to approve all Articles that were not held, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.**

Article 13: *Member Nowak* requested a clarification on the transfer of the balance of the Reserve Fund. It was noted that there is \$135,000 as a remaining balance from this year's Reserve Fund, which was \$175K and this is the amount that is not spent and is left over. **Motion made by Member Duval to approve Article 13 as written, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.**

Article 26: *Member Duval* clarified that this Article refers to the area from the intersection of Route 116 at the Ashuwillticook Bridge to the bridge by Mullen Mayflower. He noted there is a small part of the roadway that the Town will have to pave. **Motion made by Member Duval to approve Article 26 as written, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.**

Article 27: *Member Duval* informed the Board that this is for the grant to improve the Town Common. The total cost of the project is \$425,000 and if awarded the grant will be \$297,500 and the Town will need to pay \$127,500. He noted that the Town has to invest some of its own money to get the grant. *Member Nowak* explained that the Town Common walkways have disintegrated and the whole Town Common is sorely in need of a lot of work. The gazebo has not been taken care of. **Motion made by Member Nowak to approve Article 27 as written, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.**

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Article 29: Town Administrator Green explained that this article was to put together a Commission in place that mirrors the mechanism that was used to develop Mass MoCA. This would permit day to day operation, when it is built and in operation, and will operate at a level that Town staff and resources cannot handle. He explained that the non-profit structure permits donations to be made, and legal and funding options to operate it effectively. He noted that a Workshop can be scheduled to explain this more in detail if Board Members desired. It was noted that this will allow private money to come in and will open the door for the Town to be benefactors. ***Motion made by Member Duval to approve Article 29 as written, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

Chairman Hoyt requested the Town Moderator and the Town Clerk work to put together a Town Meeting Member Workshop prior to Town Meeting to go over the Warrant.

Department Reports:

Town Administrator's Report: *Town Administrator Green* advised there was nothing more to report on this week.

Town Counsel Report: *Town Counsel St. John III* advised that since his last report he has reviewed and commented on the language of the notice provided to The Grille and PNA, the language for the meeting agenda, the Chief's written presentation to the Board concerning The Grille and the PNA Hearing. He advised he also reviewed and commented upon the Ambnik license application. He prepared for and attended the hearing concerning the Entertainment and All-Alcoholic Beverages Licenses of The Grille and the PNA, and he drafted a proposed decision after the hearing on The Grille and the PNA matter.

Sub-Committee and Liaison Reports:

Member Duval advised that there is a Berkshire Regional Planning Commission meeting tomorrow, and there will be a vote on the leadership team for the next year. *Vice Chairman Bush* advised that he attended the NBSWMD meeting and noted that the website is easy to maneuver. He explained that Linda Cernik is working on dividend grants. He advised that he attended the Board of Health meeting, where dog feces were discussed and the bike trail cleanliness has improved. He advised that at the Parks Commission meeting discussion took place on the fields and there will be a challenge during the renovation of Russell field. Discussion took place regarding the lighting of Russell Field. *Town Administrator Green* updated the Board that he had reviewed the lighting proposal for a public/private partnership to restore lighting for evening and night play and collaboration is being done to get this repair done. *Chairman Hoyt* advised she attended the Adams Cheshire Regional School District audit meeting and the School Committee meeting where it was voted on.

Announcements and Good of the Order:

Member Duval asked the Town Administrator and Community Development Director Cesan to list the roads and sidewalks resurfaced last year and to report what roads and sidewalks will be done this year. It was advised that a report will be forthcoming. He inquired about repainting the crosswalks this spring, and it was explained that there are some issues with crosswalks and they were last done just before winter. A report on this will come forward to the Board. *Member Nowak* noted that there was vandalism done to the Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain Building and suggested that the sign located on the side of the building be put away for safe keeping. He also noted that at the Visitors Center Parking Lot there are a few trees that look weak. He thanked all of the voters from Adams that came out, and noted that he received 88 percent of the votes from people that believe he is doing good work for the community.

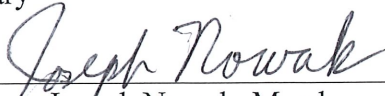

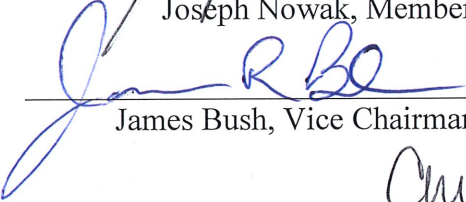
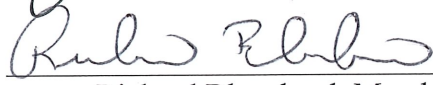
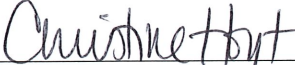
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Vice Chairman Bush advised that he attended the Real Eyes Gallery art event with three artists which are worth stopping in to see. He expressed that the Gallery is doing a great job. *Chairman Hoyt* announced that she attended the Berkshire United Way event and noted that Adams was well represented there. She advised that Specialty Minerals celebrated the retirement of Leon "Butch" Parrott, which was a nice honor, and recognition was given to other Adams residents, Diane and Bernie Pinsonneault. She congratulated the Adams citizens elected last week as well as fellow Board Members Rick Blanchard and Joe Nowak.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Member Duval to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary

 _____ Joseph Nowak, Member	 _____ John Duval, Member
 _____ James Bush, Vice Chairman	 _____ Richard Blanchard, Member
 _____ Christine Hoyt, Chairman	