

Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
1st Floor, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: On the date above, the *Board of Selectmen* held a meeting. The meeting was called to order by *Chairman Hoyt* at 7:00 p.m. Present were *Vice Chairman Bush*, *Members Duval, Blanchard*, and *Nowak*. Also present was *Town Administrator Green*.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting minutes for October 2, 2019 were presented for approval. *Motion made by Member Bush to waive reading of the minutes and approve them as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Brian Grande* of 3 Enterprise Street, Adams invited everyone to the First Congregational Church's first Thanksgiving Dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Flyers are available at the Council on Aging. The Church will be serving shut-ins after 2:00 p.m. He explained that this is a way to give back to Adams. *Council on Aging Director, Erica Girgenti* explained there is an urgency and call to action for the AARP Tax Program, which is in dire need of volunteers and at the threat of closing. There are only minimal hours currently offered as a result of lack of volunteers. Berkshire County has serviced 1,000 tax returns for low to moderate income citizens. She noted that there is a training and mentorship program, and those interested can do "circuit breaker" credit, and receive several hundred dollars back. Information on volunteering and the program can be gotten at the Council on Aging by calling (413) 743-8333.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans Donations Presentation: *Veterans Agent, Steve Roy.* Mr. Roy was unable to attend and this agenda item will be rescheduled.

Declaration of Surplus Property: *20 East Street.* *Town Administrator Green* advised that Community Development is prepared to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) and under chapter 30B of Massachusetts General Law the property must be declared available before an RFP can be put out. Currently an RFP is being worked on for the Adams Memorial School and it will be available in December or January. Water and Gas have been shut off, and the building will be mothballed. Regular checks will be made of the building. The RFP process and where it was listed was briefly discussed. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to declare 20 East Street as Surplus Property, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Designation of Special Municipal Employees: *Northern Berkshire Vocational School District School Committee Members.* It was noted that this is per the request from Superintendent Brosnan to all communities to declare the designation of "Special Municipal Employee" of School Committee Members. This upholds the Massachusetts General Law regarding ethical rules in the event the person who is a School Committee Member holds another position.

Motion made by Member Blanchard to designate the Northern Berkshire Vocational School District School Committee Members for Adams as Special Municipal Employees, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.

Review of Applications and Appointment of Adams Seat to Northern Berkshire Vocational School District. Aaron Dean submitted his resignation from this position when he was appointed as the Superintendent of Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. The Adams vacancy was posted and the Town of Adams received one application from Bruce Shepley to fill the vacancy for the year. This seat will be a one-year seat on the ballot for the election in May. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to appoint Bruce Shepley as an Adams Representative on the Northern Berkshire Vocational School District School Committee until May 2020, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

Ratification of Appointments:

Part Time (19 hour/week) Council on Aging Van Driver, Neal Crosier. Town Administrator Green advised of turnover at the Council on Aging and noted that the team pulled together to provide coverage. It was explained that there are three Van Driver positions which are filled by permanent part-time employees. *Council on Aging Director Girgenti* advised that Mr. Crosier had passed a CORI check, is having a MassDOT physical and has expressed a willingness to shadow other drivers until he is approved to move forward. She noted that he interviewed well and comes highly recommended by BCAC. ***Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to ratify the appointment of Neal Crosier to the position of Part Time Council on Aging Van Driver for 19 hours per week, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

Part Time (10 hour/week) Council on Aging Van Driver, Jolene Drosehn. Council on Aging Director Girgenti gave Ms. Drosehn's extensive work and skills background. She noted that though she has not driven lift vehicles she interviewed very well. Ms. Drosehn will have a MassDOT physical and has passed a CORI check. It is anticipated that if ratified she will be able to start on Friday. It was explained that this 10-hour Van Driver position is part Administrative Assistant for one day to book transportation appointments. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to ratify the appointment of Jolene Drosehn to the position of Part Time Council on Aging Van Driver for 10 hours per week, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Temporary Transfer Station Attendant/Custodian, James Shea. Town Administrator Green explained the split job and the intent to assist the Full Time Custodian, who is responsible for all custodial and maintenance duties for the Town Hall, Library, Visitors Center, Registry of Deeds and Police Station. He noted that the Custodian has been very busy, and the decision was made because he needs a second hand for maintenance and custodial services plus there needs to be consistency at the Transfer Station. He pointed out that there has been positive feedback from the current Custodian's Transfer Station customer service while he has been filling in. *Mr. Shea* has been working for the Town as a Seasonal Laborer and his work background was reviewed. It was noted that he has a good personality for the position, a law enforcement background, and likes to landscape. It was explained that the title shows that the position is temporary because it does not carry benefits and if it meets Town needs hopefully the position will be full-time in the future. The logistics are being assessed and it will be a 35 hours per week position, but the duration of the job is what determines whether benefits are issued. ***Motion made by Member Nowak to ratify the appointment of James Shea to the position of Temporary Transfer Station Attendant/Custodian, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Facility Use Requests:

Summer Street, North Summer Street, Printworks Drive, by Edward Saharczewski for the Annual "Turkey Trot" Running Race, November 28, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ***Motion made by Member Nowak to approve the use of Summer Street, North Summer Street, Lime Street and Printworks Drive by Edward Saharczewski for the annual "Turkey Trot" Running Race on November 28, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Town Common, for "Adams Holly Days" by Adams Community Bank, Sunday, November 24, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of the Town Common by the Adams Community Bank for "Adams Holly Days" on Sunday, November 24, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator: It was noted that winter weather is forthcoming but not much accumulation is expected as the temperature is still warm. DPW is ready to go for the season. Leaf pickup is ongoing. Reverse 911 is now active and will capture landline but citizens need to register for cell phone notifications. Forms are available at the Town offices. The Town has hosted its second Public Information Session on 40R. It was recorded for repeat viewing thanks to Northern Berkshire Community Television and will air on Friday, November 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, November 11, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. It was noted that the first 30 minutes has the most new material with Dave Carver, a well-known developer of the Plunkett Hospital in Adams. A brief review was done of the process for interviewing the Temporary Transfer Station Attendant/Custodian position, and it was noted that there will be interviews held tomorrow of three candidates for the DPW Director position. Once the process is complete the Screening Committee will advance two or three candidates to the Board of Selectmen for second interview. The process is on target for a January, 2020 hire date for the DPW Director position depending on scheduling. Town Hall Thanksgiving hours will be Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., closed Thursday and Friday so citizens are asked to plan ahead for last minute municipal needs. A follow-up is being done with Shinewire and the Town Administrator is touching base with local businesses. An inquiry was made about work being done in the Mausert Block and it was noted that the last information about it came from the Board of Health meeting where Dr. Rhoads advised he was in touch with them regarding proposed use for a food and health program. It was noted that the Town gave its endorsement for grant money and is waiting to hear if the grant application was successful. It was explained that there is a future in downtown buildings and there must be an upgrade to the downtown. It was pointed out that the Board of Selectmen is working hard to get a viable downtown, and constituents are asking what the Town is doing on the Park Street buildings. It was noted that the Town has invested in the downtown and private owners have moral obligations to fulfill. There is interest in businesses coming to the downtown, and the Town Government hopes to sit down with building owners to find out what else the Town can do to help them get their buildings operable. It was expressed that the Board Members would like very much to see the Mausert Block and Jones Block buildings occupied.

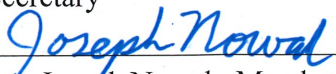

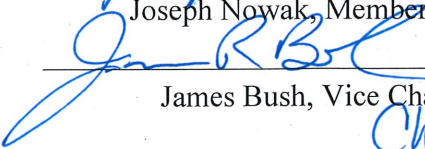
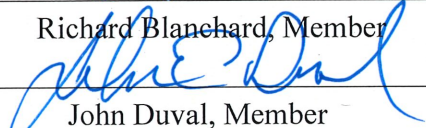
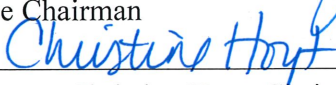
Town Counsel: *Town Counsel St. John III* was not in attendance at this meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Nowak* announced that the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee is having a Trivia Night event on historical women tomorrow at Bass Water Grill in Cheshire. Tickets will be available at the door for a \$10 donation. He reported that he saw Sharon Burke of Specialty Minerals and got a tour of the quarry. He noted that he is very satisfied with the future of Specialty Minerals and what they are doing to take care of what is seen by some as blight. He explained that there are a lot of things developing at the quarry as it is getting to the end of its lifetime. *Vice Chairman Bush* reported that October 21, 2019 was the Prudential Committee meeting. He advised there was a meeting for the Fallen Heroes Banner Program and the next meeting will be held on November 18th at 4:00 p.m. in Town Hall where more people will attend. He reported that on Oct 28th he attended the Council on Aging and Retirement Board meetings, and today he attended the Board of Health meeting. He advised that he will be attending the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition meeting where the topic will be about vaping. *Chairman Hoyt* announced the Public Information Session on 40R meeting took place. She advised that the Personnel Sub-Committee met last week to review appointments and job descriptions. She noted that she attended a meeting with Mass Cyber which was attended by North Adams, Pittsfield, Adams and Florida personnel. There was talk about regionalization for it and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will be taking the lead. She explained that there is information on grants that may be available to help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Nowak* noted that Mr. Grande's announcement about the First Congregational Church Thanksgiving Dinner is an example of people in the community coming together. He pointed out that things like this, the food pantry and the Council on Aging that gives meals for low cost to community makes Adams a great town and he is proud to be resident of Adams. *Chairman Hoyt* announced that Dr. Bush, DDS notified the Board of Selectmen that he will play low volume holiday music on Park Street from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Thanksgiving until New Year's Day. She read a proclamation from Governor Baker declaring Veterans Day. *Council on Aging Director Girgenti* announced that there will be a Senior Center Veterans Day event with a catered lunch provided by Sweetwood. At noon everyone will gather outside for the American Legion Post 160 Color Guard. She welcomed veterans to join the event and to call ahead for food planning purposes.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Bush. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary

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