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Town of Adams, Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

CLERK _____

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
1st Floor, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hoyt. Present were Vice Chairman Bush, Members Duval, and Blanchard. Also present was Town Administrator Green. Member Nowak arrived at 6:12 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting minutes for January 15, 2020 were presented for approval. *Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to waive reading of the January 15, 2020 minutes and approve them as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public came forward with any comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Animal Control Officer Designation 2020: It was explained that this is an annual appointment. Information was given on the Animal Control Officer position, interviews and a job offer made. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the annual appointment of Kim Witek to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Animal Control Designation for 2020 for the Town of Adams, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

One Day Wine License: Glen DeMarsico, DeMarsico Wine Cellar, March 7, 2020 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the One Day Wine License for DeMarsico Wine Cellar for the Thunderfest Event on March 7, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.*

Application for Alcohol Establishment Change of Manager: Gebirgs Verein dba Mt. Club. *Chairman Hoyt* advised that the Licensing Sub-Committee met to review this application, and as the Local Licensing Authority (LLA) has thirty days to act on this application, action must be taken. *Member Blanchard* advised that there was a past issue with the Mt. Club that affects this Change of Manager Application. He explained that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) recommended that Mr. Charles Massaconi not be any officer for the Mt. Club, but he was represented as an officer on the application. In addition, it was noted that two other officers must be changed as well as one reported she is no longer there and one is deceased. It was recommended after discussion with Town Counsel that the Local Licensing Authority disapprove this application without prejudice and send a letter recommending Mt. Club submit a Club Change of Officers, update the officers with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and resubmit the application for Change of Manager once this is accomplished. *Town Counsel St. John III* confirmed the need to update officers and for the Local Licensing Authority to be mindful of the ABCC decision. He read aloud the decision from the ABCC which outlined the conclusion that due to egregious conduct of parties involved, including Mr. Massaconi, the ABCC recommends the LLA to require licensee to change both manager and officers.

He noted that the structure of the organization has not substantially changed since that time. Changes made to the Liquor License policy since 2015 were briefly reviewed. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to deny the application for Change of Manager for Mt. Club without prejudice, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Update on Tax Collections: *Treasurer/Tax Collector Rice* reported the Town is currently at a 97.1% collection rate. She advised that the 2020 bills went out for the first half of the year, and typically the Town receives \$11million annually, or approximately \$5.3 Million from each half. The status of the MJD property was reviewed and the amount of uncollected taxes from the property was noted as being at \$400,000 right now, which is not counted because of being in land court and into tax title status. She pointed out that there are \$25,000 pending in payment plans, which are at various starting points of three-year agreements. Payment plans were explained and how it is handled if a payment is missed. She noted that there were 120 parties with a payment plan and it has gone down to 98. The biggest debt owed to the town was noted as being 50 Commercial Street, and an attorney is looking into to the process. It was explained that by acquiring the title the town may be acquiring the contamination. The Town Administrator will be meeting with the property owner in the next couple weeks. An inquiry was made about whether local landlords have been paying taxes on time and it was explained that most pay on time but the same ones don't pay or pay late. It was pointed out that some people forget to pay because their mortgage is paid off. Collaboration with the Senior Center takes place to help get monthly payments. Payment plan interest cannot be waived, and was noted as being 16% and the balance goes into the bills. The financial health of the Transfer Station was summarized as being very good. To date 651 stickers have been sold, which is 150 more than last year. It was emphasized that there are a lot of compliments received about the Transfer Station Attendant, who was just hired full time to the DPW and noted as being very considerate, understanding and polite. The grant received by the Solid Waste Management District was noted as being \$6,000. The need to bolster the electric system to a 3-phase compactor to get maximum compression was pointed out. The need for fencing and lighting was noted, as well as a need to extend hours. Theft of items from the Transfer Station was briefly discussed, creating a need for security cameras. A meeting will take place to discuss how to best utilize the grant funds and how to move forward. The impact of having the compactor at a 3-phase level was briefly discussed. DPW Director Tober will check into it further, and the Town may be limited in how the grant money may be able to be utilized. A recent incident of illegal dumping was noted and a letter has been written to the violator. LED light application was discussed as a potential option toward extending hours on Thursday nights to enhance constituent services.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Administrator: Town Administrator Green explained that DPW Director Tober is transitioning in well and attended a good meeting on road construction projects today. Crotteau Street will be going out to bid in the spring. He explained he will be starting to get projects going which have been lagging due to lack of staff. He advised that he has hired Kim Witek for the Animal-Parking Control Officer position and outlined the expectations of the position. The length of the hiring process was briefly noted and explained. It was pointed out that Ms. Witek is certified statewide, has ongoing credits for Animal Control and was the best candidate. She was interviewed as an internal candidate. The Animal-Parking Control position was noted as being a union position and there were no qualified external candidates. The appointment will be ratified at an upcoming meeting. Enforcing people cleaning up after dogs was noted as part of the job description for animal control.

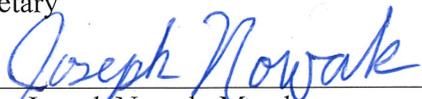
Town Counsel: *Town Counsel St. John III* advised there were no additional items to report.

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Vice Chairman Bush* advised that on January 17th Berkshire Community Action Council met at MCLA and it was enlightening and well attended.

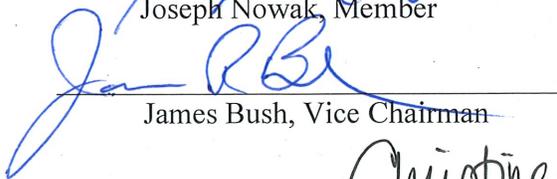
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Nowak* and *Ed St. John III* advised that Musical Bingo event sponsored by the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee (ASCCC) took place to raise funds for the 2020 events. There were 68 participants at Bass Water Grill where \$1,780 were raised from ticket sales and donations. The Black and Red Gala tickets are for sale to celebrate the birthday of Susan B. Anthony at Berkshire Hills Country Club for \$60 per person. There will be a buffet, music performed by Samantha Talora and Ron Ramsey and a Silent Auction which will have an online portion. *Member Nowak* reported he attended an event honoring Vice Chairman Bush with the MLK Peacemaker Award and congratulated him. *Vice Chairman Bush* reported that the Adams Community Bank has graciously offered to sponsor the full funding of the Banners for Fallen Heroes, and thanked them for their generosity. He is looking into another program to provide wreaths for the graves of veterans for Christmas and has \$75 in donations. He noted Bob Pytko of Adams Hometown Market is willing to put some funds toward the wreaths. He explained that North Adams does it now and Maureen Barron will help get this moving along. *Member Duval* advised of conversations regarding the memorial plaque located at the Adams Stove Company, the old Renfrew School, which honors employees of the company that fought in the war and an inquiry about whether the Town wants to preserve it or move it to the Memorial School. An inquiry was made whether the plaque may be able to be moved from private to Town property. It was noted that precinct meetings or a smaller location meeting may take place to educate citizens and Town Meeting Members on 40R before Town Meeting, and there is a plan to hold another Town Meeting Workshop. Last year thirty people attended. *Town Administrator Green* advised there will be a public information session to discuss Commercial Street zoning. He noted a need for a neighborhood meeting on Crotteau Street in the near future as well. Unfilled Town Meeting Member seats may be able to be filled by people coming to the meeting. It was clarified that Don Dubendorf is a zoning consultant and developer Dan Carver was not paid for attendance at previous 40R information sessions. *Chairman Hoyt* advised she attended the MLK Day honoring Vice Chairman Bush with the Peacemaker Award and she volunteered at Terry's Place of Louison House where work is being done to clean out the house to get it ready for the upcoming move. It was recommended that Sub-Committees meet next week. The Licensing Sub-Committee will meet again. The Town Clerk will follow up on census items and the Annual Town Election calendar. DPW Director Tober will come to a meeting to provide a new online way to allow for requests for service.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



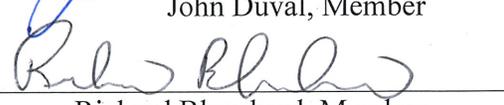
Joseph Nowak, Member



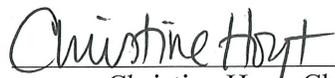
James Bush, Vice Chairman



John Duval, Member



Richard Blanchard, Member



Christine Hoyt, Chairman