

Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

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Wednesday, June 24, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date the Board of Selectmen held a meeting on the first floor of Adams Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board of Selectmen Chairman Hoyt. Present were Vice Chairman Bush, Members Blanchard and Nowak. Present in the room were Town Administrator Green, and Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell. On the Zoom call were Lou Moser, Quinn Gladu of the Babe Ruth and Berkshire Americans, Corey Bishop of the Lassie League, Jacob Schutz of the Parks Commission, Donna Poulton, ACS Softball, Angela Costa

Chairman Hoyt advised that "pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 *Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18*, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Adams Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to observe this meeting while in progress may do so by calling (929) 436-2866.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The meeting minutes for June 3, 2020 were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to waive reading and approve the meeting minutes for June 3, 2020 as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91523932096?pwd=NkZFeUtvWnI3eHIMZTZhbIzR1ZCQT09>

Meeting ID: 915 2393 2096; *Password:* 967680

Dial In: 1 (929) 436-2866; *Meeting ID:* 915 2393 2096; *Password:* 967680

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks Commission Vacancies: *Chairman Hoyt* announced receipt of the resignation of Jacob Levesque from the Parks Commission, which leaves two vacancies. The process to fill the vacancies was reviewed. It was noted that the positions will be posted and letters of interest are requested to be sent to the Town Administrator's Office and the appointment would be until the next election. Those appointed would then have to run for re-election. It was pointed out that all three members of the Parks Commission have to be in attendance to meet quorum requirements. It was pointed out that Mr. Levesque also resigned his position on the Zoning Board as well.

Rescind March 29, 2020 Parks and Fields Closure Order: *Chairman Hoyt* reviewed the request by Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell for the Board to rescind the official order explained it will be replaced with the Board of Health reopening Public Health Order. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to rescind the March 29, 2020 Parks and Fields Closure Order effective 8:00 a.m. on June 25, 2020, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

Reopening of Parks and Fields Approval Process: *Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell* explained that the Order goes into effect at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow and proposed that facility use request forms be submitted to the Town Administrator's office and include a health and safety plan to mirror the June 9th safety standards. Specific fields were discussed for their limitations for use. Leisure activities were clarified as walking, jogging and similar activities. It was reiterated that the use of the parks will only be as successful as the adults taking care of the kids. Concern was expressed about young kids being carriers and asymptomatic and passing it along to their family members. Caller *Jacob Schutz* stated he agrees with the decision with the Stage III opening and asked about precautionary cleaning measures of the playgrounds. It was explained that there will be a one-time cleaning by DPW then it is at the user's own risk. Caller *Quinn Gladu* asked for guidance from the Town on creating a shared safety plan for Renfrew Field. She was referred to the guidance from the Executive Office of Energy and Affairs dated June 9th and on the state website. She noted she is already applying to North Adams using these guidelines. The guidelines will be attached to the order on the Town website attached. *Town Administrator Green* advised that DPW Administrative Assistant Kolis will send it to Code Enforcement Officer Blaisdell and he will review it. *Ms. Quinn* asked if another application will be required for Phase III this summer to allow the resumption of contests, games and scrimmages. It was noted that the progression on stages is not yet clear from the state level and a written expansion of the authorization would likely be advised. It was noted that who is using field and the health and safety obligations imposed by state must be outlined. She advised that currently there is no allowance of spectators at practices and a safety plan will follow the guidance and may have a limit of up to two spectators once Phase III is instituted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator: *Town Administrator Green* advised that on July 20th work is scheduled to begin at Russell Field so it will remain closed. MassDOT has scheduled the northern portion of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail work for June 29th and it will be closed. DPW line painting will be scheduled for July. The Route 8 Commercial Street bid opening is July 18th, and Bulky Waste Collection will take place on Saturday.

Town Counsel: Town Counsel St. John III was not in attendance.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Nowak* passed on information regarding the Agricultural Commission and what it is, what it can be used for, and gave information about an editorial from Williams College Environmental Studies which showed a bleak picture of dairy farming in Massachusetts. He reported that there are only 117 dairy farms in the county, and they are affected by the inconsistent pricing for milk. He explained that the Governor Patrick administration instituted a protection for dairy farm milk pricing. He noted how important it is that the Towns help the farmers and it is what makes rural Massachusetts something to be proud of. He suggested a letter be drafted to Commissioner LeBlanc asking for support to help farmers. *Chairman Hoyt* noted the desire to put the topic on a future agenda about discussion on the composition of the Agricultural Commission and talk about how to recruit people or reduce the commission numbers. *Vice Chairman Bush* advised that Michael Canales met with the CHARM program and the high school Green Team.

He noted it is moving forward. Discussion will take place with Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District on July 17th to vote on whether to go forward with CHARM. He reported there was a Council on Aging meeting this week and they are renting a tent to have meetings. *Town Administrator Green* advised that the Council on Aging is not approved for a tent until the Building Commissioner approves it. *Vice Chairman Bush* advised that Linda Cernik of Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District is willing to pitch in for the tent. He thanked all of the Mobile Food Bank volunteers and noted they served over 200 vehicles. He reported that the Bulky Waste Collection will be held on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and attendants are not able to handle anything or unload vehicles like in the past. *Chairman Hoyt* reported that Jacob Levesque has submitted his resignation letter for both the Parks Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals which leaves two ZBA alternate positions to fill. She noted that David Rhinemiller has been filling in temporarily in a Zoning Board position and has continued to serve since last fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Nowak* announced that Riley Robinson received the Female Athlete of the Year Award in high school and asked if it was appropriate to invite her to the next meeting to give her a citation for this accomplishment. It was advised that the July 15th televised meeting may be the time to do this. *Member Nowak* asked to get the minutes for the Retirement Board meeting since there was a reported \$8 Million loss to the funds. *Chairman Hoyt* advised she is working with Northern Berkshire United Way, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Hoosac Valley School District for meals and this Saturday is the last week. Meals will be available at 10:30 a.m. for one hour until 125 meals are given out. She thanked Bounti-Fare for providing the meals and noted that the Superintendent did a nice job letting people know about the meals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#2 - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Interim Police Chief Troy A. Bacon

At 6:36 p.m. Motion made by Member Blanchard to enter into Executive Session for Reason #2 as read aloud, coming out of Executive Session only for contract approval, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Roll Call vote: Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush, Member Blanchard and Member Nowak. Motion passed.

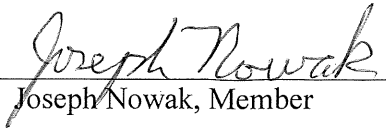
At 7:21 p.m. Motion made by Vice Chairman Bush to exit Executive Session, second by Member Blanchard. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush, Member Blanchard and Member Nowak. Motion passed.

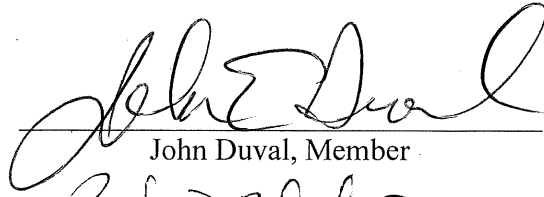
CONTRACT APPROVAL


Approval of Interim Police Chief Contract for Troy Bacon: Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the contract, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Abstention by Member Nowak. Voted in favor were Chairman Hoyt, Vice Chairman Bush and Member Blanchard. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Vice Chairman Bush. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.*

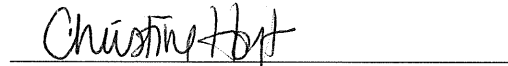
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary


Joseph Nowak, Member


John Duval, Member


James Bush, Vice Chairman


Richard Blanchard, Member


Christine Hoyt, Chairman