



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING  
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** On the above date the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at the Town Hall Board of Selectmen Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Hoyt. Present from the Board of Selectmen were Vice Chair Hoyt, Members Blanchard, Nowak and Rosenberg. *Chairman Duval was absent.* Also present were Town Counsel St. John III, Administrative Assistant Dunlap, Library Director Jayko, Warren Dews, Xavier Jones, David Bissaillon, Paul Levine, Brian Rhodes from iBerkshires, Daniel Jin from the Berkshire Eagle and Peter Gentile from NBCTC.

*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the *January 12, 2022 and January 19, 2022 meetings* were submitted for approval. ***Motion made by Member Rosenberg to waive reading and approve the minutes for the January 12, 2022 and January 19, 2022 Meetings as submitted, second by Member Nowak. Abstention by Member Blanchard. Voted in favor were Vice Chair Hoyt, Member Nowak and Member Rosenberg. Motion passed.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** *David Bissaillon and Paul Lemieux* from ProAdams congratulated the Town regarding the Greylock Glen funding news. It was explained that the original date for the Facility Use Request for Thunderfest was February 26<sup>th</sup> and was changed to March 26<sup>th</sup> to be in a better position to host a safer event. The event will have the usual entertainment and kids' activities and the same setup. ProAdams was thanked for ProAdams support and hosting events. *Vice Chair Hoyt* advised that the Town Clerk Meczywor asked her to announce that nomination papers are now available in the Town Clerk office and must be turned in by Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. All of the positions available were reviewed and can be found on Town website under "Election Information". Incumbent Town Meeting Members must notify Town Clerk of their interest in reelection by March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation by Motah Cannabis:** *Carl Nickerson, Bill Almonte.* The presenters were not in attendance and will reschedule.

**Appointment of Adult Services Librarian:** *Roy Rudolph.* Vice Chair Hoyt read aloud the ratification request letter from Town Administrator Green. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to ratify the appointment of Roy Rudolph to the Adult Services Librarian position at the Grade 7, Step 2 rate of \$21.08 per hour, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*** Library Director Jayko advised he comes with 28 years of Library experience and is fitting in well with current staff.

**PUBLIC HEARING: All Alcoholic Beverages License Application:** *Jones & Dews WX Restaurant Group, LLC, 47 Park Street, Adams, MA 01220, 7:10 p.m.*

*Motion made by Member Blanchard to go into public hearing for the All Alcoholic Beverages License Application for Jones & Dews WX Restaurant Group, LLC at 47 Park Street, Adams, MA 01220, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.* Vice Chair Hoyt advised that Town Counsel has reviewed the paperwork. *Xavier Jones* and *Warren Dews* introduced themselves and advised they will open the Firehouse Café in the next couple months with a full restaurant and liquor license. *Town Counsel St. John III* clarified that the paperwork shows both parties as 50% owners of the LLC, but Addendum A doesn't list *Xavier Jones* as 50% owner or manager. Both Mr. Jones and Mr. Dews authorized the addition of this item. *Member Nowak* inquired if the liquor license was from the quota or a sale. The menu was briefly reviewed, and will have food from more than thirty different countries. Business hours were noted and the restaurant will be closed on Sundays and Mondays, with open hours from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for dinner only. *Member Nowak* inquired about seating capacity and work is still being done with the Fire Chief and Building Commissioner to establish that. Both noted that they will team up with local artists to display their art in the business, and several music artists will be recruited to perform as well.

*Motion made by Member Blanchard to exit the public hearing, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.* *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the All Alcoholic Beverages License for Jones & Dews WX Restaurant Group, LLC for 47 Park Street, Adams, MA 01220, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

**Appointment of Safety Committee Member:** *Sarah Fontaine.* Vice Chair Hoyt explained that this appointment is to fill the position left vacant with the departure of Erica Girgenti. *Member Nowak* inquired about the duties of the Safety Committee and was referred to the Town Administrator. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to appoint Sarah Fontaine to the Safety Committee, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

**Appointment of Insurance Advisory Group Member:** *Sarah Fontaine.* *Motion made by Member Blanchard to appoint Sarah Fontaine to the Insurance Advisory Group, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

**Application for Parks Commission Member:** *Mary Ciuk.* Vice Chair Hoyt reviewed the application and Ms. Ciuk's background. *Member Nowak* complimented Ms. Ciuk. *Motion made by Member Nowak to appoint Mary Ciuk to the Parks Commission until the May, 2022 election, and to run for the seat in the election for a full-term position, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.*

**Facility Use Request, Visitors Center and Grounds:** *ProAdams on March 26, 2022 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Thunderfest. Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the Facility Use Request for the Visitors Center and Grounds for ProAdams on March 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Thunderfest, second by Member Nowak. Abstention by Member Rosenberg. Voted in favor were Vice Chair Hoyt, Member Blanchard and Member Nowak. Motion passed.*

**Approval of Local #204, State Council #93, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Contract** (*Department of Public Works Unit*). Vice Chair Hoyt noted this was reviewed at an executive session on December 15<sup>th</sup> of 2021 and nothing has changed since then. *Finance Director Wojcik* reviewed small changes from the former contract, including the change of hours and paid lunch, as requested by the union members to promote a more efficient work day. She noted this will align the Highway, Parks and Wastewater Treatment Plant teams. She advised there is a 2% cost of living adjustment per year, and noted a flat rate for one employee filling in for another while absent. *Member Rosenberg* inquired about the net impact on the Town budget, and it was noted as \$24,000 per year.



It was pointed out that a 2% cost of living adjustment is standard and was projected in the current budget. *Member Nowak* asked to have all union contracts negotiated in the same year and it was explained that it was done in a staggered fashion because of the amount of work put into each contract. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the contract with the Local #204, State Council #93, AFSCME, AFL-CIO contract for the Department of Public Works, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Town Administrator:** *Town Administrator Green was absent, and no report was presented. Vice Chair Hoyt* asked *Finance Director Wojcik* to explain the Snow Emergency and Town Building closures. It was noted there was a Declaration of Snow Emergency from 6:00 a.m. tomorrow until noon Saturday, and Town buildings will be closed at noon tomorrow and on Friday. *Member Nowak* inquired about the 8% increase in health insurance expected. It was explained this is due to an increase in healthcare use because of the pandemic.

**Town Counsel:** *Town Counsel St. John III* advised he reviewed town-related documents concerning the sale of the 10 Center Street property. He attended a Housing Court hearing and assisted the Code Enforcement Officer at the hearing. A receivership is contemplated if the property owners fail to bring this property up to code. He attended a further Superior Court hearing concerning the Foster v. Board of Health case. A future hearing before a mutually agreed upon arbitrator will be held. He advised he is drafting the Appeals Court brief for the Board of Assessors concerning the Pompei tax abatement appeal. He reported he also attended today's Board of Health meeting. JN inquired about the 10 Center Street property. Former TD Bank building.


**SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:** *Member Nowak* advised of Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership education, outreach and research. He noted the Partnership put together a Zoom meeting on Oak Trees and their importance to the environment. He was congratulated and praised for the successful outcome of all the work the Greylock Glen Sub-Committee has done. *Member Rosenberg* advised he attended the Board of Health meeting and passed on comments regarding supporting the public to improve health and wellness.

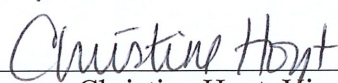
**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER:** *Vice Chair Hoyt* announced from the Town Clerk office that the Town Clerk is looking to update the Town website to include businesses in Adams on the website and a mailing is going out to all registered businesses in Adams. She advised there will be a Workshop next Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for a presentation by Tighe & Bond on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.


**ADJOURNMENT:** ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.***

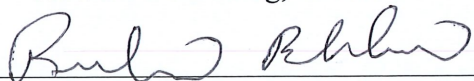
*Respectfully Submitted,*

Deborah J. Dunlap, Recording Secretary

  
Joseph Nowak, Member

  
Christine Hoyt, Vice Chair

  
Howard Rosenberg, Member

  
Richard Blanchard, Member