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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 6/28/17

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 7:00 p.m. Blanchard, Hoyt and Nowak were present as well as Community Development Director Donna Cesan and Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of minutes: Move by Member Blanchard to waive reading the minutes for March 1, 2017 and approve as written, second by Member Nowak. Vote: 3 in favor, 1 (Hoyt) abstained. Motion carried. Move by Member Hoyt to waive reading of minutes for May 17, 2017 and approve as written, second by Member Nowak. Vote: 3 in favor, 1 (Blanchard) abstained. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Resident Jeff Lefebvre asked again about releasing executive session minutes. Chairman advised that legal counsel is reviewing them and the Board should get them soon. Jeff Lefebvre requested a barrel be replaced by Spring Street to keep people from getting injured. Chief Tarsa noted the curbing is not painted and the no parking sign is missing there. Town Administrator Mazzucco will look into it. Public Comment was suspended briefly for the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing on the Town's FY2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 7:10 p.m.: Move by Member Nowak to open the Public Hearing, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion carried. Community Development Director Cesan reviewed funding amounts and the amount spent to date. The grant funded continued implementation of Adams Housing Rehabilitation and the design for the Visitors Center Parking Project, including program delivery and staffing. The expended amount was discussed and the final drawdown is expected to be closed out at the end of July. The grant rehabilitated fourteen residential units within the Route 8 Target Area. Twelve units are complete and the final project will finish the last two units. In January 2016, a request for proposals was issued and a contract was executed with Waterfield Design to create the final design for improvements of the Visitors Center parking lot. The bid-ready specifications enabled the town to apply for construction funding in March 2017. The Town hopes to receive funds to begin this fall. Board Members expressed concern about the availability of federal grants and the administration possibly eliminating Community Development Block Grants in the future. A request was made for the Board to write a letter to voice displeasure about this. Move by Member Nowak to authorize the Board to send a letter voicing displeasure at potential elimination of the CDBG Funding, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Move by Member Blanchard to come out of Public Hearing, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Public Comment – Resident Kim Peters asked questions about the FY2017 grant funding and why it didn't go toward low income houses but instead for a parking lot. A recent public hearing on this grant funding took place and the community had an opportunity to speak at that hearing. Town Administrator Mazzucco explained the grant application process and that funding changes yearly. The Visitors Center is a focal point of the community and the parking lot is in deplorable shape with poor drainage and culvert issues. The business that took over for Adams Internists has a parking deed restriction. There are more housing rehabilitation applications than the Town can accommodate and the parking lot benefits the entire community. Staff would have to be laid off and roads not paved if this doesn't get done. The program is working with a Route 8 Target Area. Rehabilitated housing has a 15-year lien requirement of the state.

New Business

Approval of Health Insurance MOA with AFSCME Clerical Unit, AFSCME Department of Public Works Unit, and AFSCME Police Unit: Town Administrator Mazzucco advised this is the same MOA for all three unions and is just paperwork for health insurance changes made earlier in the year. A HRA for the cost of the deductible will be in place, which begins next month. The Town sees no increase in health insurance in the budget. All documents have been reviewed by Labor Counsel. Move by Member Blanchard to approve health insurance MOA with AFSCME for Clerical, Public Works and Police Unions, second by Hoyt; Vote: unanimous.

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Ratification of Special Police Officer: Chairman Duval read letter from Chief Tarsa regarding the ratification of the appointment of Natasha Antona to Special Police Officer. Chief Tarsa advised he is building a team to move up in the future. Move by Member Hoyt to ratify the appointment of Natasha Antona to the position of Special Police Officer, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous.

Appointment of Board of Survey: Chairman Duval read letter from Town Administrator regarding appointing a Board of Survey of the Fire Chief, John Pansecchi, a Disinterested Party, Paul Goyette, and an Engineer, Brian Eseppi. Town Administrator Mazzucco advised if a building determined unsafe must have a Board of Survey to work in conjunction with Town Counsel and the Building Commissioner. A brief definition was given about the term "Disinterested Party". The Commercial Street building is the one needing most attention because the building abuts two busy roads. The Town has always had a Board of Survey but is now in compliance with the State Statute. Move by Member Nowak to appoint to Board of Survey John Pansecchi, Paul Goyette and Brian Eseppi, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Annual Appointments: Town Administrator Mazzucco requested the Annual Appointments be tabled for more work to be done on them. Move by Member Blanchard to table the Annual Appointments, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports: Member Nowak attended the Cemetery Commission Meeting with Town Administrator Mazzucco regarding the rehabilitation of building. The building could be salvaged with an enormous amount of money. Member Nowak announced there is a volunteer group to fix the fallen headstones if anyone is interested, and there is an area up on Maple Street that will stay uncut because of milkweed and wildflowers there to be a pollinating community for butterflies and bees. Member Hoyt attended the Zoning Board meeting.

Department Reports

Town Administrator's Report: Town Administrator Mazzucco reported the Town closed on six properties sold in auction and more are expected next week. The hope is to close them by the end of the fiscal year.

Town Counsel Report: Town Counsel was not in attendance.

Announcements and Good of the Order: Chairman Duval advised of a meeting between the Town and the insurance company regarding the Commercial Street Project, but there is no timeline for when they are coming back. Member Hoyt thanked Police Chief Tarsa, the DPW and staff for making sure the Town looked its best for the procession for Representative Cariddi's funeral service on Thursday. Member Nowak attended the funeral and noted two State Representatives gave moving talks. Town Administrator Mazzucco announced Town Hall and the Library are closed Monday and Tuesday and the Council on Aging will have limited services.

Adjournment: Move to adjourn by Member Blanchard, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap, Recording Secretary

Joseph Nowak, Member

Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman

Christine Hoyt, Member

John Duval, Chairman