



Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL, 8 PARK STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220

1st Floor, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 7:00 PM. Chairman of the Adams Board of Selectmen, John Duval opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Present: Chairman, John Duval; Vice-chair, Christine Hoyt, and Members, Joseph Nowak, Richard Blanchard, and Howard Rosenberg. *Town Counsel Edmund St. John was absent.* Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Kelly Rice, Town Treasurer and Collector, Brian Rhodes, iBerkshires; and residents of the Town of Adams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 2nd, 2022 Meeting Minutes were presented for approval.

The November 9th, 2022 Public Hearing Minutes were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Vice-chair Hoyt to wave the reading of the minutes approve the Wednesday November 2nd minutes. Motion is seconded by Member Rosenberg.

Discussion: Change "Winder" to "Winter" and "Nation Grid" to "National Grid". Member Nowak also wished to see more specifics regarding the Cheshire Harbor Trail Snowmobile corridor that connected Cheshire Harbor Trail to Old Adams Road, up the Jones Nose Parking Lot, and then out onto Rockwell Road. Additionally, Member Nowak would like to see the minutes for the November 9th meeting to amended for the spelling of Animal Control Officer Witek's last name. '

Vice-chair Hoyt amends her motion to include the edits as presented by Member Nowak. Howard amended his second of the Motion. Motion passed to approve minutes from the November 2nd Meeting and November 9th Public Hearing to include Member Nowak's additions and changes. Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: *Member Nowak* wanted to follow up with *Chairman Duval* regarding the Executive Committee of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. *Chairman Duval* recommended that the Executive Director come to the BOS to explain what the BRPC does specifically.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ratification of Matthew Francoeur as Operator I/Highway, Department of Public Works: *Jay Green, Town Administrator* read the letter that he drafted for Matthew Francoeur highlighting his skills and traits that make him an excellent fit for the position.

A motion was made by Vice-chair Hoyt to ratify the appointment of Matthew Francoeur to the position of Operator I for the Department of Public Works at a step Seven Rate of \$22.17 per hour. Motion is seconded by Member Rosenberg. Motion passes unanimously.

Ratification of Norm Charron as Operator III/Parks & Grounds, Department of Public Works: *Jay Green* noted that this is an internal promotion due to the retirement of a previous employee. *Jay* read the letter that he had drafted to the board.

A motion was made by Vice-chair Hoyt to ratify the appointment of Norman Charron to the position of Operator III/ Parks and Grounds for the Department of Public Works at a rate of \$24.05 per hour. The motion is seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passes unanimously.

Appointment of Loren Steins to the Adams Agricultural Commission: Loren was present at the meeting. *Member Nowak* read Loren's application to the board. Loren stated that she grew up on a family farm and works selling tractor supplies.

Member Nowak asked for clarification on how the swearing in world work. Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk stated that the members can be sworn in at any time when the Town Clerk's office is open. She can also attend their first meeting and swear them all in at once.

Member Nowak made a motion to appoint Loren Steins to the Adams Agricultural Commission. Motion was seconded by Vice-chair Hoyt. Motion passes unanimously.

Jay green noted that there will be a need for administrative support for the Agricultural commission. Becky Ferguson will be the staff liaison.

Bri Hantman read the guidance regarding the terms of the members of the Agricultural Commission. Members will have their terms expire based on when they were appointed to the Commission.

Natasha Lee Bordeaux – Appointed on 09/07/2022 will have her appointment expire on 06/30/2025

Christina Satko – Appointed on 07/20/2022 will have her appointment expire on 06/30/2025

Megan Bantle – Appointed on 09/21/2022 will have her appointment expire on 06/30/2024

Sonia McWhirt – Appointed on 11/02/2022 will have her appointment expire on 06/30/2024

Loren Steins, who was appointed this evening will have her term expire on 06/30/2023.

Update on Hoosac Valley Regional School District, Aaron Dean Enrollment is up by 10 students (Enrolment is currently at 1027 from 1017). Freshman class is up to 85 which is good news. This year there is a lot of work deepening what has been done in the past. The school is attempting to deepen the rigor of the courses and the engagement with family and community members. Erica Girgenti was added as a Student and Family Support team member to deepen the connections between the school and the community. The principal and assistant principal are out in Colorado looking at models of high schools.

There has been an increase in the needs of mental health and social emotional needs. There is a lot of important and exciting work happening in the district. This is the first time that we have ventured into a shared services agreement and the school is sharing an athletic director with North Adams Public Schools. Aaron Dean asked the board if they had any questions.

Chairman Duval asked if the increase of ten students signals the leveling off of enrollment decline. Aaron stated that they have seen some success in a variety of the steps that they are taking. Berkshire County as a whole has seen a decline.

Vice-Chair Hoyt noted that the conversation is encouraging and she is grateful for the hard work that is being put in by the school district

Member Rosenberg asked if Aaron could expand on some of the work that is being done with the curriculum and how some work is being done to reduce the cost of Special Education. This work is being done by Kristen Palatt. Aaron talked about how updating the approach and the curriculum has created an opportunity to address the issues on multiple tiers. She has an amazing way of connecting the students with the resources available as well as determining focus areas.

Member Nowak asked what percentage of students in kindergarten as special needs. Aaron stated that you don't actually see a lot of students in kindergarten come in as special needs, because there are other interventions that are taken at that time to see if the supports that are provided. Tier three is where many students are determined to need special education, and so there are other attempts before putting children in that tier in order to create the least restrictive learning process. *Member Nowak* also noted that, as a substitute teacher, he has a hard time getting 8th graders to listen to his directions.

Chairman Duval asked for a status on the potential of a full-time preschool. Aaron stated that he has an extensive report and would gladly share it with the board if they like.

Chairman Duval also asked about the maintenance of the Plunkett School Building following a recent news article that came out. They have done a study to see what some of the biggest issues are. Aaron stated that they have a contractor to take care of the windows. They are also looking at water diversion. Those projects will make sense to collaborate with the Town of Adams.

Chairman Duval thanks the school and their staff for having their veteran's day celebration wherein veterans marched through the hallway with the students cheering them on.

Member Nowak asked if the catch-basins around the school are clear and also asked if the gutters had been cleaned out. The Fire Department cleaned out the gutters and checked the catch basins. It turns out that the gutters are not currently balanced properly. *Member Nowak* also asked if there are such things as truancy officers any longer. Aaron stated that that role has not existed for quite some time

Member Rosenberg asked what work Erica was doing. Aaron stated that she has been working to connect students and their families with the work that other agencies are doing and the resources that are available. She is also working to connect with students who are not attending school regularly.

Update Items for Transfer Station:

Ratify New Hours of Operation: *Wednesday, 10am-2pm; Sat: 7:30am-3:00pm:* Jay stated that historically we are open 9am-1pm on Wednesday and 8am-3pm on Saturdays. Hours will now be Wednesdays from 10am-2pm and Saturday from 7:30-3:00. We are finding that people would like to use the transfer station later in the evenings, but there are no lights up there, but we are working to find safety lights.

Ratify New Fees for Tire Disposal: Bob's Tires is our tire vendor. With their contract, they can increase their fees at any time. There have been increases for us, so we are increasing the cost by \$1-\$1.50 in order to cover our costs. Jay clarified what the process is for disposing of tires. Jay also noted that you can obtain a permit to dispose of a tire by purchasing it at the Town Treasurer/ Collector's office. There is no money exchanged at the Transfer Station.

Review use of Transfer Station by outside parties for fundraising: Recently we have heard from the state ethics committee that transfer stations and public buildings cannot be used for obtaining signatures. Additionally, there is only one attendant at the Transfer station. Attendants need to be enforcing the regulations and they do not have the time to get called up to the front gate for fundraising. We will still allow for one day in the summer for Kelly to be up there selling transfer station tickets. Jay clarified that for our purposes, no signatures should be gained in public buildings or up at the transfer station. This includes individuals running for public office. Member Nowak asked if that includes public ways, like the rotary.

There are currently some pinch points at the Transfer Station. There is brush, leaves, waste, scrap metal, bottles and cans, tires/

A Motion was made by Vice-chair Hoyt to ratify the new hours of operation as proposed to Wednesday 10am-2pm and Saturday, 7:30am-3:00pm. Motion is seconded by Member Rosenberg. Motion passes unanimous.

Motion by Vice-chair Hoyt to ratify the new tire prices, to go into effect November 17th. Motion seconded by Member Rosenberg. Motion passes unanimously.

There was consensus among the board to exclude outside parties for fundraising efforts. This did not require a specific motion.

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Member Rosenberg: None

Vice-chair Hoyt: BRTA has announced that there will be free transit available November 25th-December 31st this year. That is bus and paratransit. On the Licensing side of things, there were two establishments that were cited for serving an underage individuals, AJ's and Fire House Café. This was a first-time violation for both of these establishments. The ABCC has issued a warning. The licensing committee has not yet met, they will meet. Vice-chair Hoyt believes that the warning is sufficient from the ABCC.

Member Duval: In the past the Board has had individuals come in and speak to the board regarding serving infractions at local establishments. Vice-chair Hoyt noted that the Licensing Subcommittee

has the ability to request that an establishment come in, however the licensing subcommittee has not yet met. At this time, *Vice-chair Hoyt* feels that the warning is sufficient.

There was a community meeting regarding the development of the 20 East Street property. About 16 residents attended along with the developers. There were some concerns that the developers received very well. There were also a number of people who were excited about the development.

Vice-chair Hoyt has attended a number of trainings included funding resources for affordable housing initiatives and cannabis laws.

Member Nowak: Attended a conservation commission meeting. The agenda had to do with numbers 5 and 7 Hoosac street. A developer came forward who wanted to do some water remediation around the foundation of the structure. They had a wetlands conservation specialist represent them. The M&M Manufacturing [sic] was using a parking lot that was a part of wetlands. An agreement was met. Specialty Minerals came forward with a situation that had a notice of intent.

Member Nowak also listened to the Marijuana law training. There are some changes that are happening with the Host Community Agreement.

Chairman Duval : BRPC has a full commission meeting tomorrow that will hopefully be made hybrid. This is in an attempt to try to get more members to come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- A. Announcement of Annual Holiday Music from Dr. Bush: *Bri Hantman* received a letter from Dr. Bush stating that they intend to play holiday music at their location on Park Street. Music will be played from 8am until 8pm beginning on Thanksgiving.
- B. Holiday Home Decorating Contest: *Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk* stated Adams Events planning committee is doing their holiday house decorating contest. Applications can be found on the town website or on Facebook. You can sign up 11/21-12/02. Judging will take place from December 9th and 10th. Winner will be announced on Wednesday, December 14th. This year, the events committee will drive around and rank the houses. They will pick 1,2, and 3rd place winners. There will still be a community choice award as well that you can vote for online. If you have any questions, you can call town Hall.

Haley Meczywor: Adams Community bank will be sponsoring the Adams Holly-days tree lighting on Sunday November 27th. There will be treats, goodies, hay rides, and santa! Also, nbCC will host a winter scavenger hunt Saturday, December 10th. 11:00-12:30. You can go to local businesses and get goodies along the way. Get your passport stamped at local businesses and then trade it in for a prize from the Coalition!

Vice-Chair Hoyt: Thank you to the Town Clerk for all of the work on the election. There were 1200 early voters. Also, thank you to council on aging staff as well as Steve Roy, our Veterans agent, for the lovely celebration of our veterans. There was a luncheon with "thank you notes" from the

elementary school as well lovely flag ceremony. Lastly, there is a ribbon cutting ceremony this Friday at Secret Sun Tanning Salon at 11:30am.

Member Nowak: Has had a lot of people asking about reinstituting the Town Council and Town Administrator report on the Agenda. Member Nowak asked if we are still heating the Memorial building? Jay Green clarified that, yes we are, but there isn't a purchase and sale agreement yet. *Member Nowak* also attended the Veterans Celebration and there is an unsightly pole that should be taken down. Also, the monuments are green and there should be a company to come around and clean that. Last week, four students were killed at the University of Idaho and they are still looking for the person who did it. *Member Nowak* wanted to state that nobody is safe anywhere at anytime in this country.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made Christine to adjourn. Seconded by Member Rosenberg. Meeting Adjourned at 8:18

Respectfully submitted, Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary

Joseph Nowak, Member

Richard Blanchard, Member

Christine Hoyt, Vice Chairman

Howard Rosenburg, Member

John Duval, Chairman