



Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 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 at the Adams Town Hall. Chair John Duval opened the meeting. Present: Chair John Duval, Members Howard Rosenberg, Richard Blanchard, and Joseph Nowak. *Vice-Chair Christine Hoyt was absent.* Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Edmund St. John, Town Counsel; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; NBCTC; Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires; Eammon Coughlin and Rebecca Ferguson of the Community Development Department; Ryan Biros, Adams Historical Commission; Chief Scott Kelley, Adams Police Department; Corporal Joshua Baker, Adams Police Department; Members of the Adams Police Department; Pam Sherman, Resident of the Town of Adams; Bruce Shepley, Adams Council on Aging; Dave Bissaillon and Erin Mucci of ProAdams; Sarah Fontaine; Adams Council on Aging Director, Amalio Jusino, Town of Adams Emergency Management Director; Member of the Adams Forest Wardens Department, and residents of the Town of Adams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the February 1, 2023 Meeting were submitted for approval

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to waive the reading of the February 1st, 2023 Minutes and approve them as submitted. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ryan Biros, Chair of the Historical Commission stated that the Historical Commission is looking for new members. Anyone who is interested should contact Ryan Biros at the Historical Commission

Dave Bissaillon and Erin Mucci of ProAdams stated that they would like to show their support for and state their support of the growth taking place in Adams with project that are meant to benefit everyone in the town, specifically the Adams Theater, The Greylock Glen Outdoor Center, and the Greylock Glen camp site. These projects represent great opportunities for Adams, an opportunity to expand our tax base, and to engage in environmental tourism. We should all be thinking about how we can make the visitor experience in Adams better for the residents in Adams.

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TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
PRK

Thunderfest will be on March 25th and when the weather warms up, ProAdams will be resuming Coffee in the Court!

OLD BUSINESS: *None*

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A motion was made by Member Blanchard at 7:12 to move into a Public Hearing to discuss the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Community Development Block Grant. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting moved into Public Hearing.

Public Hearing for the Fiscal year 2022/2023 Community Development Block Grant, 7:10pm

Jay Green stated that the CDBG program is important for the work that the town of Adams does. Unfortunately, due to our size, we are not able to classify as an entitlement community so we must apply for the funds.

Eammon Coughlin, Community Development Director stated that this year's application is a two-year application for an allowable 1.3 million dollars.

Becky Ferguson, Community Development Assistant Director stated that staff suggests that we apply for the total 1.3 million for two separate activities, being housing rehab and roadwork. The roadwork would be for Albert Street, Cook Street and Pleasant street. All of these streets fall within the Slum and Blight Designation as has been determined. This would upgrade roads, sidewalks, and curb ramps.

More recent construction projects have included the parking area at the Visitor Center, Russel Field, and the HVAC system at Adams Memorial.

Member Rosenberg asked how the applications are evaluated and how confident we are in it. *Becky* stated that we have been successful in the past.

Member Nowak asked what the "delivery costs" were in the grant. *Becky* stated that they were administrative as well as staff salaries.

Pamela Sherman approached the board to speak on the progress of her property. *Pam* stated that since she was here last, the contractor pulled out and was still paid. Since the time she was here last, progress has been made. *John Duval* stated that the remaining project items have been identified and the project has been put out to bid.

Myra Wilk approached the board regarding the community development block grant. She asked if there was a sidewalk improvement plan for other roads and streets.

Jay Green stated that we have been working to address the roads. West Road, East Road, and Park street are other needs.

Eammon stated that a road survey was done in 2016, but it is really expensive to do roads. It is only about \$280,000 from Chapter 90. For example, with Cook Street there is a 500 yard stretch with

sidewalks on either side, and it will cost roughly \$400,000 just to do that, so the \$280,000 in chapter 90 doesn't go very far.

Jay Green stated that the Town has taken as many steps as possible to economically and efficiently pave the roads.

Edmund St. John, Town Resident, asked if the CDBG funds can be used to repair the bathrooms at the Memorial Building. *Jay* Explained that there is a five year moratorium that prevents the Town from using CDBG funds for the bathrooms at Memorial.

A motion was made by member Blanchard to come out of public hearing at 7:33. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Blanchard made the motion to approve the FY 2022-2023 CDBG application. The motion was seconded by member Rosenberg. The Motion passed unanimously.

Member Blanchard made the motion to include the amount maximum grant amount of 1.35 million dollars. Member Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ratification Joshua Baker to the Corporal Position for the Adams Police Department:

Law Enforcement officers from a variety of police departments were present. *Jay Green* stated that this rank is new for the Town of Adams. The Rank of Corporal is an advisory role. Chief Kelley read his letter of support for the Ratification of Josh Baker.

A motion was made by Member Blanchard that the board ratify the appointment of Josh Baker to the position of Corporal to the Adams Police Department. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Kelley also stated that the K9 officer, Adam, will be doing a meet and greet at the Adams Hometown Market.

Review and Approve Amendments to Council on Aging Advisory Board By-laws

Sarah Fontaine, Council on Aging Director stated that there were no council on aging bylaws officially on file in the Clerk's office.

Sarah highlighted some of the major changes. The COAAB was referred to as a "board of directors" and that was changed to "Advisory board". They designated a chair, vice-chair, and recording secretary. The Advisory board is taking a more active role in garnering participation in COA events. A section to recognize Honorary Members was included. The new bylaws also include an updated process for board resignations and removals.

Chairman Duval clarified that the board will still have final authority to appoint and remove a member of the COAAB.

Town Council stated that the Board of Selectmen holds final power to remove, so the language in the by-laws must be inclusive of that.

The board suggested some other changes regarding appointment timeline. Sarah stated that these articles will be taken back to the advisory board for review and then she will re-present these changes in March.

No action was taken by the Board of Selectmen

Review and Approve the Removal of Robert Joppich and Barbara Fiske from the Adams Council on Aging Advisory Board

Sarah Fontaine read her letter recommending the removal of Robert and Barbara from the advisory board. Sarah stated that the council on aging is deeply grateful for all they have done for the council on aging, but due to health and personal reasons, they are no longer able to attend meetings. This has presented some logistical issues with gaining a quorum for meetings.

John Duval thanked the two individuals for their commitment to the community.

Member Blanchard made the motion to approve the honorable removal of Robert Joppich and Barbara Fisk from the Adams Council on Aging Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Application for Inn Keeper's License for Pleasant Street Holdings, DBA Topia Inn, 10 Pleasant Street, Adams MA

Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary stated that this is a new Inn Keeper's License Application following the Sale of the Topia Inn. Inn Keeper's Licenses are nontransferable, which is why the new owner is applying now.

Member Blanchard made the motion that the board approve the Inn Keeper's License for Pleasant Street Holdings, LLC, DBA Topia Inn, 10 Pleasant Street, Adams Ma. The Motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg.

Member Nowak thanked the previous owners of the Topia Inn for their business in Adams.

The Motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Weekly Public Entertainment License for the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Adams MA

Jay Green stated that Ms. Moore has been in touch with the Fire Chief and Building Inspector to ensure that her location is safe and acceptable for the events that she plans on hosting.

A motion made by Member Blanchard to Approve the Weekly Entertainment License. The Motion was Seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Facility Use Request for ProAdams for Thunderfest, Saturday, March 25th, Adams Visitor Center

Member Nowak asked if there was going to be a ski race this year. *Erin Mucci* of Pro-Adams stated that of the 12 or 13 years, there has only been a ski race about four times.

Member Blanchard made the motion to approve the Facility use request for Thunderfest Saturday, March 25th, Adams Visitor Center. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Public Entertainment License for ProAdams for Thunderfest, Saturday, March 25th, Adams Visitor Center

Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary stated that all paperwork is in order.

Motion from Member Blanchard to approve the One Day Public Entertainment License for Thunderfest. The motion is seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve One Day Liquor License for Balderdash Cellars to Vend at Thunderfest, Saturday, March 25th, Adams Visitor Center

Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary stated that all paperwork is in order.

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to approve the One Day Liquor License for Balderdash Cellars for Thunderfest. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve One Day Liquor License for Bounti-Fare to Vend at Thunderfest, Saturday, March 25th, Adams Visitor Center

Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary stated that all paperwork is in order.

Member Nowak asked if the word “vend” can be used as a verb. It was explained that yes, “vend” is a verb.

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to approve the One Day Liquor License for David Nicholas for Thunderfest. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Williamstown and City of North Adams for the Shared Human Resources Director Position

The Term is for 2 years. The cost is covered in the first year. The communities are required to pay the salary amount in the second year.

Member Nowak asked if Jay had a template to work off of when drafting this IMA. *Jay Green* stated that he was able to work off of IMAs from other towns.

Member Rosenberg asked if all three communities will collaborate with evaluating the HR Director's performance.

Member Blanchard made a motion to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Williamstown and City of North Adams for the Shared Human Resources Director Position. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Member Rosenberg: The Board of Health launched a peer supported wellness program in Adams. The program is underway.

Chairman Duval: None

Member Nowak: Attended a parks commission meeting. The gist was scheduling soccer and little league. *Member Nowak* hopes that the Town will be able to use the fertilizer spreader and other tools. Cecelia Norcross [Sic] helped secure funds to put up a new storage unit for the soccer league.

Member Nowak attended the Historical Commission meeting and they talked about the Quaker Meeting House as well as the Coal and Grain Elevator.

Member Nowak wanted to thank the Adams Hometown Market for their donations of canned goods to the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey.

Member Nowak asked when a member from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission would be attending a meeting to provide a workshop. *Chairman Duval* stated that he will work on arranging this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Propose Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Meeting Schedule

March 6th Budget overview workshop

March 13th Budget Overview with Finance Committee

Week of March 20th-27th Joint Budget reviews

April 5th Regular BOS meeting to approve Budget

April 6th Finance Committee meeting

Chairman Duval: Citizens petition opens April 5th and Closes April 19th. There is a target date of June 6th to host Town Meeting.

Member Rosenberg: None

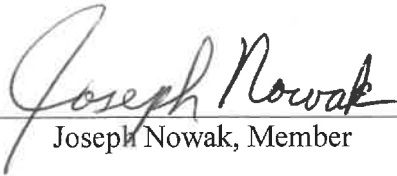
Member Blanchard: None

Member Nowak: Do we know when the Government Review Committee will be ready to present their findings? Jay stated that the group is still in the process of going through the mechanics of the charter.

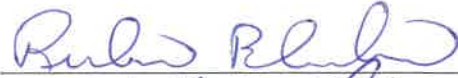
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm

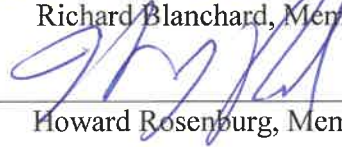
Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary.



Joseph Nowak, Member

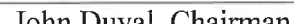


Richard Blanchard, Member



Christine Hoyt, Vice Chairman

Howard Rosenberg, Member



John Duval, Chairman