

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 7/19/17

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 Acting Town Administrator Donna Cesan and Town Counsel Ed St. John.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of minutes: Move by Member Blanchard to waive reading the minutes for June 28, 2017 and July 5, 2017 approve as written, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Public Comment: Resident Jeff Lefebvre advised rivers are not being cleaned anymore on East Hoosac Street and Richmond Lane and expressed concern about storm water issues that could result. He also noted the C.T. Plunkett School name change by the School District will lose the Plunkett history. He further noted that the sign coming out of Hoosac Street for the *Movies Under the Stars* needs to be moved back because cars can't see around it. He noted the Fall Run is going away and thanked Mike Robinson for all the work he did and the donations given to Shriners from it.

Public Hearing regarding the Application for Wine and Malt Package Store License by Tri-Petroleum, Inc., 160 Howland Avenue, Adams, MA 01220, 7:10 p.m.: Move by Member Blanchard to open the Public Hearing, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Pierre Kareh of 48 ½ Melrose Street, Adams gave the Board the details about the project at the old Good Will building. He reviewed the plan with the Board and noted that both the Zoning and Planning Boards have approved the project, which will begin within two weeks. Parking lot drainage structures and leaching areas are already approved. Mr. Kareh was thanked for removing a blighted building and starting a business in Town. The business is tentatively expected to open by the end of November and both the Racing Mart and this new building would remain open. The public was invited to ask questions and provide comments. Jeff Lefebvre recommended the Town help businesses that come into town because they increase the tax base. Move by Member Blanchard to exit Public Hearing, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Move by Member Blanchard to approve Wine & Malt Package Store License for TRI-Petroleum, Inc. at 160 Howland Ave, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

New Business

November Election: Town Clerk Haley Meczywor and Board Members discussed the vacant Board of Selectmen seat. If filled, it would have to occur on November 7th with the special election, as a dual election with two separate ballots. There would be a cost and additional hired staff estimated at \$4,200. Board discussion ensued with Town Counsel. It was noted that a dual election would benefit the recent low voter turnout. If the Board Member seat was filled it would only be for five months to complete the term. A Reserve Fund transfer will have to happen for the State Primary and Special Election in October and November. Citizen Jeff Lefebvre expressed concern about getting a quorum if a Board Member becomes sick. If two hundred registered voters request a petition and present it to the Board, a special election will take place. If a petition comes forth and the special election is scheduled for a different day, the cost would be increased.

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Grant Street Drainage Issue: Member Hoyt updated the Board that the drainage issue is being looked at by the DPW and engineers have been contacted. A more conclusive report will be available at a future date. Charlotte Avery, a resident, asked for what exactly was happening, which was explained in detail. It was explained that no funding would be approved prior to next year's budget unless the DPW can take care of it as a minor budgetary issue. Pete Lipka, of 37 Valley Street, explained additional water issues he read about in the paper from 6 Lincoln Street. Resident Rick Tarsa also explained there was a brook that ran in the back yards of the properties before it was rerouted.

Facility Use Request – Park Street, Hijinx: Chairman Duval reviewed the application. Chief Tarsa advised he had no contact with the applicant regarding the event but an estimated four officers would be needed for the event with several conditions and logistics review. Street cleanup was explained by Town Clerk Haley Meczywor from a meeting held with the event organizer and the Town Administrator. The event was promoted as rain or shine but due to public safety may have limitations. Liability insurance was reviewed. Move by Member Hoyt to approve the facility use request for Hijinx on Park Street on July 24, 2017 with the condition that organizers contact Chief of Police by Friday, July 28, 2017 at the close of business day, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Facility Use Request – Adams Memorial School, BART Charter Public School: Chairman Duval reviewed the application by BART to use the gymnasium at Memorial School November 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018 from 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. for basketball practice. BART will provide cleanup. Mold issues were discussed and an air quality test is being performed next Wednesday by Eco-Genesis. Acting Town Administrator Cesan recommended the Board defer taking action until the results come in. Move by Member Blanchard to table the request, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Appointment of Annual Election Workers: Town Clerk Haley Meczywor explained how election workers are cultivated. Interested parties may contact Town Clerk's office. Emergency election worker appointments have not been necessary to date. Workers are on rotation for five people in each precinct. Move by Member Nowak to approve the appointments of annual election workers and authorize the Town Clerk to select emergency election workers as needed, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Liaison Reports: Member Nowak updated the Board on the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. Gailanne Cariddi was holding a position that has to be filled. Member Hoyt attended the Adams Cheshire Regional School Committee Meeting and noted the administration is working hard to make the transition happen. Contracts have been signed by the teacher's unions and para-professionals. The School Committee voted to change the name of C.T. Plunkett to Hoosac Valley Elementary School. Disappointment was expressed that there was not more public input solicited prior to making the decision. It was noted that the Plunkett name ties the history of the Town of Adams. Member Hoyt attended the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting with two hearings, and the Parks Commission meeting which referenced facility use requests. The Parks Commission will present a recommendation of facility use for the Lassie and ACS Leagues, and Chairman Cernik discussed plans for Russell Field. Chairman Duval also attended the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Finance Committee Meeting, where Reserve Fund Transfers were approved. Discussion took place on reducing size of the Finance Committee and a process to be created to work towards a Charter Review Committee.

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Department Reports

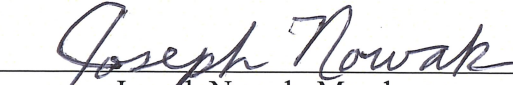
Town Administrator's Report: Acting Town Administrator Donna Cesan updated the Board on the status of the Hoosac Valley Rail Service Project. She received plans from the engineer consultants who designed the project. The required notice of intent is expected next week. Staff is reviewing and commenting on the preliminary design on the passenger platform and receive final plans from Mass DOT are expected soon. The hope with the current schedule is to be ready for the holiday train season. The Route 8 Design project engineer is making progress and District 1 is expected to comment on sidewalk locations on the bridges. The Police Department is working on providing crash data to determine if a Road Safety Audit will be required. A 25% design completion and public hearing are expected in the fall.

Town Counsel Report: Town Counsel reported met with Building Commissioner and Chairman of the ZBA and attended a meeting regarding Dukes Sand & Gravel Pit. He prepared a formal request for judgment in the MJD case. He reviewed and responded to a request concerning an alcohol license question. He reviewed the deed to C.T. Plunkett School and responded to questions regarding the legality of changing the name of the school. He researched and responded to questions from the Assessor and Treasurer/Collector. He reviewed and edited a proposed Gould Road easement. He prepared for and attended a hearing in Boston regarding a litigation matter and researched and responded to a question concerning scheduling an election to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Selectmen.

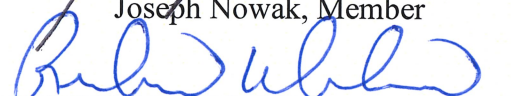
Announcements and Good of the Order: Charter Communications changes were discussed. Spectrum will be attending a forum in August at an open meeting. Voters of Cheshire were thanked for passing the school budget. The Fall Run was remembered and co-founders were thanked. The name change for C.T. Plunkett was again reviewed and it was noted discussion should have been open to the public. Town Administrator Mazzucco and Community Development Director Cesan were thanked for the work done for the Visitor Center Staff to be open seven days a week. Frustration was expressed about changes made by different organizations being represented on social media as the Town of Adams being the cause.

Adjournment: Move to adjourn by Member Blanchard, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

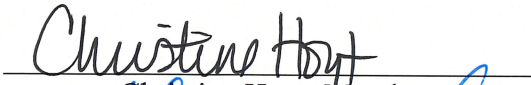
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



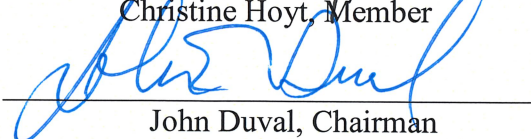
Joseph Nowak, Member



Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman



Christine Hoyt, Member



John Duval, Chairman