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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, May 17, 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 Christine Hoyt opened the meeting. Present: Chair Christine Hoyt, Vice-chair Howard Rosenberg, Members John Duval, Richard Blanchard, and Joseph Nowak. Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Crystal Wojcik, Town Finance Director; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Becky Ferguson, Assistant Director of Community Development; Kelly Rice, Treasurer and Collector; Joe Martin of the Adams Street Fair Committee; Jay Meczywor, Chairman of the Northern Berkshire Events Committee; Peter Gentile of NBCTC and Residents of the Town of Adams

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the April 19th and April 27th 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting were presented.

Member Blanchard made the motion to waive the reading of the April 19th and April 27th, 2023 Minutes and approve them as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the May 3rd, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting were presented.

Member Blanchard made the motion to waive the reading of the May 3rd minutes and approve them as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg.

Member Nowak stated that he didn't believe that his statements were correctly or appropriately recorded in the minutes. *Member Nowak* suggest that Carol Cushenette, member of the finance committee, offered to share her findings with Member Nowak at a finance committee meeting.

Member Blanchard amended his motion to include the amendment offered by Member Nowak. Vice-chair Rosenberg seconded the amended motion. The motion passed with one abstention from Member Duval who was not present for the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *None*

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes from the March 21st, 2023 Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee joint workshop were tabled at the May 3rd meeting.

Member Blanchard made a motion to put the March 21st, 2023 back on the table. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Recording Secretary Bri Hantman stated that the requested edits had been made.

Member Blanchard made the motion to waive the reading of the March 21, 2023 minutes and approve them as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on Adams Cleanup Day, Jay Meczywor, Northern Berkshire Events Committee Chair

Jay Meczywor approached the board. 31 Volunteers were present for the clean up day that took place on May 6th. There were large-scale cleanup efforts all around town including Sayles Park, Hoosac Street, Summer Street, and Winter Street.

Roughly 67 bags of garbage were cleaned up by the group. Jay offered thanks to the DPW for picking up the bags and to Chairman Christine Hoyt, Vice-chair Howard Rosenberg, and Member Nowak.

Member Nowak and Vice-chair Rosenberg offered thanks to the Adams Events Committee.

Update on Memorial Day Parade, Joe Martin and Keith McLearn

Joe Martin approached the Board. The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 29. The parade will begin at 10:00am. In the event of rain, the closing ceremony will be at either Memorial School or at the Fire House. Joe will work with Town Administrator, Jay Green, to confirm that the Memorial School building will be available. Joe requested that the Board of Selectmen be present on Monday at 9:30am to lineup for the parade. Joe also requested that Town Administrator Green bring one of his classic cars.

Announcement of Adams Bike Month Event, Rebecca Ferguson

Becky Ferguson, Assistant Director of the Community Development Office approached the Board. The event will be held on Saturday May 20th starting at the visitor center and include a group ride on the rail trail. In the event of rain, the ride will be cancelled but there will still be festivities inside.

Ratification of Aaron Chappell as Seasonal Laborer for the Adams Department of Public Works

Chairman Hoyt stated that additional hiring information is needed at this time. As such, no action will be taken on this item this evening.

Review and approve application for Public Entertainment License, Berkshire Faerie Festival, June 17, 2023, Bowe Field Sarah Rose Miller, Director of the Berkshire Faerie Festival approached the board. There will be a variety of activities including an archery demonstration. Sarah clarified that there would not be an opportunity for those who attend the Faerie Festival to participate in the archery.

Member Blanchard made the motion that the Board approve the Public Entertainment License for the Berkshire Faerie Festival for June 17th, 2023 at Bowe Field from 10am- 9pm. Vice-chair Rosenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and approve application to place signs on a public way, Berkshire Faerie Festival

Member Blanchard asked for clarification on what type of signs would be used. Sarah stated that they are lawn signs that they are hoping to use. If it is anything other than that, she is happy to come back to the board.

Member Blanchard made the motion that the Board approved the application to place signs on a public way. The motion was seconded by Member Rosenberg.

Member Nowak offered some tips for effective sign placement for the event.

The motion passed unanimously.

Review and approve application for Weekly Entertainment License, 57 Park Street

Bri Hantman, recording secretary stated that all paperwork is in order. *Member Blanchard made a motion to approve the weekly entertainment license application for Lea King at 57 Park Street. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.*

Review and approve application for Sunday Entertainment License for Adams Theater, 37 Park Street, on June 4th, July 2nd, and October 8th

Member Blanchard made a motion to approve the Sunday Entertainment License for the Adams Theater at 37 Park Street for Dates indicated after 1pm. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and approve application for One Day Liquor License for Berkshire Cider Project, Friday, June 2, 2023, Adams Theater, 37 Park Street,

Bri Hantman stated that all paperwork is in order.

Member Blanchard made the motion to approve the One Day Liquor License application for the Berkshire Cider Project for Friday June 2, 2023 at the Adams Theater, 37 Park Street Adams from 6:30pm-10:00pm. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg.

Member Duval asked if these one-day licenses were needed due to a lack of liquor licenses on the part of the Theater. Chairman Hoyt stated that outside vendors are serving alcohol at these events because the Adams Theater does not have a liquor license.

The motion passed unanimously.

Review and approve application for One Day Liquor License for Bounti-Fare, Saturday, June 3, 2023, Adams Theater, 37 Park Street

Member Blanchard made the motion to approve the One Day Liquor License application for the Bounti-Fair for Saturday June 3, 2023 at the Adams Theater, 37 Park Street Adams from 4:00pm-10:00pm. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Set Transfer Station Rates for 2023-2024

Jay Green, Town Administrator began the conversation with an introduction of the new permit for the transfer station. Right now, there is roughly \$25,000 budgeted for the transfer station that is on the tax rate. The average revolving fund deficit at this time is nearly \$8,000. That deficit has not always been that way. That is one of the reasons driving the cost of the transfer station up. The goal is to have the transfer station become self-sustaining and to have those expenses no longer be carried by the taxpayers.

Ed Driscoll, Adams Representative to the Northern Berkshire solid Waste Management District approached the board. The Town of Adams does not generate enough waste or recycle material to generate any income. The scrap metal that is removed generate roughly \$1000.00 a year.

Vice-chair Rosenberg asked a number of questions regarding the percentage of the waste stream that is made up of food waste or compostable matter. John Pitroff who serves as the alternate commissioner for the Solid Waste Management District spoke with the board as he is also the owner of Second Chance Compost. June 24th at the Transfer Station is the bulky waste disposal day.

At 8:19 Chairman Hoyt called a 5-minute recess. At 8:24 the meeting was called back into session.

The memo in front of the board suggests changing the annual permit fee from \$75 to \$100 and changing the bag tag fee from \$1.20 to \$1.60 each.

Member Blanchard expressed his belief that this change is necessary as the transfer station needs to be paid for by those who use it.

Member Blanchard made a motion to set the transfer station fees at \$100 per annual permit, \$10 per replacement permit, and \$8.00 for 5 bag tags (\$1.60 each). The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg.

Member Nowak stated that he believes that the change is necessary. Member Nowak asked what standards need to be met by Casella in order for them to raise their prices on the anniversary of the contract signing. Jay clarified that there are no particular parameters that Casella must meet. Member Nowak also asked who sets the CPI (Consumer Price Index). Finance Director, Crystal Wojcik clarified that the Bureau of Labor Statistics sets the CPI based off monthly index calculations.

The motion passed unanimously.

Review and approve Cemetery Fees

The last fee adjustment took place 8 or 9 years ago. The cemetery commission has been meeting and they are still working to define what a resident is. A community member can be a resident at the time that they buy their plot, but move away afterward. The cost associated with operating the cemeteries and burials have gone up, including the labor costs paid to the DPW employees.

Member Duval asked if the perpetual care fund can be used to make some of the capital improvements at the cemeteries. *Town Administrator Green* clarified that the replenishment rate is insufficient to allow for regular capital improvement. Equipment for the cemetery is taken from the Town Capital budget. One of the most pressing needs is repair to the water system at the cemeteries.

Member Duval stated that if this increase in fees goes forward, then all capital improvements should come out of this perpetual care fund.

Member Blanchard made a motion that the board approve the Cemetery Commission's proposed rate increases from 2021. Seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg.

Member Blanchard voted to amend the motion to include the language that this will be effective July 1, 2023. Vice-chair Rosenberg seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and approve change of start time for Board of Selectmen meetings

A proposed start time of 6:00pm was brought forward. Northern Berkshire Community Television has been asked about the potential of the change and it is favorable to them. *Chairman Hoyt* asked that if this start time is changed, it not be enacted until the end of July so that the public has adequate time to prepare and be notified for this change. *Member Nowak* stated that he has not had enough time to digest the topic and would like to abstain.

Vice-chair Rosenberg made a motion to change the time of the Selectboard meetings to 6pm on Wednesdays from 7pm. The motion was seconded by member Blanchard. Vice-chair Rosenberg amended his motion to include the

effective date of July 19th. Member Blanchard seconded the Amendment. The motion carried with 4 yes votes and 1 abstention from Member Nowak.

Member Blanchard excused himself from the meeting at 9:15pm.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Member Nowak: Attended a Parks commission meeting. The Youth Center is going to start up a tennis program. Member Nowak also attended a planning board meeting but unfortunately there was no quorum so it was never called to order.

Vice-chair Rosenberg: None

Member Duval: None

Chairman Hoyt: The visitor Center has been prepped for the season. The BRTA advisory board needs an Adams Representative other than Chairman Hoyt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Member Nowak: Thanked the police department for their work with it being National Police Week. *Member Nowak* also asked what the status is of the ongoing police contract negotiations. *Member Nowak* also asked for an update of a property that is in land court. *Chairman Hoyt* stated that she would contact Town Counsel to come in and provide an update. *Member Nowak* also offered his thoughts on what the Fire District is doing. He sent Town Administrator Green a letter and the Town Administrator asked that that letter be sent to the Prudential Committee.

Vice-chair Rosenberg stated that the Up in Adams Initiative is doing a foraging workshop tomorrow in the Greylock Glen.

Member Duval requested that the traffic commission come forward and provide updates of all new parking signs that have been placed since their last meeting.

Chairman Hoyt stated that our next regular meeting is June 21th and we will be discussing annual appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-chair Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Duval. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm

Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman , Recording Secretary.

 _____ Joseph Nowak, Member	 _____ Richard Blanchard, Member
 _____ Howard Rosenberg, Vice Chairman	 _____ John Duval, Member
 _____ Christine Hoyt, Chairman	