



## Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING  
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL, 8 PARK STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

RECEIVED-POSTED  
AUG 14 PM 3:34  
TOWN CLERK  
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**CALL TO ORDER:** On the above date, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 6:00 PM at the Adams Town Hall. Chair Christine Hoyt opened the meeting. Present: Chairman Christine Hoyt and Members Rick Blanchard and Joe Nowak. *Vice-chair Howard Rosenberg and Member John Duval were absent. Attorney Edmund St. John III was absent.* Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk; Rebecca Ferguson, Assistant Director of Community Development; Paul Brassard, Owner of 413 Bistro and Berkshire Palette; Sherdyl Fernandez-Aubert, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Peter Gentile of NBCTC; Kathy Foster and Gail Sellers, residents of the Town of Adams.

*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**he June 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes were submitted for approval**  
*Member Nowak made a motion to approve the June 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 Meeting Minutes with minor grammatical changes on page two and five of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Chairman Hoyt. The motion passed with a vote in favor from Chairman Hoyt and Member Nowak. Member Blanchard abstained.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gail Sellers approached the Board of Selectmen regarding a project that she is working on called "From Russell Field to Las Vegas". Gail Sellers has been working with a team of individuals in the Mausert Block located on Park Street. Gail is planning a reveal of the project on Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> and would like to invite the Selectboard and members of the public. Admission to the event is free. The project will be celebrating Susan Hakes and her work to teach dance in Adams and North Berkshire.

Member Nowak expressed how grateful he is for Yina Moore and the work she is doing in Town.

Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk approached the board in order to promote the Concerts in the Park and the Movies Under the Stars that the Adams Events committee is putting on this summer.

The movies are *Turning* (July 21), *Minions: The Rise of Gru* (August 4), and *Finding Nemo* (August 18). The concerts are HB Funk (July 25), Happy Together (August 1), Greg Caproni and John Moore (August 8), Brian Benlien (August 15), Hotshot Hillbillies (August 22), and Jason and Trev (August 29).

The Town-wide Tag Sale is Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 4pm. It is a dollar to register and this Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to register. Maps will likely be available by the end of next week and can be picked up at the Clerk's office at Town Hall.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Ratifications**

*David Dean, Seasonal Laborer for the Department of Public Works*

Mayor Green stated that the Town is budgeted for seven seasonal laborers. Currently, the Town of Adams only has two and now there are two more to be ratified this evening.

*Chairman Hoyt read the ratification Memo for David Dean.*

***Member Blanchard made the motion to ratify David Dean to the position of Seasonal Laborer for the Town of Adams. Member Nowak seconded the motion.***

*Member Nowak asked about the rate of pay for the seasonal laborers. Town Administrator Green clarified that the two seasonal laborers who have already been working this season have received a pay bump and that all new seasonal employees ratified are hired at the same rate of pay, \$15 per hour.*

***The motion passed unanimously.***

*Alexandra Bartlett, Seasonal Laborer for the Department of Public Works*

*Chairman Hoyt read the ratification memo for Alexandra Bartlett.*

***Member Blanchard made the motion to ratify Alexandra Bartlett to the position of Seasonal Laborer for the Town of Adams. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **FY 2024 Election Workers**

*Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk approached the Board. Chairman Hoyt stated that the list of poll workers was posted along with the agenda. As such, it will not be necessary to read the full list of names this evening.*

*Member Nowak asked what stipend the election workers receive and how folks are picked for the slots as election workers. Haley stated that folks take slots based on their availability and not every election worker is available for every election. Election workers receive \$15 an hour.*

***Member Blanchard made a motion to appoint the Poll Workers that have been listed on the agenda and website for the 2023/2024 Election. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **Designation of Police Chief Authority to Assign Police Officers for FY24 Elections**

A new law went into effect in 2022 that gave the Board of Selectmen the authority to assign police officers to polling locations. This was the same process that happened last year. The Town Clerk is requesting that the Board of Selectmen designate the Chief of Police the authority to designate a minimum of one police officer, at the Chief's discretion and according to scheduling for each election in FY24.

***Member Blanchard made a motion that the board designate police chief Kelley the authority to designate a minimum of one police officer, at the Chief's discretion and according to scheduling and availability for each election in fiscal year 2024. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **Review and Approve One Day Liquor License Application for Bounti-Fare to serve at original Seed Cigar and Lounge, 32 North Summer Street, Adams on Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 from 12:00pm-6:30pm**

***Member Nowak made a motion to approve the One Day Wine and Malt License for Original Seed Cigar Lounge for July 22 from 12:00-6:30. Member Blanchard seconded the motion. Member Nowak made the amendment to award the license to Bounti-Fare, not Original Seed. Member Blanchard seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Review and Approve One Day Liquor License Application for 413 Bistro to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Adams, on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 2023**

*Member Nowak made a motion to grant a one-day wine and license to Paul Brassard aka 413 Bistro to serve at the Adams theater for Friday July 28<sup>th</sup>. Member Nowak amended his motion to add the name Aaron Brassard to the approval of License. Member Blanchard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Review and Approve One Day Liquor License Application for 413 Bistro to serve at the Adams Theater, 27 Park Street, Adams, on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> 2023**

*Member Nowak made a motion to grant a one-day wine and malt license to Aaron Brassard from 413 Bistro to serve at the Adams Theater on Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-10:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Review and Approve Common Victualer License for Rainbow Shack, 85 Summer Street, Adams**

*Member Blanchard made a motion to approve the Common Victualer License for the Rainbow Shack. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Update on Community First Partnership with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Sherdyl Fernandez-Aubert BRPC**

Sherdyl from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission approached the Board. Sherdyl spoke about the Energy program through Mass Saves. The Mass Save program has a 3-step program that includes an energy audit, resources being provided and savings being offered for energy efficient appliances.

*Small business informational canvassing will be 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> with team members canvassing towns. Chairman Hoyt stated that Eversource, and Natural Gas organizations provide lists of small businesses to approach.*

*Member Nowak stated that this is an important program that he would like to encourage people to take advantage of.*

Sherdyl stated that as the program expands, there are some delays with the program. He would like to encourage people to take steps earlier than they might otherwise.

**July 10<sup>th</sup> Storm/ Rain Update, Town Administrator Green**

The Town of Adams is in the process of working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in order to catalogue and monetize the damage that was endured by the community. Once the threshold of 12 million is reached by the state, resources are accessible to the public for public ways, public property, and private property.

MEMA has stated that there is no guarantee at all that there will be reimbursements for costs (material costs, straight time costs, overtime costs, etcetera). If state emergency status is not reached, those costs will be coming out of the Town Budget. Representative Barrett as well as other state Representatives have been appealing to the state.

*The majority of the damage has been at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Every piece of electrical equipment was completely submerged. The wet well, which is roughly 16 feet deep, was completely filled.*

Town Administrator Green wanted to offer applause to DPW for work done and work they continue to do. 2.4 million dollars of flood control work has been done.

FEMA is coming to town next week to begin working on the Jordan Street Culvert. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has to approve the work and it will be well over \$100,000 in emergency temporary repair work. Moving MEMA quickly has been a challenge.

*Member Nowak* stated that it was just a matter of time until this happened. It will happen again with all of the effects of climate change.

FEMA has to approve the engineering design. The Town of Adams was awarded the grant, but the funds have not been released yet. Once the designs are finalized, FEMA needs to issue final approval, release the funds, and then the Town must go through public procurement process in order to find a contractor to complete the work. In the meantime, if the Town were to go and do anything to the culvert beyond cleaning it, it would void the grant. The Town took in over 4.5 inches of rain that went through there. The force of the water was so high that it crumpled the steel grate that was placed there in order to keep it clear of debris.

The conditions have been monitored. VHB (the engineers) were on site after the rain event as were representatives from MEMA.

The waste water treatment plant took in over 6 million gallons of water which caused it to flood. The plant is rated for 10.5 million gallons of influent when at full capacity. Right now, the plant can take in roughly 5 million gallons of influent. On a typical day, there are about 2 million gallons of influent.

There was such a high in flow of water that it shorted out the first alarm system and then the water shorted out the other alarm components. They are being updated now and restored now. When the plant is fully restored, the operator will be able to open up the other basins and components in order to take that inflow of water.

DEP received a telephone call within hours of the overflow. The amount of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) that went into the water was not sufficient enough to trigger a fine. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and MEMA stated that the Town of Adams was not the only plant to experience this. Almost every plant in Berkshire county discharged.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

*Member Blanchard: None*

*Member Nowak:* Attended the Agricultural commission meeting yesterday. A lot of the conversation centered around climate change. It is challenging to get into fields due to the current condition of the ground after all of the rain.

*Town Administrator Green* stated that agricultural damage due to a storm like this cannot be calculated and is not reimbursable with the emergency assessment.

*Chairman Hoyt: None*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER**

### **Adams Street Fair Rescheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 12pm-6pm**

This event was supposed to happen in June. It was rescheduled due to weather. The Adams Street Fair Committee has done a great job of putting up signs and banners advertising this change.

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at LC Square, 173 Howland Ave, Adams, Friday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am**

LC Square is a cultivation facility in the Town of Adams. Representatives of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator will be there to help them celebrate. Members of the public are welcome to attend and celebrate the Town's first marijuana cultivation facility.

*Member Nowak* offered thanks to Art (owner of LC Square) for the work he has done in Town.

Chief Kelley of the Adams Police Department approached the Board. Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> is National Night Out at the Adams Visitor Center. There will be food, activities, and fun for kids. There are five or six different community organizations that will be there to talk about the assistance that they can provide the community. The hours are 5pm-7pm. It is a free event!

Chief Kelley stated that Officer Banks who graduated from the academy in March has completed his field training and is now on his own shift. Cole Deroches, who was ratified about a month ago, will be attending the academy in October.

In the last couple of months, there has been some really great work done by the officers in the Adams Police Department. Chief Kelley will be back at a later meeting to update the board on this work.

*Chairman Hoyt* stated that there was correspondence in the mailboxes of the Board of Selectmen regarding the reappointment of Justin Duval, Erin Mucci, and Rachel Tomkowicz to the Finance Committee.

*Member Nowak* asked how negotiations are going for the Police Contract. Town Administrator Green stated that negotiations are ongoing. Negotiations were to happen on the 10<sup>th</sup> but unfortunately needed to be cancelled due to the rain event.

*Member Nowak* also expressed that there needs to be work done on trails and vegetation maintenance.

*Chairman Hoyt* stated that this is why a full-time superintendent position was created for the Glen. She also stated that we would love to hire three more seasonal laborers because we need additional hands to help with vegetation control and other labor.

*Town Administrator Green* stated that he has heard several times now that there are more things that need to get done. Over the last 10 years, the Town of Adams has received more maintenance responsibility. There are 13 people in the DPW with 1 manager and two mechanics. That leave 10 individuals to maintain 23 square miles. 4 individuals are assigned to cemetery and parks work. The other 6 are in charge of highways, flood control, and other needs in the town. There is a constant need of maintenance for these 10 people to take care of. In the past the DPW was much larger than it is now, 30-40 people, with significantly less responsibility. This small group of individuals do all of the cemetery mowing, field striping and painting, highway work, sewer work, flood control work, vegetation control, and any other maintenance that is needed around the town. The recent weather did not help. There is also only so much overtime that can be offered because most of the overtime that is budgeted for is for plowing during the winter. There is only so much overtime that can be authorized because overtime is not budgeted for routine maintenance. That is why there is a position in the budget for a Grounds manager at the Glen. It is likely in the coming years that Jay will be asking the Board and the Finance Committee to expand that workforce.

*Member Nowak* expressed concern for the Quaker Meeting House. The community development department has been searching for grants, but have been unsuccessful in finding any. The Historical Society has been urged to begin fundraising for the Quaker Meeting House.

*Chairman Hoyt* stated that the Town of Adams has some great staff members and, in this instance, would like to offer thanks and appreciation to the DPW and Waste Water Treatment Plant employees in particular.

*A motion to adjourn was made by Member Blanchard. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm*

**List of Materials Referenced:**

- June 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Ratification Memo, David Dean
- Ratification Memo, Alexandra Bartlett
- FY24 Election Workers
- One Day Liquor License Application, Bounti-Fare, July 22, 2023
- One Day Liquor License Application, 413 Bistro, July 28, 2023
- One Day Liquor License Application, 413 Bistro, July 29, 2023
- Common Victualer License Application, Rainbow Shack
- Free Energy Assessment Memo, Community Development Department
- Community First Partnership Memo, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary.

  
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Joseph Nowak, Member

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Richard Blanchard, Member

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Howard Rosenberg, Vice Chairman

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John Duval, Member

  
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Christine Hoyt, Chairman