

**TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 8/16/17**

RECEIVED POSTED  
17 SEP - 7 AM 8:58  
TOWN CLERK  
ADAMS MASS.  
CLERK

**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 Town Counsel Ed St. John.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes:** June 3, 2015 Executive Session, July 15, 2015 Executive Session, August 19, 2015, Executive Session 1, August 19, 2015 Executive Session 2, October 21, 2015 Executive Session, November 18, 2015 Executive Session, January 20, 2016 Executive Session, February 3, 2016 Executive Session, March 2, 2016 Executive Session, April 6, 2016 Executive Session, April 20, 2016 Executive Session, September 21, 2016 Executive Session, January 18, 2017 Executive Session, July 19, 2017 Minutes, August 2, 2017 Minutes. Move by Member Nowak to waive reading and approve all sets of executive minutes as listed, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Move by Member Nowak to waive reading July 19, 2017 and August 2, 2017 minutes and approve as submitted, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

**Public Comment:** Paula Ziemplak, Supervisor of Adams McDonalds, asked the Board for assistance with a parking problem regarding C.T. Plunkett students being picked up and dropped off in the McDonalds parking lot. She expressed concern about the child safety and customers being unable to use the parking spots. She advised she contacted Superintendent Putnam and was unable to get a resolution. The Board noted the private parking lot belongs to McDonalds and the Town has no control over the parking lot or the school district. The situation was taken under advisement and Ms. Ziemplak was advised to work with Town Administrator regarding meeting with the Superintendent. It was noted that the owner of the adjoining property is willing to sell it and remove tanks if the Town wanted to purchase it for parking purposes.

**New Business:**

**Annual Town Census Report by Town Clerk:** Chairman Duval read a letter from the Town Clerk advising of the census numbers showing a decrease of 33 persons.

**Facility Use Request: Park Street, Hijinx:** Chairman Duval read a letter from the Town Administrator outlining the application for use of Park Street for Hijinx on Monday, August 28, 2017 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Applicant, Annmarie Belmonte, was in attendance. There are 500 anticipated attendees and the event is currently expecting to have four officers. Move by Member Blanchard to approve the Facility Use of Park Street on August 28, 2017 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

**One Day Wine & Malt License – Bounti-Fare, September 9, 2017:** David Nicholas of Bounti-Fare and Bill Kolis of Adams Anthony Center explained the charity all day musical event on September 9, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Bowe Field. Alcohol service will stop at 9:00 p.m. and anticipated attendance is 1000 people, depending on weather. The Agricultural Fair Commission gave permission to use Bowe Field for the ticketed event. IDs will be checked and twelve security staff will monitor the crowd. Two police officers have been hired for the event. A national jazz musician event is also being planned. Discussion ensued about the potential for Bike Night to join the currently scheduled event, but it is not finalized. Move by Member Hoyt to approve the One Day Wine & Malt License for Bounti-Fare for September 9, 2017 at Bowe Field from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. serving, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous.



**TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 8/16/17**

**Spectrum/Charter Cable Services:** Anna Lucey, Director of Government Affairs for Spectrum, Charter Communications was invited to the meeting. Extensive discussion ensued. It was noted that every town is a separate issuing authority, and the feed is out of either Pittsfield or Hancock for channel designations. Customers may keep existing packages unless making a choice to switch over to Spectrum. Designated market areas are not chosen by Spectrum, who works only with state and municipal officials. The Federal team handles the FCC. It was noted that the cable company has become a monopoly with no other choice except DIRECTV. The loss of WWLP Channel 22 out of Springfield and The Weather Channel was addressed and that citizens depended on it for local news and weather. Poor cable reception was described by citizens, with intermittent audio and prices going up. Spectrum has a national pricing model and will notify consumers if it changes. There will be no new promotions and once the consumer becomes a Spectrum customer the rates will be the same. Board Members relayed complaints received from citizens being told by customer service that their Time Warner Cable equipment is not compatible so they must go with Spectrum. Concerns were addressed that package prices have not gone up but surcharges, bills and receivers increased. Spectrum has little control over broadcasting, and all Charter customers had an increase in broadcast fees. Board Members pointed out that citizens now receive news from Albany and no longer have the Boston or Springfield feed which hampers receipt of communication or instruction about major events across the state or information and contact from the Governor. Sports fans noted pre-season games for the State's teams were not available. Internet speed, equipment and bandwidth in town were explained as inadequate. The constant programming changes were addressed but subscribers don't get the same information as the Board of Selectmen. Citizens were invited to speak. Francie Riley noted she has two accounts which worked well with approximately five devices until the changeover to Spectrum, which immediately showed a massive lag or inability to get online, especially after 9:00 p.m. She noted a Speed Test resulted in inadequate speeds. Ed St. John III from Adams asked that the decision making team reach out to the public rather than publish in a local newspaper that stations are not available when determining putting in or taking out channels. He noted that in Boston on game day, Channel 4 and Channel 5 are available in High Definition but at the same time in the Berkshires the same channels are in standard definition, and paying customers should not be treated differently. Another citizen reported she can barely get one device online now. Peter Gentile, Director of TV Studio of MCLA noted the cost last year went up 89% and Spectrum advised to save money he would need to downgrade his internet, lose 30% of his channels and the bill would only go down \$7.75, or he could keep his current package but it would switch to Spectrum and increase another \$50. One Board Member advised his package is over \$200, and upon calling Customer Service to reduce the payment was given a price higher than his current bill. Another Board Member noted consumers are paying the premium rate but not getting the product. Ms. Lucey advised Spectrum wants to keep services up to date and reinvests with the next speed level as it rolls out. She urged those who are unhappy to call the local office or customer service line on the bill and if there are continued problems to talk with her or Town Administrator Mazzucco.

**Department Reports:**

**Town Administrator's Report** – *The Town Administrator was absent.*

**Town Counsel Report** – Town Counsel St. John advised he met with Building Commissioner regarding Duke's Sand and Gravel Pit and prepared for and attended the ZBA hearing. Board Members inquired about the Gould Road license and a license agreement similar to that used for the transfer station may be used.

**TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220**

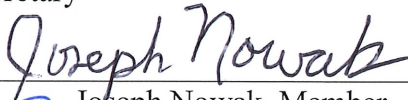
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 8/16/17**

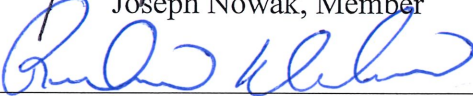
**Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports:** Member Hoyt acknowledged Member Nowak for his work preparing the Agricultural Fairgrounds for their event. She advised she attended the Parks Commission meeting where Renfrew field, a donation from a baseball league and shared use of Reid Field by ACS and Lassie League was discussed. She attended the Zoning Board meeting where three cases were heard and an appeal granted, and permits were issued to National grid and the Agricultural Fair. She advised she reviewed the district Regional School District Agreement with School Committee Member Butler and Superintendent Putnam, and they discussed the process of reviewing the district agreement. She met with the Downtown Business Group and heard about the Nashville in the Berkshires Event. Chairman Duval advised he signed off on MassDOT Chapter 90 funding for fencing on Route 8 at Harmony Street.

**Announcements & Good of the Order:** Member Nowak advised Scenic Railroad Work has begun and is hoped to be completed late fall. He noted that the Town Wide Tag Sale was chaotic, cars were parked in inappropriate places and signs were left up. Member Hoyt thanked those that came to talk with the Spectrum representative and encouraged others to speak during public comment. She noted both the Board of Selectmen and Town Hall staff are very accessible. Member Blanchard noted there is a new facebook page with positive posts about Adams called Adams Proud. Chairman Duval congratulated the Adams Lassie League for their win. He advised next week there will be a workshop at 6:00 p.m. to review the Board of Selectmen policy handbook and action items. Member Nowak requested the Board get the Town Administrator review completed. Chairman Duval advised he did the review with the Town Administrator himself, the review was satisfactory and there were very few areas for improvement.

**Adjournment:** Move to adjourn by Member Nowak, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Nowak, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Hoyt, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Duval, Chairman