

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 9/6/17

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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 Administrator Tony Mazzucco and Town Counsel Ed St. John.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: August 16, 2017: Move by Member Blanchard to waive reading and approve the minutes of August 16, 2017 as submitted, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Public Comment: Jeff Lefebvre advised that the Maple Grove Civic Club is starting up again for the season. Membership is \$25 which includes nine meals and plenty of speakers. Town Administrator Mazzucco will be at the first meeting. Mr. Lefebvre asked about the Town cleaning out the flood control chutes on Hoosac Street since storms are coming and homes are at risk. This is in the DPW regular work orders in the spring and fall cleanings. Mr. Lefebvre inquired if the Board had a plan to meet about the school budget. The Chairman has not been contacted by the school board, but the School Liaison Member Hoyt will look into it. Mr. Lefebvre asked citizens to take a moment of silence on September 11th to honor the 16 years that have passed. Lisa Blackmer, North Adams City Councilor introduced herself, and advised she is running for State Representative.

New Business: Move by Member Blanchard to move up on the agenda Senior Tax Program and other items before the Public Hearing times, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Senior Tax Program: Town Assessor MacDonald explained the history of the Senior Tax Program and the changes being made to make it more feasible and attractive to seniors. Changes were outlined for the Board and include an increase in income limitations and exemptions. Seniors would work 90 hours at \$11 per hour, and ten slots are available. Those interested should come to the Assessor's office or the Council on Aging. Move by Member Blanchard to approve the change to income and the increase in exemptions, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Public Hearings:

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148 § 13, the Adams Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing regarding the application for a new underground storage tank for Tri-Realty, LLC, 160 Howland Ave, Adams, MA, 7:10 p.m. Move by Member Blanchard to open the Public Hearing for application of Underground Storage Tank for Tri-Realty, LLC, second by Member Hoyt; vote: unanimous. Pierre Kareh of Tri-Realty, LLC introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the gas station being constructed at 160 Howland Avenue. The underground tanks to be installed are for the gas station. The Public was asked for input and none was given. Move by Member Blanchard to close the Public Hearing, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Move by Member Blanchard to approve the FP002 Underground Storage Tank License for Tri-Realty, LLC at 160 Howland Ave for installation of two 20,000 gallon tanks, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148 § 13, the Adams Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing regarding the application for a new underground storage tank for Callahan Realty & Investments, 223 Columbia St, Adams, MA, 7:20 p.m. Move by Member Hoyt to open the Public Hearing for application of Underground Storage Tank for Callahan Realty & Investments for 7-Eleven, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous. A brief background was given by Callahan Realty & Investments about the increase in tank size requiring the application for a new license. Questions were asked about the deed. The Public was asked for input and none was given. Move by Member Blanchard to close the Public Hearing, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Move by Member Hoyt to approve the application for an Underground Storage Tank License for Callahan Realty & Investments, 223 Columbia St, Adams, MA, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous.

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New Business:

Approval of revocable license and escrow agreement for the installation, maintenance and removal of sewer line on town land located on and along Gould Road, Adams: Town Administrator Mazzucco gave a brief overview of the agreement. A formal easement will follow at Town Meeting. John Dupras of Trinity Engineering gave a description of the project. Town Counsel St. John III advised he put together the agreement, which is a revocable license and Town Meeting action is required to grant an easement. The license expires upon Town Meeting action. Move by Member Blanchard to approve the revocable license and escrow agreement for Ronald J. Chenail, Jr. and go forward with the formal easement at the next Town Meeting, second by Member Nowak. Vote: unanimous.

Request to Play Holiday Music by Dr. Martin K. Bush: Chairman Duval read the letter from Dr. Martin K. Bush requesting to play low level music. Move by Member Nowak to allow soft volume music on Park Street from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Thanksgiving until New Years, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Facility Use Request: Greylock Glen by BART Charter School, September 13, 2017: Jennifer Choquette, athletic director from BART School explained the request to use the Greylock Glen for Cross-Country Races. Town Administrator Mazzucco explained Director Cesan reviewed and approved of the use. Move by Member Blanchard to approve use of Greylock Glen by BART School on Wednesday September 13, 2017 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., second by Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Facility Use Request: Greylock Glen, Heather Linscott, Thunderbolt Ski Runners and New England Mt. Biking Association, October 1, 2017: Town Administrator Mazzucco advised usable areas were reviewed with the applicant. Josh Chittenden got in touch with DCR and has been authorized to use the area. Move by Member Nowak to allow New England Mountain Biking Association to use the Greylock Glen on October 1, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Facility Use Request: Visitors Center, ProAdams, Inc., October 8, 2017: There were no representatives from ProAdams at the meeting. The request is for October 8, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be a race involved with Ramblefest with an expected attendance of up to 4000 people. Move by Member Blanchard to approve use of Adams Visitors Center by ProAdams, Inc. on Sunday, October 8, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for Ramblefest, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Uniform Alcohol Establishment Closing Times: Chief Tarsa proposed a uniform closing time of 1:30 a.m. for bars to mitigate an ongoing problem caused by one bar closing prior to another and patrons gathering, resulting in regular disturbances and public and officer safety concerns. It was noted that problems intensify with DJs. There is a uniform closing time of 2:00 a.m. but some bars close earlier and the crowd can go to another location. It was stated that problems occur after 1:30 a.m. due to patrons trying to get a last drink before 2:00 a.m. It was pointed out that if an establishment has a consistent closing time they should not be impacted if other bars close earlier. A question was raised about the license requirement of an establishment to be open certain hours. A suggestion was made for the bar closing early to stay open later. An increase in disruptive behavior has been noted recently, raising concerns for law enforcement. The possibility of increased police coverage was discussed and the budget and scheduling impact it would have. Dan Paciorek, owner of *The Grille* explained his closing strategy and noted Friday and Saturday nights are a problem depending on the DJs brought into the area bars. He advised he would no longer book DJs to help eliminate the issue, and praised the Police Department. He noted many establishments close during the week by 10:00 p.m. Peter Prieto from the *Polish National Alliance* (PNA) agreed and noted the PNA has an increase in entertainment in the summer but now has limited DJ entertainment. Between 1:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. there is a significant increase in intoxication and potential for violence. He reviewed the PNA closing strategy. Tracy Wojcik of *WOJO's* noted her establishment has a different crowd on Spring Street, but closing earlier would reduce business income. Dennis Knapp of *Chick's* clarified that the uniform closing is currently 2:00 a.m. and establishments do not have to stay open that late. Chairman Duval announced there will be public hearing in the future if the Board decides to have one in a few weeks. Licensed alcohol establishment owners were thanked for coming out to discuss this in an open meeting format.

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Application for Permit to Place Sign on Public Way, Visitors Center on October 15, 2017: Bertha Conway and Lee Watroba requested to place a sign on the Visitors Center property for a month to advertise their Berkshire Walk out of Darkness event to prevent suicide. Move by Member Nowak to allow the placement of the sign on the lawn of the Visitors Center with approval of Director Girgenti for the Walk out of Darkness Event until October 15, 2017, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

LED Lighting: Town Administrator advised LED test bulbs were installed across from Chee's Chinese Cuisine as a third option and would be paid for by the Green Communities Grant in the amount of approximately \$90,000. Vendors were switched and local vendors will be used for the installation, which is expected to take between 60 and 120 days. The Town saved money on maintenance costs and the Fire District pays the electric costs. This will cover 175 lamp posts which have a self-contained unit, and will change to a more sterile look but will be more energy efficient. Currently globes cost a couple hundred dollars each. Move by Member Nowak to install LED lighting downtown for \$90,000 to be paid through Green Communities Grant, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Special Legislation for additional liquor licenses in targeted economic development area: Town Administrator Mazzucco advised the strategy used by other communities was to legislatively request a bulk amount of liquor licenses for a large economic development area, which he proposes to do. The targeted area would be the Greylock Glen and the Polish Mile for six or eight beer and wine. Legislative wording would be loose so they are transferrable to that area. The Town is over-quota currently but this would be no cost to the Town. If approved, it would be placed on the next Town Meeting Warrant. Consensus of Board Members was reached to have it go on the next Town Meeting warrant.

Approval of Sub-Committee Liaison Assignments: Assignments were discussed at a previous workshop. Move by Member Nowak to approved the Board of Selectmen Sub-Committee and Liaison Assignments for 2017 – 2018 as presented, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Sub-Committee/Liaison Reports: Town Administrator Mazzucco, Members Nowak and Hoyt attended the meeting in Lenox regarding the law for Recreational Marijuana. Chairman Duval and Member Hoyt attended the Zoning Board meeting regarding Stanley Lumber. Members Blanchard and Hoyt held a licensing sub-committee meeting.

Department Reports:

Town Administrator's Report – The Mobile Food Program at the Council on Aging is Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. The DPW Director position is posted and applications are accepted until October 6th. November 1st the Town Landfill will be running. LED Lights Downtown will be installed within the next 120 days. The Scenic Rail track construction has begun. The bid for the Boiler Room Roof for C.T. Plunkett will go for the next couple weeks. Carpeting installation in Town Hall will begin later this week. The new website will go live at the end of this month. The Town Hall Roof project will begin after the Clock Tower analysis and then the bid should go out. It was pointed out that the Board of Selectmen selects the candidate for the DPW Director position and a sub-committee meeting will be held next week to go over the hiring process.

Town Counsel Report – Town Counsel St. John advised he met with the Building Commissioner and Town Administrator and drafted a license for the installation of sewer line on Gould Road, and he reviewed a litigation matter and a Board of Health issue.

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Announcements & Good of the Order: The Adams Centennial Suffrage Committee had a Lucy Stone reenactment on the Town Common a couple weekends ago and was noted as doing great work. There will be an open meeting next week to talk about statue options. The organizers of Hijinx were thanked, and it was well attended. Nashville in the Berkshires will be held at Bowe Field on Saturday, September 9th. At Bounti-Fare there will be a State Representative Candidate Forum September 11th at 7:00 p.m. and NBCTC will be present to record it. Town Hall Forum with Congressman Neal will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Berkshire Community College to listen to constituents. The first day of school went smoothly with parking and traffic patterns at McDonalds and Chief Tarsa and Paula Ziemplak from McDonalds were praised for finding a solution and the space that was offered. A letter from Charter Communications was read aloud regarding programming changes. Board Members inquired about the meter attendant position that had not been hired yet, and the appropriate comes in July so the Town Administrator will hire in April or May of next year. September 14th at 6:00 p.m. Andrew Devries will talk about crafting a statue of Susan B. Anthony at the Visitors' Center, and community members are invited and asked to present questions in writing as soon as possible so answers are available. It was noted that C.T. Plunkett School looks great with the painting done. There were glitches with bussing times. A fire drill was held at the school and concern was expressed about the stairs by the Mobile Station. A work order will be put in with the DPW to fix them.

Adjournment: Move to adjourn by Member Blanchard, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary

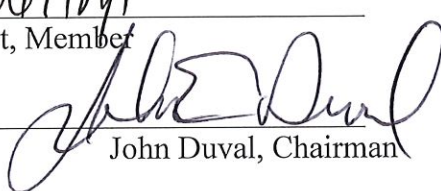


Joseph Nowak, Member



Christine Hoyt, Member

Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman



John Duval, Chairman