

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 10/11/17

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CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 7:00 p.m. Members Hoyt, Blanchard and Nowak were present as well as Town Administrator Mazzucco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 20, 2017 Regular Meeting and October 4, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Move by Member Nowak to waive reading and approve the minutes of September 20, 2017 and October 4, 2017 as submitted, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *There were no citizens that came forward at this meeting.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion with Parks Commission Chair – Scott Cernik, Parks Commission Chair, met with the Board Members. It was noted that the Parks Commission Board is an elected, advisory commission to the Board of Selectmen. Communication challenges were addressed. Past Commission decisions and their final outcomes were touched on. It was pointed out that only one time a Board decision differed from the Commission advisory. Parks Chairman Cernik noted that projects that the Commission was charged with were accomplished and were stalled after submission to the Town Administrator in January. The Town Administrator responded he had invited the current and previous Parks Chairs to meet with the Board of Selectmen last November and never got a response. He noted that it appeared members of the Parks Commission have an issue with BART School. Parks Chair Cernik advised it is imperative to the community to include BART. The Town Administrator pointed out he put in for soil testing and installation of netting so things have been moving forward, and the Parks Commission is communicating with the installer. The nets need to be done before next season and the Town Administrator may pay for installation. A suggestion was made to wait until the ground freezes to avoid damaging the field. Parks Chair Cernik inquired about the \$15,000 that was appropriated at Town Meeting for the Youth Center, which has not been received to date. The Town Administrator explained that the program had changed, and the Director wanted to use the funds for scholarships so the funds will not be made available. He explained he asked the Youth Center Director for last year's numbers and they were not consistent with the allocation so the money does not go to a specific program, unless Town Meeting appropriates it. Board Members reviewed the warrant that went before Town Meeting for clarification. The Town Administrator advised he wanted the minutes to reflect that he didn't feel comfortable releasing the money, and he felt pressured to give the funds. The Board advised they will get a full legal opinion in writing to verify the program is consistent with the appropriation, and follow that. The Town Administrator noted the Youth Center Director is the problem and put in the Parks Commission minutes that they didn't run the program. Ed St. John IV, representing the Youth Center, advised the program did run. Two days a week of the five day per week program were spent at Russell Field. He noted the Youth Center has not had a Memorandum of Understanding outlining how the program was to be operated on a day-to-day basis. The history of the program was explained, and how it was given to the Youth Center to run. It was explained that the Youth Center also provides money to the program and the program does not stay the same but changes every year. It was noted by Ed St. John IV that the Youth Center was requested to provide the previous year's finances and to put the program intent in writing, and then was advised it was unacceptable and the funds were not released. The sliding scale structure and assistance to Adams residents were outlined. Parks Chair Cernik pointed out there were no stipulations given in the Town Meeting article and he understood the funds would be available. The Town Administrator advised Parks Chair Cernik to bring it again to another Town Meeting to re-explain and re-vote on it. Discussion ensued about the article's word interpretation, semantics and whether a revote was necessary. The Town Administrator stated he had a document that said the Youth Center was not doing the Parks Program this year and he is afraid someone is going to find the email with that information and hold him accountable.

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Ed St. John IV will provide the number of children that took the program, information about the program, two years of the balance sheet to show the trend, and previously requested information to the Board. A flyer about the program was reviewed and it was pointed out that the program ran as flyer stated. Town Administrator Mazzucco suggested the Director of the Youth Center send another email to state previously given information may not be factually correct. Discussion about the funds appropriated for Russell Field took place and the RFP was done. Background was given to the Board about the Russell Field project and phases. The Board and Town Administrator will be updated when the concepts and ideas are narrowed down. The Russell Field Master Plan funds were appropriated a few years ago at Town Meeting. Future concepts for Russell Field are to have it fully open and accessible to the public. The Council on Aging is collaborating to provide access and to include every generation of the community. The Lassie League self-appointed board was discussed and a request was made for a policy to be created for yearly elections and democracy. Town Administrator Mazzucco advised he intends to develop a field use and decorum policy, including banning and no trespass orders for violators. Parks Chair Cernik and Board Member Nowak will work together on this. Town Administrator Mazzucco cautioned the Parks Commission not to charge BART more than other public or private schools in Adams and to have the Parks Commission look at having a flat fee. This will be reviewed quickly to accommodate spring schedules. Parks Chair Cernik was invited to attend Budget presentations to provide information.

Discussion on ZBA Appointment Process – Town Administrator Mazzucco explained it was necessary to go over how the Board handles appointments. A system needs to be in place, and there has not been one. He noted it was important that the person applying meets the needs of the Board they wish to join. He recommended having an interview of an applicant at a public meeting, which allows them to introduce themselves, and the Board may ask questions about their time commitment and training requirements. Board Members noted that the Zoning, Conservation Commission and Planning Boards require knowledge of Massachusetts General Law. Some Boards have a retainer to bring in experts for advice. It was pointed out that there could be legal ramifications for the Town for decisions made. It was noted that there are no job descriptions for each of the Boards, and it was recommended the Committees and Boards create them themselves. Research will be done to see if other Towns have them. Chairman Duval recommended the Personnel Sub-committee meet first to go over policies and identify guidelines and training, before meeting at a workshop with individuals interested in being appointed to a Board. The Town Administrator recommended doing the same with Finance Committee Members and the Town Moderator. Trainings should be identified for education of each Board Member to attend.

Reserve Fund Transfers – Town Administrator Mazzucco gave the background of the appropriated \$180,000 for the C.T. Plunkett School Roof. \$15,000 was spent on engineering and there is a \$30,000 deficit to complete the project. The School District will fix the chimney with previously allocated funds. The request for the transfer will complete the project unless there are change orders. Once the transfer is approved \$142,000 will be left in the Reserve Fund, but there will be Wastewater Treatment Plant transfers later in the year. Free Cash is not certified yet for this year, and it is expected in January or February. November is when the pension numbers come in. Move by Member Nowak to approve the \$33,000 transfer from the Reserve Fund for the Boiler Roof at C.T. Plunkett, Second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report: The permits for the Transfer Station may be purchased at the Treasurer's Office. Next week's agenda Skip Harrington will be recommended to be appointed as an alternate representative to the Berkshire Health Alliance.

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SUB-COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Member Nowak went to Boston to testify for the Woodlands Partnership and reported a good turnout. Audubon and Trustees of Reservations were happy with the presentation. Regarding water quality and stormwater management there has been feedback from communities saying it is hurting their budgets and there have been a lot of cuts in the Commonwealth of those overseeing the program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, GOOD OF THE ORDER

Member Hoyt noted that the new polling equipment looked good, and noted the voting turnout. Chairman Duval announced the receipt of another resignation of a Zoning Board Member this evening, Tony Donovan, which is concerning. The new process will be looked at.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

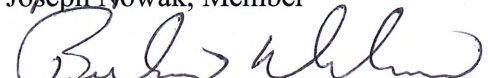
#2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;

Move by Member Blanchard to enter into *Executive Session* at 8:14 p.m. exiting only to adjourn, second by Member Hoyt. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Duval, Members Blanchard, Nowak and Hoyt.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



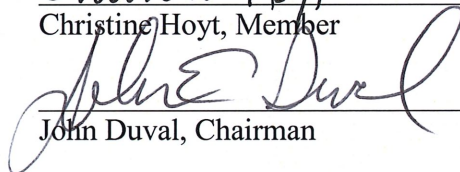
Joseph Nowak, Member



Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman



Christine Hoyt, Member



John Duval, Chairman