

TOWN OF ADAMS SELECTMEN'S MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, January 18, 2012 – 7:00 PM

TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM**
2. **READING OF MINUTES**
 - September 28th, 2011
 - October 5, 2011
 - November 2nd & 9th, 2011
3. **CITIZEN'S CONFERENCE**
4. **PUBLIC HEARING**
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - Update on MJD Real Estate, LLC
 - Follow up discussion -Summer Street Project
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Update from Bart School
7. **SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**
8. **A. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**
B. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
C. POLICE DEPARTMENT
D. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
E. OTHER DEPARTMENTS
 - Ratification of Council on Aging Van Driver position
 - Town Clerk – 2012 Election Calendar**F. TOWN COUNSELOR'S REPORT**
9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
10. **APPROVALS**

RECEIVED POSTED

JUL 12 PM 3:06

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

CLERK _____

- Lease Agreement with The Adams Retirement Board
- One Day Special Beer & Wine License – David Nicholas, February 11, 2012, snow date March 3, 2012, Thunderfest
- One Day Special Beer & Wine License – Bart School, April 28, 2012, Fundraiser
- One Day Special Beer & Wine License – St. Stanislaus Kostka School, Polanka Grounds June 24, 2012, Picnic

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Agenda items

12. **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

January 18, 2012

RECEIVED-POSTED

12-11-12 PM 3:07

On the above date the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Vice Chairman Hnatonko Presided, present: Paula Melville, Scott Nichols, Jonathan Butler, Town Administrator and Edmund R. St. John III, Town Counsel. Absent: Michael Ouellette and Chairman Arthur Harrington.

TOWN CLERK
CLERK _____

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

READING OF THE MINUTES

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Melville to approve and waive the reading of the minutes from October 5, 2011, November 2nd and 9th, 2011 – 2 Yeas, 1 Abstained (PM), motion passed.

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Vice-Chair Hnatonko to approve and waive the reading of the minutes for September 28, 2011 – 2 Yeas, 1 Abstained, (PM), motion passed.

CITIZEN'S CONFERENCE

Pro Adams member David Bissaillon updated the Board on the Thunderfest Event; they are on schedule for a noon to 5:00 PM event on Saturday February 11, 2012. If there is no snow the event will be postponed till March 3, 2012. If they are still unable to ski down Greylock the event will still take place that day. He did ask the Board if it was okay to put up a few signs announcing the event.

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Melville to approve the placement of signs by the Pro Adams organization – Unanimous

Resident Martin Bush handed to each Board Member a packet which contained a complaint against the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. A copy of that complain is attached to these minutes he asked the Board to read this and form their own opinion.

Resident Jeff Lefebvre asked for an update on the feasibility study for the dispatchers. Administrator Butler replied that a vendor has been hired and the first meeting with the Task Force will be scheduled soon. Jeff asked if this meeting is going to be open to the public, Mr. Butler replied that it would not be open to the public. Jeff also asked if the Woolworth building would be applying for grant money, Mr. Butler replied that they have. Jeff also asked what was going in that building, the Town does not know it is a private business; they are applying for the Facade Program through the Town. Jeff's concern is if the Town is spending money on another project that will fail. Mr. Butler replied that this is different from the Jones Block project. That was a million dollar grant through the state in which the Town took over as project manager to complete the exterior of the building. As part of the contract the owner was required to do an internal renovation which has not been completed. Member Melville added that if you go to mausert.com you can view schematic drawings and what the front and back will look like and also some of the inside designs.

Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk wanted to remind everyone that the census is currently underway. If anyone has any questions please call the Town Clerks office.

Erica Samson, Director for the Council on Aging wanted to remind the community that they have started the Buckets of Sand program if you need one or a neighbor does, please call the Council on Aging. Ms. Samson also announced that they have started the free tax preparation program through the AARP Foundation they will be starting February 8th – April 4th appointments are required, Wednesday 12:00 – 3:00 PM for appointments. Member Melville commented that she felt the Fuel Assistance Program was great and that she suggested they should look into holding a Workshop regarding Homesteading.

Administrator Butler at this time made an announcement from Member Ouellette – He apologizes for not attending the meetings, he is dealing with a very personal family issue and he is in touch with the Administrator and our office on daily issues, he is paying attention to his position. He is not in the area and will be back as soon as he can be.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Butler updated the Board regarding MJD, Realty; he was able to speak with Attorney Dubendorf who represents the property owners at 115 Holland Ave. To date they are paid up on the monthly agreement with the Town, there is still backed taxes owed. Member Melville stated that MJD Realty owed back taxes from 2010 and Water & Sewer fees. She feels the Zoning Board of Appeals should do something about the violations on their Special Permit. Vice-Chairmen Hnatonko commented that he felt the whole Board should be in attendance to make a decision regarding how the Board should move forward. Administrator Butler suggested that the Board should involve the Town Treasurer also. It was decided to follow up on this at the next workshop.

Member Melville has concerns with the Summer Street - bump outs that are located in front of Domino's Pizza. She asked the Board for consensus for the Town to receive quotes for the removal of these bump-outs. She would prefer the Police enforcement of the No Parking but doesn't feel that is being done. The members in attendance were not in agreement with getting a quote and felt if they did reconstruction it would have to come out of tax money, there is no grant for this.

A motion made by Member Melville, seconded by Member Nichols to request the Traffic Commission to consider the of placing a NO PARKING sign on the bump outs on Summer Street – Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Julia Bowen, Executive Director of BArT School updated the Board on the growing interest from the Town. She discussed the major successes over the past year and gave a quick over view of things on the horizon for the school. She passed out a packet for each Board Member, which is attached to these minutes.

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON

Member Melville attended the Greylock Glen Advisory Committee meeting, she stated that the decisions regarding the Greylock Glen have not come from the Board of Selectmen and she feels it's about time they did. She does not want to have to attend the meetings to find out what is going on. She doesn't feel she has to, she was elected to do a job and it's hard to be everywhere and she is at the point that it isn't what they are going to settle for now as far as the Greylock Glen and the project goes, is it a good deal for Adams. She feels this will be her focus when looking at the Greylock Glen from now on. What she heard is that the people who are decision makers which are DCR and DCAM; this is a real estate deal. It was very discouraging to hear the delays of construction and there was only one reply to the RFP's. She felt the mountain isn't enough to bring people here, Gould Road is the only one that will be paved, the gas lines will be going up but the water tower will not be part of this phase. They will be focusing on the campground at this time. She feels now it is the time for the people of Adams and its leaders to decide is this a good deal for Adams. Vice-Chairmen Hnatonko asked Member Melville to be clear on what she meant by – is this a good deal for Adams. She replied that economic development is not a state park, even with what they were willing to settle for with the four small pieces is not economic development; she loves the idea of tying it to the down town. But it is more than this economy, people don't believe in the project in Town, and is tired of the project. Vice-Chairmen Hnatonko commented that he has heard from a lot of residents that are in favor of the project. He feels there is nothing there at this time; any development would be an improvement. She feels if they want to make a state park she encourages the state to do it. Jonathan Butler, Town Administrator stated the following; that a formal decision to focus on the campground only has not been made. He feels that the Town should not lose sight of the big picture; we have a project that the Town has planned for six years that has hit all these major benchmarks. It has cleared the NEPA process, there is a plan in place with Mass Development and has gained the interest of Mass Development in being a co proponent, there is already a relationship with DCR in the project. We received two million dollars from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in state money to build a portion of the infrastructure. There is a federal grant program that the Town is currently waiting notice from. There are additional programs that the Town will apply for, when the Town submitted the request for Expressions of Interest. It was not a formal procurement for the lodging and conference center it was simply gaging what the public and private sectors interest is in that portion of the development. The biggest goal in the RFPI was to get feedback on how we could better formulate this overall plan. Only one developer responded it may be a sign of the economy, maybe a sign of dollars, it may simply be they didn't have the time to give feedback when we weren't at the stage of awarding the project. The Greylock Glen is a huge project, it is a project that has been in the making for 50 years, and it is a project that this version has been in the making of for 5 to 7 years. To have one set back, in a year that otherwise has been very successful with this project and all of a sudden blow the whole plan up and turn into a state park he feels is pretty short sighted. I can think of too many successful things in this country that gave up and blow their plan up on the first sign of failure. I wouldn't even call this failure; I would just call it an obstacle but ultimately this is all information that we just begun to process in the last few weeks. We just found out the MassWorks grant in December and the response from the RFPI. We are going to continue moving forward, we have a multi-faceted project and we have to construct the plan as to how it is attacked and that is what is currently being worked on. The Board of Selectmen, one of the

to support this project; Donna Cesan has put her life into this project for the last six years. The Governor of Massachusetts gave the Town \$2 million dollars that amount doesn't cover the entire infrastructure. Also the stipulations of that money has to be spent in a certain time frame, in order to spend it in that time frame, that portion of the infrastructure is usable, a frame work was laid out. That is what was presented to the advisory committee last week, moving forward this is the best plan. When the Town receives the other \$2 million dollars we will build the water tower, electric and the roads will be done. But at this time we are incrementally working with what we have and being patient and personally he feels we are being confident because we believe in the project. It has been demonstrated by State leaders they believe in the project and this community has supported the Greylock Glen. There are people opponents of it everywhere but at the end of the day this community supports the Greylock Glen because if they didn't, he never would have heard about it, the project would have been dead 20 years before he was born. If this Town is going to move forward and it needs to move forward this project is probably our best chance. So we have two choices, we can be a critic of it or we can support. Why not support it, it's time for Adams to step out of where we are, let's be bigger.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

A copy of this report is attached to these minutes

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Administrator Butler and Director Erica Samson conducted six interviews for the position of Van Driver for the Council on Aging.

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Hnatonko to approve the ratification of Terence Moran to the position of Van Driver for the Council on Aging – 2 Yeas 1 Nay (PM) motion passed.

Ms. Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk presented to the Board the 2012 Town of Adams Election Calendar, a copy is attached to these minutes.

TOWN COUNSELOR'S REPORT

A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

APPROVALS

The following are votes the Board took on approvals:

A motion made by Member Melville, seconded by Member Nichols to table the new lease agreement with The Adams Retirement Board till the first meeting in February – Unanimous

A motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Melville to approve the following One Day Special Beer & Wine licenses – Unanimous

- One Day Special Beer & Wine License - David Nichols for February 11, 2012 with a snow date of March 3, 2012 for the Thunderfest Event.
- One Day Special Beer & Wine License - Julia Bowen, BArT School for April 28, 2012 Fundraiser.
- One Day Special Beer & Wine License – Sister Jacqueline Kazanowski – Polanka Grounds for June 24, 2012

OTHER BUSINESS

- Agenda items: The Board would like to further discuss MJD, Realty LLC.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Member Melville suggested that the older community who own their own homes talk to a lawyer regarding Homesteads. The Registry of Deeds is helpful but they do not give out legal advice. She also wanted to thank Bruce Lillie and the Highway Department, for working together with a situation on lower Linden Street that impacted several homes with a water problem.

Member Nichols commented on the Martin Luther King Celebration, this has been going on for over twenty years and a relatively new piece to it is the Day of Service, it has been three years now. There are 200 – 300 people involved both in North Adams, Adams, and Williamstown. It is just a great event and it's growing exponentially over the last three years. He wanted to commend the Martin Luther King celebration Committee and the North Berkshire Community Coalition for all the hard work they do.

With no further business to transact, a motion made by Member Nichols, seconded by Member Melville to adjourn at 8:17 PM – Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted
Melissa Schaffrick
Recording Secretary


