

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 10/18/17

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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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Kelly Rice*, Treasurer/Collector advised the Real Estate Bills went out today. *Jack MacDonald* of Adams inquired about the fee for recycling, and expressed concern about the unfairness of charging for recycling. The recycling center has lost money for years. The cost is \$25 for a permit to recycle, and trash will be included with bags for stickers. *Linda Cernik*, Solid Waste Coordinator, gave information on recycling, costs and why bundling makes it efficient. She requested citizens not dispose of TVs or other similar items at the transfer station. *Chief Tarsa*, Adams Police Department explained a new program offered through the Police Department called *Project Safe Return* to assist those with disabilities with the faced in emergencies. Shoe tags and the tracking process were explained. This is a free program, there is no cost to the Town, and Chief Tarsa personally covered the bill to get it going. Police staff members have been trained and the Sheriff's Department will also have the information in the system network. Information will be posted on social media and through the press and school system. Chief Tarsa was thanked for all his efforts and work on this program. *Anita Gutmann* inquired about the timeframe for the state taking down the stakes and plastic on the edging of the trail and the waterfall by the gazebo at the Greylock Glen, which she reports as being neglected. She reported paths to the smaller bridge also need to be maintained. Chairman Duval will contact Donna Cesan about this for follow up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of sign to be placed on Library lawn: *Chairman Duval* read the letter from Library Director Holli Jayko requesting approval of a sign to be placed on the Library lawn. The expenses were donated by the Adams Community Bank and Adams Historical Society, which were thanked for their donations. Board Members inquired about the style of the sign, which has black lettering with a marble background. If approved, it may be installed right away. Move by Member Blanchard to approve the sign as submitted by the Board of Trustees for the Adams Free Library, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Ratification of Juliana Matthews as part-time Children's Librarian: *Chairman Duval* read the letter by the Town Administrator regarding the appointment of Juliana Matthews as part-time Children's Librarian. Move by Member Nowak to ratify the appointment of Juliana Matthews as the Part Time Children's Librarian, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

Appointment of Skip Harrington Alternate Berkshire Health Alliance Representative: Move by Member Nowak to appoint Arthur "Skip" Harrington as the Alternate Berkshire Health Alliance Representative, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Dr. Putnam, ACRSD Superintendent: Dr. Robert Putnam, Superintendent, gave an overview of the transition of redistributing the students. Changes that will improve the education of the students in the District and new programs were briefly discussed. The intent is to make Adams Cheshire School a "destination". *Project Lead the Way* will begin for 4th and 5th Grade and will extend to 6th Grade next year to supplement the High School program. New bus route issues are being worked on. The new website system will be done in January, but is currently being worked on. The pre-construction meeting will take place on Wednesday for the C.T. Plunkett boiler room roof. Barriers have been placed around the portico and chimney and the School District will use funds already allocated for Capital Funds for HVHS for the chimney. The steps have been cleaned up around the building. Chief Tarsa has helped with the security of the building.

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The Police and Fire Departments will ensure all students can be evacuated from the school. Six students are mobility or vision impaired and the Fire and Police Chiefs have a plan to ensure they are safe at all times. October 1st enrollment numbers have gone down to 1200 compared to 1318 last year and the decline of 98 students from last year is related to the closure of the Cheshire Elementary School. The District is introducing new programming and the Plan is on the website. Reports on the encouraging 2017 MCAS results go out next week. New playground equipment was described, and thanks to the donating groups and volunteers were given. Chairman Duval noted the Capital Improvement Plan now includes the School. A handicap lift for the Auditorium has been purchased and contracted with Baystate Elevator, but installation timing is not yet in place. Water leak issues were outlined. Dr. Putnam was thanked for his hard work and it was noted by Board Members that the Teachers and Para-professionals are giving 100%. Concerns were expressed about the loss of students and standardized testing. It was noted that students that utilize *School Choice* usually go to local schools within a 10 mile radius and are mostly elementary students. Athletic teams and band are attraction factors to the District. Transient populations and rental units were noted as being a factor. The *ACRSD Regional Agreement Amendment Committee* was discussed and is looking for representation from the Board. Move by Chairman Duval to approve Member Hoyt as the representative Member of the *ACRSD Regional Agreement Amendment Committee*, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Finance Committee Chairman Tim Burdick is potentially the other Board Member, and citizens will be recommended by the Board to be appointed. The charge of the Agreement Committee was reviewed and the process for change was outlined. Those interested in being on the *ACRSD Regional Agreement Amendment Committee* are requested to contact the Town Administrator's office by October 27th and names will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for review.

Traffic Commission Recommendations - Installation of "Left Turn Arrow with 25" and "Right Turn Arrow with 25" on Upper East Hoosac Street: Chief Tarsa advised this is a fairly sharp turn. The Municipal Ordinance Act, if accepted, allows the Town to lower or raise speed limits without going through the State. There is no known enactment by the Town, so signs of 25mph are a suggestion. The Town must go through state guidelines and conduct a traffic study. Board Members inquired about the Modern Municipal Act. Information was given and Town Counsel will be asked to give input. Move by Member Blanchard to approve the signs as submitted, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. ***Installation of flashing yellow lighted pedestrian crosswalk sign at Burt Street and Columbia Street:*** Funding for the sign is available through Chapter 90 Funding. Chief Tarsa gave some background for the request for the sign near Dollar General and Dunkin Donuts. There is a school bus stop at the corner of Burt Street, and there was a serious pedestrian accident there a few years ago. It is a dark area at night because of the trees. Board members noted there are a number of children in that area. A Board Member asked to move the streetlights down and inquired about school bus stops being at crosswalks. National Grid is clearing out the trees around the lights until the leaves grow back. Move by Member Nowak to approve the installation of a flashing yellow crosswalk sign at Burt Street and Columbia Street, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. ***Installation of "STOP" sign on the west side of Columbia Terrace where it intersects with Harding Avenue:*** Chief Tarsa advised the original request was for a convex mirror on a pole. At the back side of the Memorial School property there is nothing to affix it to, and it is not cost effective to put it up. Shrubs prevent a clear view. The DPW cut the shrubbery and opened it up some and are assessing shrubbery on Columbia Terrace which can be addressed if it is on Town Property. He noted there should be a Stop Sign, as there have been accidents there in the past. Move by Member Hoyt to install a Stop Sign at Columbia Terrace and Harding Avenue, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Clarification was requested on Chapter 17C. Chairman Duval will talk with Town Counsel about it.

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Signing of Special State Election Warrant: Chairman Duval explained the Election Warrant and its contents. Move by Member Hoyt to approve signing of Special Election Warrant as presented, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

Second reading and possible approval of Board Governance and Administration Policy: The first reading was done at the last meeting. Move by Member Hoyt to approve the Board Governance and Administration Policy as presented, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: Unanimous.

MJD/Curtis Fine Paper: Chairman Duval noted social media got out of hand with comments and pictures and the Town of Adams does not own the property of MJD/Curtis Fine Paper. The Town has placed a tax lien on the property. Zoning and Board of Health concerns should be forwarded to the Building Commissioner's office. The Town does not own the dumpsters or have anything to do with any businesses working at that property. Within twelve months the legal system is expected to make their decision. The Town did revoke the permit. The public was invited to express concerns and ask questions. Linda Cernik of Godek Street asked about the property value, which changed from 2016 at \$617,000 to \$428,000. She advised she attended the October 11th Board of Health meeting and made a complaint. She advised there are twelve containers filled with mattresses and asked if the business was permitted to be a landfill as they are combustible materials. She advised of unregistered vehicles there and haulers coming in and out which gave the appearance that the property is still being used as a freight hauling facility. She asked how it is being used without a permit, and who is responsible. The Board of Health will need to do an onsite visit to look into it. She was asked to put her concerns in writing to the Building Commissioner. The Board of Selectmen will make sure all complaints are looked into. Ms. Cernik noted that Specialty Minerals was using the property, and Mass DEP public documents showed since 2010 the property is in violation and no paperwork was done to become Tier 1 site. She expressed concern that the Town would now take a property that is so polluted. Ms. Cernik was thanked for her diligence. The Town has received federal funding in the past to clean up sites and would apply again to clean up any hazardous materials from that site. Scott Cernik asked what enforcement has been done to stop further problems. He expressed concern that if anything happens, a fire at the property will poison citizens. He advised the Board the businesses don't have a permit to operate and none are paying taxes to the Town. He asked what recourse can be taken immediately. A special permit was issued for the trucks and there is no permit needed to work on company vehicles. Chairman Duval advised he will call Building Commissioner and forward the concerns expressed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Administrator's Report: *There was no Town Administrator report at this meeting.*

Town Counsel Report: *There was no Town Counsel report at this meeting.*

SUB-COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Member Hoyt attended the ACRSD Meeting and Northern Berkshire Vocational School District meeting. There was a presentation from students. She advised the recommendations of Task Force to consolidate were discussed. *Chairman Duval* will attend a meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization next week and indicated a traffic study is being done on the McKinley Square area. He will update the Board at the next meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chairman Duval announced that the DPW is looking for a donation of a Christmas Tree. If anyone has a tree they wish to donate, contact the DPW, Board of Selectmen, or Town Administrator's Office and the DPW will assess it. *Adams Community Bank* will sponsor the Christmas event again. Mildred Elley is having an opening event and the Board of Selectmen is invited. The U.S. Department of Commerce invited the Town to participate in a July 2017 Census from the US Census Bureau, and has not received a response. The Town Administrator will be contacted for more information on this. Tony Donovan has resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals after serving for many years. He noted that Mr. Donovan organizes the Memorial parade, does an outstanding job and has been heavily involved in the American Legion and ZBA for many years and will be sorely missed. He noted there are two resignations from the Zoning Board of Appeals in the past month and expressed concern. He advised if anyone is interested in being a Member or Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals there will be a Workshop to go over expectations, including provided training and education which will be provided to both them and the Conservation Commission for those willing to volunteer. It was noted that decisions made by these boards impact the Town of Adams and he thanked to those who have served. *Member Nowak* advised he saw the scenic train attendance was great and is going well so far. He noted the scenic train is working with Jay Green, the President and CEO of the Scenic Railroad, who offered the children of C.T. Plunkett School a free ride. Member Nowak was thanked for his letter writing campaign. *Chairman Duval* gave details about the scheduled train rides for December and November, and noted there is a makeshift platform to get on the train. The Town does have a platform but easements and take time and construction is expected to start in January. The platform will be handicap accessible. *Member Hoyt* plans to attend the Tea with the Adams Centennial Suffrage Committee at the Firehouse Café. She thanked Adams Plumbing and Heating, CTC, Inc. and Shine Wire for giving tours and inviting her into their businesses. She noted the Corporate Park is a great story about employers employing forty or more employees and she hopes other people look into the businesses there. Chairman Duval noted the Board Members are reaching out to businesses lately and are pro-business in Town of Adams.

ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn by Member Blanchard, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary

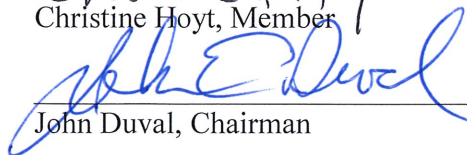


Joseph Nowak, Member



Christine Hoyt, Member

Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman



John Duval, Chairman