



## *Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087*

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

TOWN HALL BUILDING  
8 PARK STREET

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

**TOWN HALL, 8 PARK STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room**

**CALL TO ORDER:** On the above date, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 6:00 PM at the Adams Town Hall. Board Chair Christine Hoyt opened the meeting. Present: Chairman Christine Hoyt, Vice-Chairman Howard Rosenberg and Members Rick Blanchard, John Duval, and Joe Nowak were present. *Attorney Edmund St. John III and Town Administrator Jay Green were absent.* Also present were Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Haley Meczywor, Town Clerk; Crystal Wojcik, Town Finance Director; Jay Meczywor, Finance Committee Vice-chairman; Carol Cushenette, Finance Committee Member; Dave Bissaillon; and

*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The January 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes were presented for approval.

*Vice chair Rosenberg made a motion to waive the Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> and approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Duval.*

Member Nowak offered three edits to the second page of the minutes.

Vice-chair Rosenberg amended his motion to include the edits. Member Duval seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The January 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes were presented for approval.

*Member Blanchard made a motion to waive the reading of the January 17<sup>th</sup> minutes and approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Duval.*

Member Nowak asked that a typographical error be fixed on page two.

*Member Blanchard amended his motion to include Member Nowak's suggestion. Member Duval seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dave Marko from the Town of Cheshire approached the Board. Dave Marko stated that his family owns a piece of property on East Mountain Road in Adams. Mr. Marko stated that in late November 2023 the building commissioner stated that the road leading to the property was abandoned which rendered the property unbuildable. Mr. Marko has stated that the things that the building commissioner has been saying is affecting his ability to sell the property. Mr. Marko stated that two months ago he provided the building commissioner with all of the necessary paperwork and information. Additionally, he stated that he gave the information to Attorney St. John and that he has not heard anything in response. Mr. Marko would like for the Town to provide confirmation that the road is a public way. Mr. Marko stated that there were funds appropriated to repair the road. The road was repaired and it constituted a significant improvement to the state that the road was in. Mr. Marko cited letters back and forth from legal counsel, and cited a number of individuals and companies using the road.

*Chairman Hoyt* stated that Attorney St. John has confirmed receipt of the materials and that the road in question would need to be accepted via Town Meeting. Chairman Hoyt stated that she will get in contact with Attorney St. John and direct him on next steps in the process going through Town Meeting.

Mr. Marko stated that there was a decision in 1979 in the courts that stated the Town must repair the road.

Dave Bissaillon approached the board. He wished to inform the board that he has purchased the former Red Carpet restaurant on Park Street. Mr. Bissaillon stated that Smith Brothers McAndrews has been operating on park street for 128 years. They have always been a tenant on Park Street. Recently, an opportunity presented itself for Smith Brothers McAndrews to purchase space. Mr. Bissaillon thanked the Board for the work that they have done to make businesses able to purchase and operate spaces in Adams. Mr. Bissaillon stated that there is great leadership in this town including the Board, Town Administrator Green, and the volunteers here. Mr. Bissaillon stated that the work that is happening in this Town is astounding and is giving other folks faith in what is happening in this Town. None of the projects would be happening if there wasn't the faith and trust in the leadership here with the stewardship of this Town.

Everything is important and this Town isn't perfect, but it is really important to stated that there are a lot of great things happening in this Town. Mr. Bissaillon stated that he put his money where his mouth is and invest in this Town. All of the things happening in Town gave Mr. Bissaillon the boost he needed to purchase his space.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Amended November 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Hoyt stated since this was dispersed on Monday, the Town of Cheshire has come forward with additional revisions.

*Member Nowak made a motion to table the minutes so that the revisions from the Town of Cheshire can be reviewed and the Amendments can be included. The motion was seconded by Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Review and Sign Presidential Primary Warrant and Voting Information**

Town Clerk Haley Meczywor approached the Board. The Presidential Primary will be Tuesday, March 5 with polling from 7am-8pm at the Memorial Building in Adams, 30 Columbia Street.

***Member Blanchard made a motion to approve the warrant for the March 5<sup>th</sup> presidential primary as presented. The motion was seconded by vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.***

Early in-person voting will be from Saturday Feb 24<sup>th</sup> (from 9am to 5pm) and the following week during regular business hours. Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> is also the deadline to register to vote. All mail-in voting ballots have been mailed out. You can mail it back as it has already been postage paid.

### **Review Town Election Information**

The annual Town Election is May 6<sup>th</sup> with voting at the Memorial building, 30 Columbia Street. 7am-7pm. Nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's office. They are due back y March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

Incumbent Town Meeting Members should have received their postcard in the mail. It needs to be signed and returned tot the Clerk's office by March 11<sup>th</sup> if they wish to continue as a Town Meeting Member.

Up on the ballot this year is Moderator (1-year appointment), Town Clerk (3-year appointment), Two Selectmen Seats (3-year appointment), Assessor (3-year appointment), Board of Health (3-year appointment), two Library Trustee seats (3-year appointment), three Parks Commission Members (3-year appointment), Planning Board member (5-year appointment), Cemetery Commission Member (3-year appointment), Redevelopment Authority Member (5-year appointment), McCann Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School District member (3-year appointment), one Hoosac Valley Regional School District Committee member representing Adams (3-year appointment), and various Town Meeting member seats in various precincts.

Anyone interested in service will need 29 signatures for any of the positions, except for Town Meeting member which is 10 signatures.

### **Hoosac Valley Regional School District Agreement Committee Appointments**

At the Jan 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was stated that the above committee is looking for individuals to join this committee which works annually. The committee with have representation from the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee, and a resident.

There were no individuals from the Board who volunteered to service.

***Member Duval made a motion to appoint Town Administrator Jay Green to represent the Town of Adams Board of Selectmen to the Hoosac Valley Regional School District Agreement Committee. The motion was seconded by Member Blanchard. The motion passed with four votes in favor and an abstention from Member Nowak.***

***Member Duval made a motion to appoint Carol Cushenette and Jay Meczywor to represent the Town of Adams Finance Committee to the Hoosac Valley Regional School District Agreement Committee. The motion was seconded by Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.***

### **Review and Approve Common Victualer License Application: *Park Street Home Sweet Home, 63 Park Street, Adams***

This is a new retail shop with a bakery component. They have recently added seating which triggers the need for a common Victualer license.

*Member Blanchard made a motion to approve the Common Victualer license for Park Street Home Sweet Home at 63 Park Street, Adams. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Review Open Meeting Law Complaints Filed by Cathy Foster and Referral to Town Counsel for Response**

Since our last meeting we have received two additional Open Meeting Law complaints from Cathy Foster. Chairman Hoyt requested that this matter be referred to Town Counsel.

*Member Nowak made the motion to refer the matter to Town Counsel to respond on the behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Member Blanchard. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

*Member Nowak:* At the Northwest Massachusetts Woodlands Partnership meeting, there was discussion regarding Senator Paul Mark's proposed legislation to change the name of the group. Additionally, there was a meeting with undersecretary Cooper and Melissa Hoffer. It was a productive meeting with discussion regarding what the group can do about Climate Change. Member Nowak also stated that he is unhappy with the lack of action regarding the Quaker Meeting House. Member Nowak stated that the members of the Historical Commission are also upset.

*Vice-chair Rosenberg:* At the Board of Health meeting there was a discussion in conjunction with the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District regarding what to do with the excess brush located near the Waste Water Treatment Plant as well as the excess sludge.

*Member Duval:* The Board should be taking a good look at the Select Bard Policy Handbook that has been published by MMA. We should get back into the process of reviewing it. This should happen in a Workshop as well as the Personnel Policy handbook.

*Chairman Hoyt:*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER**

*Member Blanchard:* None

*Member Nowak:* Stated that he is feeling bothered by the fact that he didn't know that the Director of Rural Affairs was coming to the Town. He wants to know who met with them and why he wasn't informed of their arrival.

*Member Nowak* stated that he is feeling slighted and belittled. *Member Nowak* also stated his thanks for Smitty Pignatelli and likened himself to Mr. Pignatelli in their reasons for being public servants.

*Vice-chair Rosenberg:* Thanked Mr. Bissaillon for his kind words and reiterated his sentiment regarding the Town of Adams. People are doing their homework regarding the best places to make investments and that place is Adams.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Blanchard made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

## Documents Referenced

- January 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Presidential Primary Warrant
- Town Election Information

Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary.

 _____ Joseph Nowak, Member	 _____ Richard Blanchard, Member
 _____ Howard Rosenberg, Vice Chairman	 _____ John Duval, Member
 _____ Christine Hoyt, Chairman	