

**TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 01/03/2018**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duval at 7:00 p.m. Members Blanchard, Hoyt and Nowak were present as well Town Counsel St. John III.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *December 20, 2017* Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Motion made by Member Nowak to waive reading and approve the minutes of December 20, 2017 as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** *No information was brought forth to the Board.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Facility Use Request, Visitors Center** – Glendon Diehl of the Berkshire Scenic Railroad Museum requested use of the Visitors Center for a meeting on marketing and advertising on Saturday, January 6, 2018 and monthly meetings thereafter scheduled with Council on Aging Director Girgenti. Insurance will be provided. Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the use of the Visitors Center for January 6, 2018 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., second by Member Hoyt pending receipt of insurance. Vote: unanimous

**Application to Place Sign on a Public Way** – Bill Kolis submitted an application to place a sign on a public way on November 30th, which may have been for Christmas Activities. Mr. Kolis was not present and no information about the sign was submitted. Motion made by Member Blanchard to table the request, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.

**Ratification of DPW Maintenance Technician/Operator I position** – Town Administrator Cesan requested ratification of the appointment of John Harris Jr. to the position of DPW Maintenance Technician/Operator I. Motion made by Member Blanchard to ratify the appointment of John Harris, Jr. to the position of DPW Maintenance Technician/Operator I, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: Unanimous.

**Set Date, Open Warrant, and Set Warrant Closing Date for Special Town Meeting** – Discussion took place about having a Special Town Meeting. Interim Director Cesan had recommended the date be set for March 5, 2018 to seek approval for the Marijuana Bylaw and other warrant items. Motion made by Member Hoyt to set the date of the Special Town Meeting for March 5, 2018, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Motion made by Member Hoyt to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting with closing date of January 31, 2018, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.

**Discussion Regarding Compensation of Interim Town Administrator and Town Accountant** – Chairman Duval explained the additional work and responsibilities being taken on by Interim Town Administrator Cesan and Town Accountant Beverly until a new Town Administrator is hired. Additional salary compensation for coverage during the interim period between Town Administrators in 2014 was reviewed. Chairman Duval recommended the same amounts. Motion made by Member Blanchard to provide the compensation of \$350 per week for Donna Cesan retroactive to December 6, 2017, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion made by Member Hoyt to provide the compensation of \$200 per week to Town Accountant Beverly for labor relations, fiscal oversight, working on the budget with the Board of Selectmen and being present at budget meetings, finance committee meetings and Town Meeting, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous. Town Labor Counsel is Mirick O'Connell, and individuals would be identified to work with the Town Accountant for required negotiations. Both Interim Town Administrator Cesan and Town Accountant Beverly were thanked for taking on the additional responsibilities.



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**Town Administrator's Report:** Chairman Duval read Interim Town Administrator Cesan's report. The Town has secured the site and initiated the public bidding process to demolish and remove the vacant structure at 50 Commercial Street. The DPW was thanked for securing the site. The building contains hazardous materials and needs remediation prior to demolition. The Town is working with EcoGenesis Corporation, who prepared the work plan and filed it with MassDEP. With MassDEP approval the Work Plan will allow the Town's contractor to complete the demolition work and dispose all demolition debris as hazardous material. Bid documents are available and there will be a pre-bid site visit on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Bids are due on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. A lien will be put on the property and the owner will pay for the demolition. The Town's contractor, *Souliere & Zepka Construction, Inc.* has made progress on the replacement of the boiler room roof at the C.T. Plunkett School. Thursday, January 4, 2018 a walkthrough will be conducted to inspect the work and identify final items. With the completion of these final items by the contractor, the Town will execute final documents and payment. The Town submitted its Tier II, *Complete Streets Prioritization Plan* to MassDOT in December. Once approved, Town staff will begin working with *VHB, Inc.*, on the Town's Tier III submission and the approval of designated priority projects.

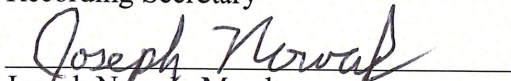
**Town Counsel Report:** Town Counsel St. John III advised he continued work, performed a site visit and entered into negotiations concerning the lawsuit against MJD and the Dellaghelfas, he reviewed a court decision concerning the use of a private way, communicated with staff regarding the Housing Court order on 50 Commercial Street and the town's obligations, and communicated with staff regarding a pending appeal. Chairman Duval attended the site visit at MJD and advised negotiations are ongoing. Concerns were expressed and further discussion needs to take place with legal counsel and MJD legal counsel.

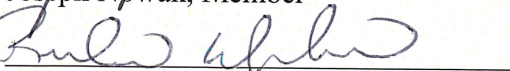
**Sub-committee/Liaison Report:** *Member Hoyt* advised the Personnel Sub-committee met and is working on information regarding the Town Administrator search. Chairman Duval will be attending the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee meeting tomorrow. BRPC is looking for a replacement for its Director and interviews will begin soon.

**Announcements and Good of the Order:** *Member Nowak* wished everyone a happy New Year, and asked the Town to come together in a positive direction. He also advised the flu is very active. *Member Hoyt* advised the MLK Day of Service Committee of NBCC invites the Board of Selectmen, Town staff and officials to participate in a day of service on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> for community projects. She announced that *Biggdaddy's Philly Steak House* is celebrating their One Year Anniversary on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. She congratulated Tom Bernard who was inaugurated as Mayor in North Adams. She noted that with the severe weather citizens should be alert, stay safe and warm. *Chairman Duval* noted there are a *Winter Storm Warning* and *Wind Chill Watch*. Citizens are reminded to be cautious of frozen pipes and to leave taps running, and to make sure neighborhoods work together to clear fire hydrants. *Vice Chairman Blanchard* reminded citizens that if pets are outside please bring them in.


**ADJOURNMENT:** Move by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Hoyt, Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

  
Joseph Nowak, Member

  
Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman

  
Christine Hoyt, Member

  
John Duval, Chairman