

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 04/18/2018

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TOWN CLERK

CLERK

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Jeff Lefebvre* reported that the Maple Grove Civic Club meeting with the Board of Selectmen Candidates took place and he thanked those who participated. He asked to change the Town Charter to reduce the Finance Committee membership this year. *Town Counsel St. John III* advised he should put his request in writing. It was noted that for a Charter Review there is a process to be followed, including an election of a Charter Review Commission. *Jeff Lefebvre* advised he will write a letter to the Board of Selectmen to start the process. He also expressed displeasure that the Animal Control Officer is on call out of town during her work hours and inquired from the Board if a review can be done on it. A brief discussion took place regarding the explanation that this was an agreement made with the Animal Control Officer and whether or not it was working well. *Chief Tarsa* advised that on April 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the Police Department will participate in a pilot opioid buyback program, which is generated by Williams College students and designed to get prescription drugs off the street. He noted that this is a controlled program which will be videotaped and Officer Dean will be handling it. The program, drug exchange and subsequent destruction were reviewed. The program is advertised on the Town's Facebook page and Town website. Particular details about the way opioids are turned in were covered. It was noted that the Adams Police Department is on the cutting edge and to be commended.

OLD BUSINESS:

Facility Use Request, Greylock Glen & Train Station, ProAdams: It was noted that is item was not ready to go forward at this time and will be ready at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hazardous Waste Collection: *Linda Cernik*, of the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District advised of the Hazardous Waste Collection to be held in June. Registration opens May 1st. All permits are in place and notification has been made to MassDEP, the Fire Chief and the DPW. Stericycle is the company doing the hauling and a Special Officer will be in place to direct traffic. Acceptable items were reviewed and businesses with hazardous waste can call to be referred to an appropriate location. Those interested are encouraged to sign up by calling (413) 743-8208 or emailing Linda Cernik at lcernik@nbswmd.com. Paint collection starts this weekend. Friday, April 20th the Youth Center and Parks Commissioner plan to clean up the town. Litter bags, Frisbees, and recycled pencils will be given out to those participating. Saturday, April 21st is the free paint collection in Cheshire from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for any resident, but no latex will be taken. Oil based paint and stain would be hazardous materials and accepted. The Bulky Waste Collection will be held in June in Adams, and there is a \$10,000 cap on items collected. Registration is required for scheduled drop-off appointments in fifteen minute increments. Safety of children doing clean up on the roadways was briefly discussed, as well as the areas they will be providing the service. Illegal dumping was touched upon and it was noted that some towns implement fines for trash and dog poop bags. It was clarified that no pharmaceuticals or explosives will be collected at the Hazardous Waste Collection. The Transfer Station was noted as being spotless and training will be done with the attendant and the hauler on recycling.

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Request to Pursue Economic Development District in Berkshire County: *Interim Town*

Administrator Cesan advised that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission reached out to all thirty-two communities in the county to create an Economic Development District. It was explained that this designation of an Economic Development District would provide greater opportunity to get federal funds. It was noted that the Town was missing out by not participating at this level and it is a requirement that half of the communities in the county have to indicate their support. The process was explained as being laborious in order to get Economic Development status. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the pursuit of the establishment of an Economic Development District in Berkshire County, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.***

Approval of New Voting Equipment: *Town Clerk Haley Meczywor* advised that in June 2017 at the Annual Town Meeting funds were appropriated for this equipment. The Board of Selectmen must vote to discontinue the use of the old equipment and to use the new equipment. The equipment is equipped with chips to deter tampering and will have better technology. Cheshire and Williamstown will be utilizing the same equipment and that there will always be paper ballots that can be hand counted. The Board's approval must be made prior to a letter being sent to the state to begin the process of connecting with the vendor, getting the machines, and training the staff. The state must be notified by May 7th. She issued a reminder that the election is May 7th and absentee ballots can be requested at the Town Clerk's Office until May 3rd. She read the list of positions that are being filled on the ballot. She explained that Board of Selectmen Candidate Piaggi is not continuing to run but will still be on the ballot. Open positions with no candidates were reviewed and Write-In campaigns were explained. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to discontinue use of the old voting equipment and to authorize use of new equipment, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.***

Facility Use Request, Visitors Center – Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum: A request was made to table this request because the Council on Aging Director had not signed off on the request yet. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to table the Facility Use Request for the Visitors Center by the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.***

Ratification of Seasonal Laborers: *Chairman Duval* read a letter from the Interim Town Administrator requesting ratification of the appointments of Zachary Barbeau, Chad Columbus, Nikolas Corbosiero, Michael Durant, Tristan Frieri, Raymond Keele, Timothy Morgan, Louin Norton, and Stavri Yanka as Seasonal Laborers for the DPW. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to ratify the appointments as read for the Seasonal Laborer Positions, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: unanimous.***

Ratification of Council on Aging Board of Directors: *Chairman Duval* read a letter written by Council on Aging Director Girgenti requesting Leona Meczywor be appointed to the Council on Aging Board of Directors. ***Motion made by Member Nowak to appoint Leona Meczywor to the Council on Aging Board of Directors, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.***

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Town Administrator's Report: Town Staff conducted a pre-bid meeting for the *Visitors Center Parking Project*. The meeting was well attended and gave an opportunity for contactors to ask questions about the scope of work. Bids are due on April 26th at 4:00 p.m. The Town received a \$15,000 pre-disaster planning grant from FEMA to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan which identifies risks should a disaster occur. Work was done up front to minimize damage from a disaster. The Town received a \$20,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant to assess the risk for natural disasters.

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The Town will go through the planning process, identify actions to take and allow for robust public participation. There is a group working on both planning processes and there will be an all day workshop scheduled for Friday, May 11th at Town Hall. Invitations will be sent out and the results will form the basis of future actions. Part of the town's effort is to identify how weather change is impacting Adams and how to be a more resilient community in the face of these changes. The Town had a Hazard Mitigation Plan previously which helped to apply for funds from MEMA from Tropical Storm Irene.

Town Counsel Report: Review and comments were made on a bankruptcy for back taxes, a pending litigation, an Open Meeting Law question, an issue for the transfer of an All Alcohol License and on a personnel question. Discussion took place on the demolition of 50 Commercial Street and it was noted that the Town will put a lien on the property once there is a completed bill from the demolition.

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS: *Member Hoyt* updated the Board that ACRSD is currently conducting interviews for the Superintendent position this evening. She advised she is working with Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (NBCC) as a liaison and was invited for an April forum to talk about economic development and the impact that Berkshire Scenic Railway has and will have on the community. She advised she attended a meeting with Chief Tarsa to talk about National Night Out and attended a forum discussion on outdoor recreation and how infrastructure affects economic development. She advised that the Town Administrator Screening Committee met and is continuing to narrow down candidates. She advised she expects a recommendation from that committee to the Board of Selectmen within the next couple weeks. *Member Blanchard* advised the Licensing Sub-Committee met and will be working on crafting a Taxi Bylaw. *Chairman Duval* advised that the Finance Committee concluded their review of the Budget and it will be going forward to Town Meeting. *Member Nowak* requested the Board of Selectmen be provided resumes for the Town Administrator Candidates. Discussion took place regarding Board Members being requested to serve only as a guide to the Search Committee. It was noted that during the previous search once the final three names were provided to the Board of Selectmen the Board was able to go through the resumes to add others to be interviewed. At the time that the recommendations are made the Board will be provided the information.


ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER: *Member Nowak* advised that previously Interim Town Administrator Cesan brought forth an Opportunity Zone application and it was filed by March 22nd and Adams is in. Two of the three census tracks encompass the Greylock Glen and the Downtown. He noted that Representative John Barrett recommended the Visitors Center at the base of Mount Greylock be named after Gailanne Cariddi and asked the Board to endorse that initiative in a letter. Interim Town Administrator Cesan will prepare the letter for the Board to approve. *Member Nowak* announced there will be a Tea Party benefit for the ASCCC held at Town Hall, with tea, sandwiches, dessert, and a talk by Eugene Michalenko. Only 40 tickets will be sold for a donation of \$25 and reservations may be made by contacting info@celebratesusanbanthony.org at www.celebratesusanbanthony.org or by calling Carlene Butler at (413)743-0089. Letters were sent to residents of Adams and got a great response. This event is for the celebration of the 200th birthday for Susan B. Anthony and 100th year of women being given the right to vote in the Constitution. *Chairman Duval* noted that the ASCCC requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen next week at 6:30 p.m. *Member Hoyt* announced that Berkshire Community College dedicated a Women's Center to Susan B. Anthony and held a presentation by students about the importance of her work and its impact. *Member Hoyt* announced that the Maple Grove Civic Club had a Candidate Forum last week and will have another on Sunday April 29th at 4:00 p.m. at Bounti-Fare.

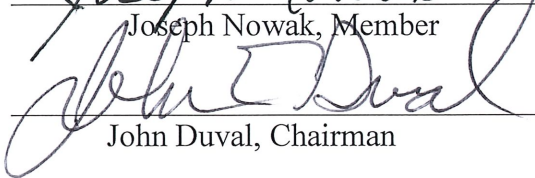
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ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Nowak, Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.*

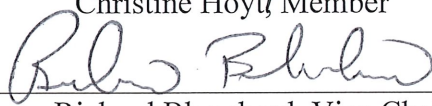
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Joseph Nowak, Member


John Duval, Chairman



Christine Hoyt, Member


Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman