

**TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS**

RECEIVED-POSTED ADAMS TOWN HALL BUILDING, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

18 OCT 10 AM 11:55 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES 09/19/2018

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for August 29, 2018, September 5, 2018 and September 12, 2018 were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to waive reading and approve August 29, 2018 and September 5, 2018 meeting minutes as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: Unanimous. Motion made by Member Hoyt to waive reading and approve September 12, 201 meeting minutes as submitted, second by Member Bush. Abstention by Member Blanchard. Voted in favor were Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Nowak, Members Hoyt and Bush. Motion carried.*

**Public Comment:** *Pete Lipka, 37 Valley Street* asked for the status regarding the Grant Street flooding issues. Work is being done with Senator Hinds and Representative Barrett to find ways to secure financial aid to the Town to help restore issues that have been encountered. They will both be viewing the damage, have shown concern and are working hard to find funding to address these issues. It was explained that an engineering study was done and a cost estimate in the amount of \$550,000 was received to fix the drainage issues on Grant Street. A survey is being done in the neighborhood to identify actual locations to move toward preparing construction documents. Test borings will be done as some of the oddities in the neighborhood could be due to ledge. Mr. Lipka advised that he thought the Town only went with a flashlight and ground out roots and said he felt drainage was put in backwards with manholes going from bigger to smaller outlets. Other peculiarities in the neighborhood were noted including springs coming in and situations where the pipe is coming into the catch basin above the outlet, causing bubbling up before working itself down. An explanation was given of the analysis being done of the existing storm drain system, its age, and what parts fail in these types of events. The existing storm drainage system is antiquated and needs to be updated to handle these new storm events. Updating the underground infrastructure is very expensive and the Town has to be careful with this process. It was expressed that the hope is to solve the Grant Street neighborhood issue in about a year or so, but it cannot be guaranteed in that timeframe. The long process from analysis, design, bid and finding funding was explained. Mr. Lipka thanked the Fire Departments, DPW, and Police Department for the work done during the storms and noted that sand bags were not enough. *Charlotte Avery* of 6 Grant Street advised that the flooding has damaged her foundation, made holes in the floor, and she had to purchase a larger 62 gpm pump which operated for an hour. She advised she is afraid to go anywhere, and inquired if the Town of Adams would take the cost off her taxes, or give her funds to buy a washer and dryer. It was explained that the Town of Adams is committed to fixing this problem, that hydrology is very complicated and heavy rain events in the V-shaped valley creates a challenge with the climate change. It was noted that the Town is attempting to get grants for vulnerability funds. The damage from the recent events was briefly reviewed and the likely cause of the damage explained. It was explained that the Board of Selectmen is making a long term effort to create solutions wherever possible and also noted some of them were personally affected as well. Ms. Avery outlined the efforts she had made to reduce the issue and advised the water keeps entering her home. She thanked the DPW and Fire Department for being so helpful and explained that the pump requires a fifty foot hose that runs up the cellar stairs and out the door and as the water is not coming up from the ground. The possibility of dredging streams was briefly discussed but it was noted it is difficult to harness water. *Jason Hnatonko* of Grove Street advised the Board that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and he was raising awareness.



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He gave the Board a background of his own child and other friends that have children diagnosed with or succumbed to cancer. He advised he is running with a Philadelphia marathon for this cause and taking donations which will go to the Angels Army Running for a Cure, with the goal of finding a cure for one form of cancer. He also listed Alice's Lemonade Stand Foundation as a place to make donations. He advised several hospitals have facilities and programs that take care of experimental treatments, provide places for families to stay, and pay bills. Bottles and cans also may also be donated, and those interested in donating may find information on Facebook. *Sue Krzeminski* of 99 North Summer Street noted that the street flooded, is getting worse over time and she had video and pictures. She advised she felt the Town was being negligent. She advised the traffic did not stop when the road was shut down, water splashed her house and she wanted to know who was responsible for the damage to her property. Chairman Duval advised she had seen the pictures, he agreed that there is more flooding than in the past and invited her to meet with him and the Town Administrator to discuss it further. It was explained that there was only one sawhorse available due to high need for sawhorses at other locations where damage occurred, and cars were able to go around creating a wake which was unacceptable. *Elaine Erdeski* of 101 North Summer Street inquired if the drains are dirty and just need to be cleaned. The cleaning process and drainage system was explained. The quantity of rainfall in a short period causing the flooding was noted, and other items such as branches and trash collect at the drain, impeding the flow of water into the drain. She asked if the Town would clean out manholes on a regular basis and provide sandbags to citizens. It was noted that when a storm is known to be coming sandbags are available at the DPW. The Town will look into creating a stockpile there for citizens to get them after hours for predicted rain events. The Forest Wardens were recognized as working hard pumping out water. It was noted that drains are cleaned, and the Town periodically cleans out catch basins and culverts. Under state MS4 Stormwater Management program this is a requirement. *Erica Girgenti, Council on Aging Director* advised that the Council on Aging manages emergency grants through Neighbor to Neighbor and a one-time grant up to \$500 may be available to anyone who has experienced damage. Those in need are requested to contact the Council on Aging for assistance with this and for help with moving sandbags. She advised the Live Well Expo will have over sixty vendors at the Senior Center representing a wide range of vendors and demonstrations. There will be music, food, and raffles. The COA van is available for those wishing to attend, by calling 743-8333. The Fallon Health Care vehicle agreement is forthcoming and will invite sharing with neighboring communities. She gave the statistics of the total trips completed to date for long distance medical transportation trips. Ms. Girgenti was thanked for all her hard work. *Member Bush* emphasized to all citizens that if a road is marked "Road Closed", do not enter the roadway as it could endanger emergency personnel working to solve the issue, themselves and others. *Stephanie Puck* of 97 North Summer Street advised she felt she was doing the Town's work and voiced concern regarding the flooding issue. *Henry Jaeschke* of 22 Gould Road advised that the drains on West Road and Gould Road are plugged. He pointed out since the 15<sup>th</sup> of July Adams has received a foot of rain. It was noted that a number of issues from the two storms took place and the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Team will work together for preplanning, as sandbags were not enough. The sinkhole on Glenn Street and the lost bridge on Davis Street were noted as only a couple of the major issues that happened during the storm. It was noted that the DPW did an excellent job with the equipment and supplies they had against the storms that came. The DPW was thanked and they will be working with the Emergency Management Team to create a strong emergency plan. Citizens were thanked for coming to the Board and sharing their concerns directly instead of airing them on social media.



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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Application for Common Victualer License:** Valhalla Eatery, 85 Commercial Street, Adams. *Motion made by Member Bush to approve the Common Victualer License for Valhalla Eatery at 85 Commercial Street, Adams, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: Unanimous.*

**Facility Use Request:** Kent Lemme, Ramblefest – Park Street, October 7, 2018. *Member Hoyt advised the Police Chief asked the group to connect with Greylock Credit Union regarding use of their parking lot. Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the use of Park Street for Kent Lemme Berkshire Running Center, parking spaces and southbound lane for Ramblefest on October 7, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., second by Member Bush. Vote: Unanimous.*

**Facility Use Request:** ProAdams, Ramblefest – Visitors Center, October 7, 2018. *Motion made by Member Nowak to table the request to approve the use of the Visitors Center for Ramblefest on October 7, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. until the next regular meeting, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: Unanimous.*

**Request to Place Sign on a Public Way:** Pam St. John, ASCCC - Town Hall Lawn. The sign will have outriggers, be enclosed and appropriately supported to brace against wind. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the temporary placement of a sign on Town Hall Lawn by the ASCCC effective immediately until 2020, second by Member Blanchard. Abstention by Vice Chairman Nowak. Voted in favor were Chairman Duval, Members Blanchard, Hoyt and Bush. Motion Carried.*

**Request to Play Holiday Music:** Dr. Martin K. Bush, 9 Park Street, Adams. It was noted that Dr. Bush is aware of a complaint last year from an apartment nearby the business about the volume throughout the evening and will adhere to the 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. time frame. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve the playing of low volume holiday music at 9 Park Street, Adams by Dr. Martin K. Bush from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, second by Member Bush. Vote: Unanimous.*

**Library Aide/ Cataloguer Ratification:** Tanya Guerin. Interim Town Administrator Cesan noted that the Library Director did an excellent job reviewing the applicants and the Library will now be fully staffed. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to appoint Tanya Guerin to the position of Library Aide/Cataloguer for the Adams Free Library effective September 20, 2018, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: Unanimous.*

**Recognition of Maple Grove Civic Club, 80 Years of Service.** Henry Jaeschke, Rabbi and Raffle Master for the Maple Grove Civic Club was presented with the recognition certificate.

**Host Community Agreements, Review and Approval Process:** *Mission MA, Inc.* Interim Town Administrator Cesan advised she is working with Mission MA, Inc. and the agreement needs a second review prior to the Board reviewing it. There are only limited changes to the template, so it was requested this be postponed until the October 3, 2018 meeting. *Motion made by Member Blanchard to table the approval of the Host Community Agreements, Review and Approval Process, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: Unanimous.*



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**Town Administrator's Report:** The NOI has been submitted to comply with the MS4 Stormwater Management program to outline the compliance for the next five years of the minimum control measures including dates and responsible parties. Those responsible parties were identified as the DPW Operations, Community Development, and possibly MCLA and the Hoosac Valley Water Association. She noted that Kelly Rice is fully certified as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Adams and has successfully passed the tests. Bids for the Town Hall Roof are due tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. She advised that she had been in communication with Emergency Management Director Kleiner and will reinstitute quarterly meetings starting the first or second week in October. They will look at the Town's Emergency Management Plan, which is generic and boiler plate. She advised it needs to be made Adams specific, and include a proper protocol for flooding, heating events and identify shelters and their priority. Staff is very interested in being better prepared and being exemplary. A request was made for the Chairman and Vice Chair to attend the meetings or send a representative member if they cannot attend. The severely leaking roof at the Hoosac Valley Elementary School was briefly discussed as an issue. The Building Committee met yesterday with the Principal and was shown where it is leaking. Work is being done to determine how to address it in the quickest and most financially effective and efficient way possible.

**Town Counsel:** Further discussions took place with staff and opposing counsel concerning a potential claim. An agenda was reviewed for reasons to go into Executive Session. An Executive Session was attended to discuss a personnel matter. An inquiry was made regarding the status of the Delleghelfa property and it was noted that the Access Agreement is expected to be returned and will be checked on as it has not yet been received.

**Subcommittee/Liaison:** *Member Hoyt* advised there was a building maintenance meeting with the School Committee, the Superintendent, the Business Manager and the Principal. The roof and there areas where it is leaking were assessed. She noted they are working on projects and maintenance and need more information. *Member Bush* advised he attended the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District meeting on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion took place on recycling paper shredding and that they won't be taking household appliances or electronics. Shredding hours were noted. *Chairman Duval* advised he has several meetings coming up with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and he will update the board.

**Announcements and Good of the Order:** *Member Hoyt* announced that the Youth Center will be holding its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Chair Auction, which is open until September 21<sup>st</sup>. Information may be found on the Youth Center website or Facebook page. Friday there will be an art installation of "Art on the Trail" by Franz Gonzales to include hewn furniture and artwork on the trail. It will be unveiled on Friday at 5:30 p.m. The Adams Arts Advisory Board worked with Franz on this installation. *Vice Chairman Nowak* reiterated that there are drainage problems in the community and the Board of Selectmen is really looking at them and giving their all to rectify it.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*#2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;*

*At 8:21 p.m. a Motion was made by Member Blanchard to enter into Executive Session for Reason #2, second by Member Hoyt. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Nowak, Members Blanchard, Hoyt and Bush. Motion carried.*



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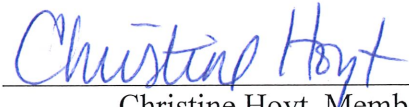
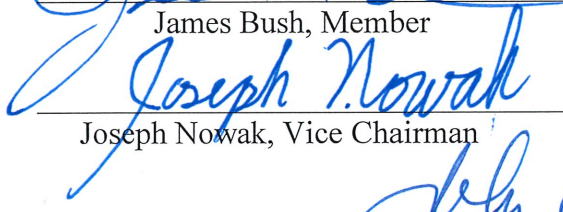
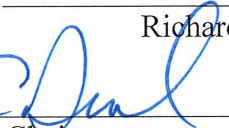

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*At 8:42 p.m. a Motion was made by Member Blanchard to exit the Executive Session, second by Member Nowak. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Nowak, Members Blanchard, Hoyt and Bush. Motion carried.*

**Approval of Town Administrator Consultant Services:** An estimate of \$800 for advertising was provided and there may be other places to advertise in addition. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve hiring of Community Paradigm Associates at a cost not to exceed \$9,800 plus advertising, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: unanimous.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Motion made by Member Nowak to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Hoyt. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

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| <br>_____<br>James Bush, Member           | <br>_____<br>Christine Hoyt, Member     |
| <br>_____<br>Joseph Nowak, Vice Chairman | <br>_____<br>Richard Blanchard, Member |
| <br>_____<br>John Duval, Chairman       |   |