

# **TOWN OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS**

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

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 7, 2018**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the October 9, 2018 Meeting, October 9, 2018 Workshop and October 10, 2018 Workshop were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Member Hoyt to waive reading and approve October 9, 2018 Meeting and October 9, 2018 Workshop minutes as submitted, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: Unanimous. Motion made by Member Hoyt to waive reading and approve the October 10, 2018 Workshop Minutes as submitted, second by Member Bush. Abstention by Member Blanchard. Voted in favor were Vice Chairman Nowak, and Members Hoyt and Bush. Motion carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** *Peter Cassoule* inquired from the Board the status of the building that burned in April on 60 Maple Street as he feels it is a safety and health hazard. He noted that the upper floor above where the fire took place looks like part of the roof is collapsed in. He said with heavy snows this winter there is a threat of the roof caving in. He suggested a demolition order be issued. He advised that the building adjacent to it is going to foreclosure and may be condemned. It was explained that the owners of the burned property are waiting on insurance. *Mr. Cassoule* advised the Board that the Town did not mow the bank along Maple Street Cemetery due to a request to save the milkweed that feeds the butterflies. He noted that the cemetery is historic in nature and this detracts from the neighborhood and requested when it is mowed to clean it up. He suggested the Town make the Grain Elevator on Cook Street a refurbished working museum to show how the grain went to the Hopper Car and to have a park and mini museum or gift shop to make it worthwhile to see for the Rail Trail and the Train. The Grain Elevator was noted as being a one-of-a-kind historic item. An explanation was given that work is being done to make the Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain property into a park and due to the contamination it requires a grant clean it up. Work is being done to design the park and to draft a contract to hire a designer. Work will be done on the building and despite overall appearance the building is sound and the Town will be working with architects in the future. *Mr. Cassoule* told the Board he rode the Train in June and there was overgrowth on both sides of the tracks that kept riders from seeing anything. He suggested it be managed at least on the East side to make it more visible along the whole strip. It was explained that this was cleaned up since June and riders can see a lot more now. Discussion has taken place with local artists to put up artwork along the sides of the train tracks to make it look better. *Mr. Cassoule* advised that the water runway by the new Train Station sluiceway between the cement wall and train station has overgrowth that needs to be cleaned out and put appropriate vegetation there at the destination point. It was explained that the DPW went there and removed some debris and the Town is on the same page. *Mr. Cassoule* inquired from the Board what benefit has been gained from having solar panels on east road and at the high school. It was explained that the Town is saving money on electricity and the Town receives a report on this which could be analyzed and reported out at a Board of Selectmen meeting. Most of the energy used by the Town is being addressed except the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was noted that the solar panels save the Town quite a bit of money directed to Town buildings through the grid. The Interim Town Administrator and Board Chair were addressing the overgrowth and intrusion of shrubs and hogweed. A request was made to clean up the hogweed along the fence line for the summer months and to either cut it down or put other vegetation behind it to make it look better. *Mr. Cassoule* told the Board that the Recycling Center is too small and the leaf pile is hazardous because it fills too quickly and senior citizens have trouble getting in there to dump leaves.

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He said that some items were taken off of the recycle list and requested flyers be given out at the site to provide a better notification system. It was noted that it is a small site and the Board has to evaluate it to determine whether it is necessary to relocate some of the items. Brief discussion ensued about how much recycling costs the Town and it was noted that the cost may go up when the yearly sticker costs are evaluated by the Board in the spring. Concern was expressed about the taxpayers receiving a significant fee increase due to rising costs. Recycle posters were placed at the transfer station and brought down to Town Hall and at the Visitors Center.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Approve Changes to COA Drug and Alcohol Policy:** *Vice Chairman Nowak* gave the Board the background of the changes to the policy and noted it is just a couple of updates. He noted that the Council on Aging personnel are under the auspices of the Federal Transit Authority. It was noted that policy changes require two readings, and the second reading can be at next week's meeting. ***Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the first reading of the Council on Aging Drug and Alcohol Policy, second by Member Blanchard. Voted in favor were Members Blanchard, Hoyt and Bush. Voted in opposition was Vice Chairman Nowak. Vote carried.***

**Facility Use Requests:**

**Adams Memorial School, Adams Lassie Babe Ruth Softball League,** November 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, Sundays 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Lesley Kowalczyk and Peter Greenbush explained what part of the facility would be used and advised that portable nets can be set up and taken down for hitting and throwing drills. Key management for the building was briefly discussed and it was noted that the individual representing the group has to sign out the key and commit not to duplicate the key. The alarm system will need to be reviewed. It was confirmed that both requests for Sundays had no conflicts with each other. ***Motion made by Member Hoyt to approve the use of the Memorial School by Adams Lassie babe Ruth Softball League November 1, 2018 to March 3, 2018 Sundays 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

**Adams Memorial School, Adams Senior P.A.L. Basketball,** November 18, 2018 to March 17, 2019 on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Police Chief Tarsa explained that this group is referred to as the Senior League, which used to be called the Church League. He explained confusion and misunderstandings about the use of the gym at Hoosac Valley High School last year and the group went to the YMCA to finish the year. This year they would have to buy a membership to the YMCA, which would impact kids having a tough time already with the membership to the league. The Town's insurance would be able to be utilized to cover this request. Youth sports are self-sustaining and have to have fees for uniforms, equipment and staff. ***Motion made by Member Blanchard to approve use of Memorial School November 18, 2018 to March 17, 2019, Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. by the P.A.L. League, second by Member Bush. Vote: unanimous.***

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Town Administrator Report:** The status of emergency repairs to Glen Street and East Road were reported and pictures shown to the Board. Glen Street had to be closed because of the large sinkhole, but new drainage pipes and new curbing to replace what was destroyed were installed and the road had to be repaved. The completion is expected this week. The East Road slope that was severely damaged has had the wing wall and head wall cast and replaced and new drainage is expected to be completed next week.

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A walk-through for the construction project at the Visitors Center Parking Lot with the contractors took place and the project is substantially complete. The Contractors asked to continue the project over the winter to do landscaping in the spring to allow for repair of any sidewalk cracking. The quality of the work done was praised, and enhancements of new benches and flowering areas were noted. Pay-for-Parking will be installed in the spring. The Town has been awarded small grants of \$28,500 to create a Stormwater Management Bylaw. The Town will be able to create this and meet the deadline. This will be developed over the next year with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. Work is being done toward contracting with Titan Roofing to do the Town Hall roof. A pre-construction meeting was held and because the project requires scaffolding a decision was made unilaterally that scaffolding around the building with ice and snow was not ideal. When the weather breaks the project will be done in the spring. Small roof leaks were briefly discussed and noted as not being a major issue. Board Members noted that the East Road Project looked good and manhole locations were well placed and it was explained that the head wall was married into the wing wall during the repair.

**Town Counsel Report:**

**SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:** *Members Hoyt and Blanchard* advised the Licensing Sub-Committee met to review Taxi Bylaws from other communities and one created in the Town a few years ago. Updates will be brought to the Board within the next few months. The License Renewal Process was reviewed and the Sub-Committee will meet again on December 3<sup>rd</sup> prior to the December 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. *Member Hoyt* advised that the Personnel Sub-committee met with a consultant from Community Paradigm Associates, who also is meeting with department heads and Board of Selectmen members individually. He will bring forward a Town Profile and advertisement to the Board for review and Board Members are asked to share comments and input with the Interim Town Administrator on that. She advised she attended the Berkshire Flyer 2.0 Sub-Committee for getting the train from New York to Pittsfield. The Sub-Committee is looking at existing models of transportation for the last mile and how to get to their destination. Some places have van and shuttle service, and they are looking at taxi and shuttle services, Uber, Zipcar, Turtle and Lyft. The RAAC met earlier this week and the Committee finalized their work, making a couple edits to the School District. The document was forwarded to the School Committee for review and it will come to the Board of Selectmen the Town's Legal Counsel. She will work with them on a timeline and it will have to come before Town Meeting. She advised she attended the ACRSD School Committee meeting and the MCAS accountability data was reviewed. Hoosac Valley High School is meeting 100% the targets that were set. It was identified that math needs some work and strategies need to be implemented at all levels. A workshop and site visit took place from MSBA and the Superintendent invited Adams and Cheshire Boards of Selectmen representatives to attend phone call with MSBA. During the call discussion took place regarding an accelerated repair program and its parameters. At the end of the call the School District decided they were not ready to move forward this year, but will look at this further for next year. In the Local Resources portion during the Board of Selectmen budgeting process the Town of Adams set aside \$235,000 for maintenance, not an engineer. The Town has a commitment to the School District and the children in this community and is working with the District and the School Committee to create a plan to best utilize that money. There is a good list of what needs to be done. The Town of Adams is looking at bringing in an engineer to help determine what the most impact for the funds on repairs would be and the Town will give more information to MSBA in the future. She clarified that the Town of Adams is not hiring an engineer for \$235,000 but for maintenance in the facility and plan to use it wisely.

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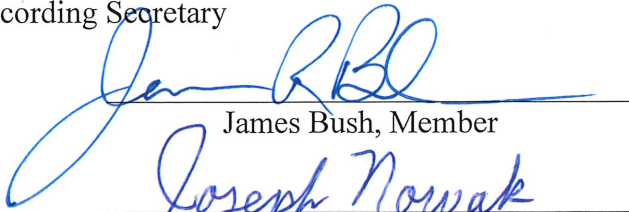
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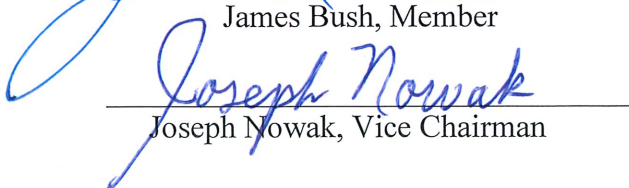
Interim Town Administrator Cesan clarified further that the \$235,000 is part of a larger construction project, and the Town is looking at grant money and may match other grant money. An engineer will be very helpful to prioritize projects. *Member Bush* advised that Russell Field work has begun on drainage. Vice Chairman Nowak advised he and Member Bush attended a joint meeting between the Zoning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals and in past there was misinformation on what work each should be doing. He advised it was clear there is a need to update bylaws as there are a number of new things on the horizon, such as broadband and Airbnb. A Committee will be put together to review the bylaws. Vice Chairman Nowak also advised he attended a Conservation Commission meeting with the Interim Town Administrator to help with the flooding emergency situations that took place in September and support was granted. Emergency orders and authorization were given if needed.

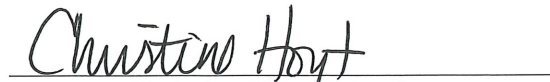
**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER:** *Member Hoyt* advised that Berkshire County Kids' Place honored David Nicholas of the Bounti-Fare Restaurant for his work and how he gives back to the community. She noted that he then put on the Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser for the Ziemba Family and a very nice Centennial Celebration Tea for Susan B. Anthony. She advised that BART had their Annual Fall Breakfast, and was updated with what they are doing with the kids in the community. She noted that Special Town meeting the Town made a significant request of citizens to help their neighbors by deficit spending to make sure their roads were safe and it was heartwarming that everyone knew it was the right thing. *Member Bush* advised that the leaves are falling off the trees into the roadways and asked citizens to clean leaves out of the manholes. The DPW is sent out constantly to do this and they refill quickly. *Vice Chairman Nowak* advised the Susan B. Anthony Tea Party was put together by the Adams Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee and was well attended. A sculptor is creating the statue of Susan B. Anthony and they are doing their best to obtain funds. The Sculptor attended the Tea, and is looking forward to doing work for Adams. He advised he spent time down at the polls and found it heartwarming to see that 54% of registered voters came and voted. He noted this number was the highest since Kennedy ran for President. He explained that a Christmas tree is needed for Summer Street by The Grille, and needs to be approximately eight feet tall. Anyone willing to donate a tree is requested to contact the DPW office at 743-8300 x172. The schedule for leaf pickup by the DPW was reviewed to be November 12<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup> and residents are asked to rake leaves to the edge of the curb but not into the street. The route will begin at Harding Ave, go to Grove Street, then to Power Street, Route 116 and finally end at Leonard Street.

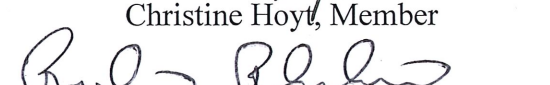
**ADJOURNMENT:** *Motion made by Member Hoyt to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Blanchard. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,  
Recording Secretary

  
James Bush, Member

  
Joseph Nowak, Vice Chairman

  
Christine Hoyt, Member

  
Richard Blanchard, Member