



Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Wednesday, May 03, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL, 8 PARK STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220
1st Floor, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

RECEIVED-POSTED
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TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.
CLERK

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 7:00 PM at the Adams Town Hall. Town Administrator Jay Green opened the meeting. Present: Vice-Chair Christine Hoyt, Members Howard Rosenberg, Rick Blanchard, and Joseph Nowak. *Chairman John Duval was absent.*

Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Crystal Wojcik, Town Finance Director, Sarah Fontaine, Director of the Adams Council on Aging; Jay Meczywor, Chairman of the Northern Berkshire Events Committee, Lea King and Wayne Gelinis, Owners of 57 Park Street; Stephanie Melito; Cole Deroches; Chief K. Scott Kelley, Chief of Police; Members of the Adams Police Department, Myra Wilk, Town Moderator; Carol Cushenette, Member of the Adams Finance Committee; Residents of the Town of Adams; Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires Reporter.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Nomination and Election of Chairman

Jay Green opened the floor for nominations.

Member Blanchard nominated Christine Hoyt. Howard Rosenberg seconded the motion. No other nominations were made.

Howard Rosenberg and Rick Blanchard voted in favor of appointing Christine Hoyt as chair of the Adams Board of Selectmen. Member Joe Nowak voted against. Member Christine Hoyt abstained. The motion carried.

Nomination and Election of Vice Chairman

Member Joe Nowak nominated Howard Rosenberg as vice-chairman. The nomination was seconded by Member Rick Blanchard. There were no other nominations.

A motion was made by *Member Nowak* to name *Howard Rosenberg* as vice-chairman. The motion as seconded by member Blanchard. The motion carries with one abstention from Member Rosenberg.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 20, 2023 Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Workshop

Motion made Vice-chair Rosenberg to waive reading and accept them as submitted. Motion seconded by Member Blanchard. Motion passes with three in favor and an abstention from Member Blanchard.

March 21, 2023 Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Workshop

Motion from Rick to waive the reading and accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak.

Vice-chair Rosenberg asked that an amendment be made on page two

Member Blanchard rescinded the motion to approve the minutes. Member Blanchard made a motion to table this set of minutes until the amendment was made. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

March 28, 2023 Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Workshop

A motion was made by Vice-chair Rosenberg to waive reading of the minutes and approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Nowak. The motion passed with Member Blanchard abstaining.

March 30, 2023 Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Workshop

Member Blanchard made by Member Blanchard to waive reading of the minutes and approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. Motion passed unanimously.

April 19, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting

No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Announcement of Adams Community Cleanup Day, Saturday May 6th, 10AM-2PM Jay Meczywor, Northern Berkshire Events Committee

Jay Meczywor is the Chair and cofounder of the Northern Berkshire events committee. November 2021 was when the group first formed. Since then, there have been 10 board members added

On May 6th, the Northern Berkshire Events Committee is working the Adams Beautification Committee to conduct this community Cleanup day.

The Department of Public Works will be supplying the group with some tools and trash bags. Please come out and volunteer if you are willing and able.

Presentation by Lea King, of 57Park Street, Adams Ma

Lea King and Wayne Gelinis approached the board with a presentation they made regarding revitalization of Park St in Adams. Lea claims that the Downtown of Adams is not inspiring. Leah was really inspired by the work that Yina Moore is doing on Park Street. Lea's goal is to sell items that are not necessarily huge money makers, but are attractive to kids and families or items that are fun and sweet treats.

Lea is working to collaborate with other businesses in Adams. Lea looks forward to strategic partnership with local businesses. Lea also plans to promote local artists in a variety of ways. This includes murals, installation of artwork around town.

In the first month of Business, 57 Park Street sold 2800 beverages as well as 1050 baked goods. Additionally, they sell Adams branded shirts and souvenirs. Lea is launching online ordering as well as a walk-up service window. Additionally, Berkshire Bubbles Courtyard will be opened by May 27th. Lea is hoping to offer live music on Saturdays in the Berkshire Bubbles Courtyard.

Lea also looks forward to reopening the Miss Adams Diner. The Goal is for it to be open 7 days a week from May-December and then Monday-Friday from January- April. Lea looks forward to opening a tasting room for local wineries to pair their goods with food made by local chefs.

Lea is hoping to introduce 3 different short-term rentals to bring artists more places to stay, as well as an artist studio location. Lea put an emphasis on growing business for everyone, not just for her own business. This will be achieved through a multi-tiered approach that includes promoting Adams as a food destination. Lea wants to build profitable businesses that can be handed off or sold to others so that they can continue to be great businesses in Town.

Member Nowak stated that the Town has not had a financial identity since the Mills left town. Member Nowak also stated that Adams often gets left out of the tourist tracks. He thinks that a lot of this sounds great.

Member Blanchard expressed some concerns regarding the licensing. There will need to be some continued conversations regarding liquor licensing for the “Bubbles and Bites”.

Ratifications

Stephanie Melito, Administrative Assistant II for the Town of Adams Community Development Department

Chairman Hoyt read the letter provided by Community Development Department Director, Eammon Coughlin.

Jay Green stated that this position is funded regularly. There were three applicants that were interviewed for this position and that he is excited to welcome Ms. Melito to the team.

Member Blanchard made the Motion to ratify the appointment of Stephanie Melito to Administrative Assistant II in the Community Development Department at the Grade 6 step 5 rate of \$21.28/ hour. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Polidoro, Meal Site Coordinator for the Adams Council on Aging

Chairman Hoyt read the memo provided by Council on Aging Director, Sarah Fontaine. Sarah addressed the Board and expressed her excitement to welcome Kathy to the staff at the Council on Aging.

A motion was made by member Blanchard to ratify the appointment of Kathy Polidoro to the position of Meal Site Coordinator at the Adams Council on Aging at a Grade 2 step 9 rate of \$16.61/ hour. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg.

Member Nowak expressed his thanks for the work that the Council on Aging does.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jenna Harding, Seasonal Laborer for the Adams Department of Public Works

Chairman Hoyt read the memo provided by Department of Public Works Operation Manager Tim Cota.

Member Blanchard made the motion that the board ratify the appointment of Jenna Harding to the position of seasonal laborer at a Step 1 rate of \$14.25/ hour. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg.

Member Nowak asked what town Jenna Harding lives in. That information was not provided.

Cole Desroches, Patrol Officer for the Adams Police Department

Chairman Hoyt read the memo of support that was provided by Adams Police Department Chief Scott Kelley. Chief Kelley and various members of the Adams police department approached the board.

Member Blanchard made the motion to ratify the appointment of Mr. Deroches as the Step 1 patrol Officer rate of \$23.66/ hour. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. Their motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hoyt called for a 5-minute recess at 8:02 pm

The Board of Selectmen moved back into session at 8:07pm.

Approve Fiscal Year 2024 Town Meeting Warrant

Please see attached Town Meeting Warrant.

Chairman Hoyt stated that in previous years the articles were read through and the Board can choose to hold.

Article 1

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 2

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 3

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 4

Member Nowak asked that that article be held.

Article 5

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 6

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 7

No Board members asked to hold the article.

REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT ARTICLES

Article 8

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 9

No Board members asked to hold the article.

TRANSFERS TO SPECIAL FUNDS

Article 10

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 11

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 12

Member Nowak asked to Hold the article for clarification.

Article 13

No Board members asked to hold the article.

ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION ARTICLES

Article 14

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 15

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 16

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 17

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 18

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 19

No Board members asked to hold the article.

BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Article 20

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 21

Member Nowak asked to hold this article.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Article 22

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 23

Member Nowak asked to hold this article.

Article 24

No Board members asked to hold the article.

Article 25

o Board members asked to hold the article.

Member Blanchard made the motion to approve all articles with the exception of 4, 12, 21, and 23. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 4 was brought for discussion. *Member Nowak* asked for clarification on the definition of the term “fix” in this context. *Member Nowak* stated that currently feels that he is being slighted by the rate of pay that Selectmen receive. Carol Cushenette, member of the Finance Committee offered to share her findings with *Member Nowak* at a finance committee meeting. *Member Nowak* stated that he will not be attending any finance committee meetings and suggested that Carol bring those findings to Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to move article 4. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed with three votes in favor and an abstention from Member Nowak.

Article 12 was brought for discussion. *Member Nowak* asked if this article is new as he is unfamiliar with any articles like this. Town Moderator Myra Wilk who was in the room clarified that this same article has been in the warrant each year for the last 30 years, at least.

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to move Article 12. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 21 was brought for discussion. *Member Nowak* questioned why this was being brought before Town Meeting when the official study has not come forth from the General Government Review Committee.

Jay Green stated that this is the only matter before the General Government Review Committee that can be amended through Town Meeting where the rest require home rule petition through the state legislature.

Member Blanchard made a motion to move Article 21. The motion was seconded Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed with three votes in favor of the motion and one vote against it from Member Nowak.

Article 23 was brought for discussion. Town Finance Director, Crystal Wojcik approached the board and clarified that Overlay Surplus comes from the allowances for the assessor.

Member Blanchard made a motion to move article 23. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hoyt reminded everyone that Town Meeting is Scheduled for Wednesday June 7th at the Adams Memorial Building.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Vice-chair Rosenberg: None

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Member Nowak attended the Planning Board Meeting and was happy to see that the first steps were taken regarding the development of the former Adams Youth Center. *Member Nowak* also attended an event at the Bounty-Fare that was organized by the Adams Agricultural Commission regarding planning the future of Farmland. *Member Nowak* gave a recap of the event including a list of individuals that were in attendance.

Chairman Hoyt: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Vice-Chair Rosenberg attended the Science Fair at Hoosac Valley Middle School and was impressed with the quality of work produced by the children.

Chairman Hoyt: None

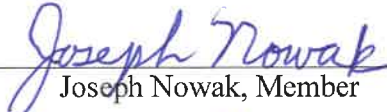
Member Blanchard: None

Member Nowak: None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Blanchard to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice-chair Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm

Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary.



Joseph Nowak, Member



Christine Hoyt, Vice Chairman

Richard Blanchard, Member



Howard Rosenberg, Member

John Duval, Chairman