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The Sweet Shoppe was demolished on Wednesday.



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Adams Selectmen Seek Input on Budget Spending

By **Tammy Daniels**

iBerkshires Staff

11:41PM / Wednesday, January 19, 2011

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ADAMS, Mass. — Residents are being asked to provide input in the upcoming budget at two public sessions next week.

Town Administrator Jonathon Butler and at least two selectmen will be on hand in the Mahogany Room at Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 23 and 24, at 6 p.m.

The open forums are designed to solicit ideas and concerns from residents. A scheduled session last week had to be canceled because of snow.

Butler said the Selectmen will receive a draft of the budget on Feb. 21.

"It's a guessing game," said Butler in response to Selectwoman Paula Melville's question about numbers from the governor's and Legislature's budgets. "I'm building [the budget] even more conservative than I think we my get."

Neighbors of the former Butler Wholesale warehouse on Pleasant Street were reminded that the Planning Board will be reviewing an application by George Apkin & Sons of North Adams to establish a scrap metal processing plant and wholesale operation. The Planning Board will meet Monday, Jan. 24, at 7:30.



The Selectmen encouraged residents to weigh in on spending plans.

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Apkins' proposal states that all processing, or separation of metals, would occur inside the four buildings; all storage of scrap also would be inside. There would, however, be an expected increase in truck traffic to support the operation. The site is zoned industrial.

Selectman Scott Legacy recalled the former pellet processing plant in the corporate park that ran into problems for storing its products outside.



A buyer may be in the wings for the Woolworth's building.
done in the downtown triangle."

"The building department has been assured in the plan that there is no plan for scrap material to be stored outside," said Butler. "I think it's important for residents with concerns to show up at the meeting and weigh in with the Planning Board."

He noted that the company could have put up a chain link fence around the 2-acre property but had opted to put in a very nice fence similar to those used by the town elsewhere. "The balance is they're proposing a business that is to create five to 10 jobs in Adams with the potential for more down the road, but at the same time it's important it works aesthetically with what we've

"You also don't want scrap metal next to the rail trail," responded Selectman Jason Hnatonka.

"It will be nice to cross one of those buildings of our empty buildings list," said Melville. The Butler warehouse won't be the only building crossed off. The Sweet Shoppe was demolished in record time on Wednesday, with the bulk of the Summer Street building gone by midday. The building was targeted for demolition last year as part of the street's makeover.

A third building, the vacant three-story Woolworth's building on Park Street, may have a new owner in the wings. Town Counsel Edmund St. John III received notice from Housing Court releasing the building from an injunction that has been an impediment to the sale. The building was purchased by a Boston woman several years ago but investments were never made to bring it up to date. The town took action because there was no emergency egress for tenants on the second and third floors. St. John said the town is satisfied with the safeguards now put in place should the building be used for housing. The building has been vacant for several years.

In other business:

- The town election was set for May 2. A full list of offices and candidates is available below.
- The board approved the installation of guardrails and dead-end signage on the south ends of Highland Avenue and Grandview Terrace. Several vehicles apparently went off the end of the road and into the river.
- Haley Meczywor reminded residents that the town census is under way. If a resident is uncomfortable speaking to a census worker he or she can contact the town clerk's office.
- A special town meeting date expected to be set Wednesday night has been delayed because information needed from the state and Army Corps of Engineers is not complete. The special town meeting will address rights of way related to the extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail north.
- Selectman Arthur "Skip" Harrington was absent.

[Adams Town Election 2011](#)

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The town budget needs a total reworking. Too many decades old entitlement programs the town is pressured to keep annually. Let's face it, publicly funded programs of the past need to become privately endorsed or they need to go away. Either that, or the town as a stand-alone, governed entity will eventually go away as regional governance makes a resurgence. It's coming!

from: Budget

on: 01-21-2011 09:14AM

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Blow it up and start again. Everyone and every program is up for debate. The town can't afford to keep running as it has.

from: Town Budget

on: 01-21-2011 08:18PM

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