

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
March 5, 2024
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – Michael A. Mauro, John Arruda, Adam Price

Others Present –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Fire Chief/Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michael Brooks; Police Chief Robert King Jr; DPW Dave Swift; Code Officer Bob Boyd; Rec Director Heather O'Donnell; MadTV Videographer Amanda Hayford

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on December 27, 2023.

Meeting Called to Order – By Mauro at 4:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mauro led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to approve the Fee Public Hearing minutes of February 20, 2024 as amended with the addition of the letter 's' added to the word member in the first paragraph. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to approve the Budget Ordinance Public Hearing minutes of February 20, 2024 as amended with the addition of the letter 's' added to the word member in the first paragraph. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to approve the 5- Member Selectboard Public Hearing minutes of February 20, 2024 as amended with the addition of the letter 's' added to the word member in the first paragraph. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to approve the Non-Public minutes of February 20, 2024 made public as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of March 4 - 11, 2024 in the amount of \$372,398.04. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$78,895.83 for accounts payable; \$33,480.03 for payroll; \$10,022.18 for payroll liabilities; and \$250,000 for Madison school. The motion passed **3-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mauro asked for a show of hands of those that would like to speak within the fifteen minutes allotted for public comment. One person raised their hand.

Ryck Morales, Public Affairs Specialist with the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience approached the Board to offer information regarding assistance with economic damages. These damages would be related to the storm and flooding incident occurring December 17-21, 2023. There is assistance available in the form of grants and loans because Carroll County is a secondary county to the counties damaged over the state line in Maine. Morales left several

informational sheets with detailed information adding to be aware that there is a 6-month window to apply. The Board thanked Morales for his time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

Maintenance of Solar Array Area – A written request from Russ Dowd and Noreen Downs was reviewed regarding recommendations from ReVision Energy for the array area. The two requests were that a lock on the gate be installed that will be provided by ReVision Energy, with the key or combination being given to the Town; and that mowing/cutting of vegetation be performed within the gated area, which is the responsibility of the Town as per the solar agreement.

It was agreed that this will be put on the list of things for DPW to take care of with a plan to be made for regular maintenance going forward.

Rec Program Payment Option – Shackford told of her research into a request by Rec Director O'Donnell to offer electronic payments, Venmo or Square for example, for collecting Rec fees and donations. Shackford spoke with the Town's bank contact and found that other towns offer a similar option. It was suggested that if implemented, a special account would be opened to accept those payments, then the Treasurer would be responsible for transferring monies to the proper funds. Shackford stressed that detailed records would have to be kept of payments so those transfers can be performed accurately.

Arruda asked if this is really an issue with Price feeling it would be a good convenience to offer.

Joy Gray spoke to the success, ease and access to reports that the PTO has with using Square.

Fees for the service were discussed related to how they could be managed. It was decided that this will be revisited again after Town Meeting has passed.

Assignment of Warrant Articles for Town Meeting – The Board did not feel this was necessary.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none.

Selectman Price's List - Price has been offered help from local contractors to assist with upgrading the ballfield with hopes of starting soon, weather permitting.

Selectman Arruda's List – There have been two new containers delivered to the Transfer Station; Arruda announced that there will be some re-arranging made. The containers are assisting in making Swift's job at swapping out containers much more efficient.

Selectman Mauro's List - Mauro asked all to keep in mind that elections and Town Meeting are coming up next week on March 12th and March 16th respectively.

Administrator's List – Shackford informed the Board that the auditors will be in Town all week performing their review of 2023 finances. Shackford also stated:

- The website upgrade has been performed with a few link issues that are being resolved; the website is now cell phone friendly; and
- Information regarding the ZBA case for Gage has been turned over to Attorney Johnston to move forward with fines. The timeline for these actions will take a while to complete.

Paul McKenna asked the Board what the consequences are if Gage does not pay the fines? It was explained that the court will be involved at this point with the possibility of liens imposed.

Department Heads' Lists:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Brooks – The Town has been assigned a new FEMA representative to assist with the July disaster declaration; Brooks has an introductory phone call scheduled for tomorrow morning. Brooks also mentioned:

- He has received no less than three solicitations from Coast to Coast Solutions offering to sell promotional material to him for the Fire Department. Brooks asked the Board to reiterate, for the company's benefit, that he does not have the approval to spend funds on promotional materials. The Board reiterated that statement;
- Conditions are changing with the warmer weather. The ice is very questionable with open areas showing water. Keep in mind that the dirt roads are soft, especially at the edges, with the DPW doing the best they can without being able to use a 12-ton machine that would only cause more ruts.

DPW Dave Swift – Swift concurred with Brooks regarding soft roads adding that they are doing the best they can with N. Division, Deer Drive, Colby Hill Road and Caroline Road until we get dryer weather. Swift also mentioned:

- The recent wind had the crew cleaning up downed trees;
- The code car was at the shop getting some hinges re-aligned and is back in service now;
- Roads were posted as of February 28th with permission to exceed the 6-ton limit being given on a case-by-case basis;
- Arruda and Swift met with a NRRRA rep and they complimented that we have one of the cleanest transfer stations they have seen. The rep offered some valuable information;
- The covers have been come in and will be installed soon to prevent snow and rain from causing extra weight in the containers;
- Five members of the DPW crew attended a Certified Flagger Course at Primex and are officially certified.

Chief King – King reiterated the need to be certified if flagging traffic reminding all that his department requires a flagger if any company has a lane being shut down.

Rec Director O'Donnell – O'Donnell excitedly listed upcoming event and activities for the Rec Department that included:

- Adult trivia night this coming Friday;
- The Eggstravaganza will be March 30th from 9:30 – 11:30 with a pancake breakfast and egg hunt;
- Registration for softball and t-ball is closed for this year.

SIGNATURE ITEMS

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

5:14 PM Motion by Mauro to enter **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (a)** The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted and **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (c)** Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely

affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Roll Call Vote: Price – aye; Arruda – aye; Mauro – aye

5:36 PM Motion by Mauro, seconded by Price to return to public session and make public the minutes of **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (a)** The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted;

and seal the minutes of **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (c)** Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to adjourn at 5:36 pm. The motion passed **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024 commencing at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator