

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
July 9, 2024
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – John Arruda, Adam Price

Selectmen Absent – Joy Gray

Others Present –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Lieutenant Jim Hayford; DPW Director Josh Shackford; DPW Dave Swift; Rec Director Heather O’Donnell; ABC Members Joe Dame and Rick Judkins; Videographer Kasia Scontsas; members of the public

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 Price at 4:30 pm.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the minutes of June 23, 2024 as written. The motion passed **2-0**.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the non-public minutes of June 23, 2024 made public as written. The motion passed **2-0**.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the non-public minutes of June 23, 2024 made public as written. The motion passed **2-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:

Motion by Aruda, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of July 8 – July 15, 2024 in the amount of \$498,900.95. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$121,746.51 for accounts payable; \$40,334.62 for payroll; \$11,819.82 for payroll liabilities; and \$325,000 for Madison Schools. The motion passed **2-0**.

Price opened the **PUBLIC HEARING** in accordance with RSA 41:9-a at 4:32pm to discuss and receive input on an addition to the Recreation Program Fees of Scheduled off time drop-off/pick-up - \$5/hour, posted 06/27/2024 at the Upper and Lower Levels of Town Hall, the Madison and the Silver Lake Post Offices.

Arruda asked if this is a form of late fee. It was explained that this is a *pre-arranged* early drop-off or late-pick up fee, there is already a fee for late pick-up established. One counselor will be there to cover for that hour.

Bill Dempster asked if it is worth paying a counselor \$18/hour to have one student pay \$5.00. O’Donnell explained that there are about 8 campers that would utilize this option making it worth paying a counselor. Dempster asked if it is covered by insurance and was answered yes.

Joe Dame asked if there should be more than one counselor with the campers. The camp counselor to camper ratio is 1:12 which is better than the state's requirement of a 1:17 ratio.

There were no more comments.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to institute the fee of \$5.00/hour for students for pre-arranged early drop-off or late-pickup. The motion passed **2-0**.

Price closed the hearing at 4:35pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Joe Dame, Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC) read aloud a statement prepared by Sharon Schilling as Chairman of the ABC.

Schilling, as ABC Chairman, stated the Selectmen's decision to purchase a new grader was rushed, lacked appropriate analysis, was devoid of process and disregarded taxpayer impact. Schilling claimed no attempt was made to engage tax payers. Schilling expected a thorough analysis of options that included quotes and reasons to purchase a new machine; while seeing that repairing the 1987 grader may not be the best path. Yet, Schilling cannot see any planning or funding for a replacement had been made.

The analysis presented was created by ABC Vice-Chairman Dame that lead to questions with no answers; it should have been created by the DPW Director. Schilling stated that the ABC did not make a recommendation regarding this purchase due to a significant lack of information; the ABC questions the Selectmen's due diligence of this purchase.

Schilling asked that the Selectmen assess the status of all their equipment to avoid another situation for repair of replacement that they are completely unaware of and forced to make a large purchase.

Price asked Dame if he is bothered that Schilling doubts his research and yet asked him bring forward her criticism to the Board. Dame responded that Schilling asked and he obliged.

Request for Update on the Status of the STR Cases 10 Barden Pl & 81 Knight Rd – Bill Dempster of 157 Doe Drive asked for an update on the enforcement actions regarding 10 Barden Place.

An agreement has been made with the owner not to rent his house. Dempster stated that he informed L. Shackford that it is still listed on VRBO. L. Shackford had forwarded that information on to Town Counsel and has been assured by Counsel that the issue has been satisfactorily dealt with that the owner intends to honor the agreement.

Price expressed his opinion that it makes no sense to him to go after fees when the offender has come into compliance; it sets a bad example going forward.

Dempster feels that the potential \$20,000 in fines are taxpayer's money. Arruda said any fines by the Board must go to court and a judge will decide if they should be paid with Price of the opinion that no court would make that judgement.

Dempster asked if the Board will be going for fees regarding 81 Knight Road with Price responding it has sold and is now in compliance adding that the ZBA applicant had to right to continue using their home as an STR during the appeal process per RSA 676:6. In Price's opinion, the point of enforcement is to obtain compliance and we need to wait for a court decision before moving forward.

Dempster asked when the Board decided not to go after fines. Price responded he would have to check while reiterating that the goal is compliance.

Nick Borelli feels it makes no sense to put fines in place and then let violators get away with it.

Silver Lake Rafts – The topic of having a raft at the Head of the Lake was discussed. It was decided that if someone can get to the mooring then the raft will be installed outside of the swim lines.

The Foot of the Lake raft has been met with challenges. A broken ladder that left a sharp weld has had the ladder repaired, the weld mended and the distance of the raft from shore has been deemed sufficient. Arruda watched kids recently throwing rocks at the raft and try to move the raft; it needs to be treated with respect.

Swift installed bumpers on the boat dock in response to complaints with Arruda feeling it should be the boater’s responsibility to have the bumpers on their boats.

2024-2025 Fuel Bids – Fuel bid prices were received from Eastern Propane & Oil and Irving Oil. The Town is currently with Eastern. A change in vendors would require swapping tanks.

	Propane	Oil
Eastern	\$1.879	\$2.979
Irving	\$1.740	\$3.097

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to accept the prices with Eastern Propane and Oil for the 2024-2025 heating season. The motion passed **2-0**.

2024 P01 Tax Payment to VDOE – L. Shackford asked the Board for permission to pay VDOE their 2024 P01 tax payment earlier than 30 days from the due date as agreed upon. L. Shackford feels confident that with taxes due on July 18th, we will have collected enough to pay early.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to pay VDOE the 2024 P01 tax payment of \$395,765.00 on July 24, 2024. The motion passed **2-0**.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none.

Selectman Arruda’s List – Arruda sees the numbers in the budget working fine noting at the 52.3% point of the year, 53.6% of the budget has been spent. Price added that close to \$30,000 is waiting to be reimbursed with funds from expendable trust funds. Arruda also spoke about:

- Revenues at the Transfer Station are in line with 2023 collections;
- Transfer Station patrons have been found to be using stickers from other cars and STR cleaning businesses are bringing trash by the truckload;
- Arruda spoke to an incident of a contractor sneaking masonry debris into the bulky waste which is not allowed due to the weight.

Selectman Price’s List – No items

Administrator’s List – No items

Department Heads’ Lists:

DPW Director Josh Shackford – The crew cleared out thirty-eight catch basins over the last week. Shackford also reported:

- Town properties have been mowed;

- A call out was handled on Sunday morning to remove a tree blocking Boat Ramp Road;
- Shoulder work on the new pavement will be done once the weather cools to prevent damage with the heavy machinery;
- Sand screening will take place in August with Price adding that the field sand won't be needed until fall.

DPW Dave Swift – The week of August 5-10 will have Mount Carberry conducting a “Waste Characterization Study” which entails inspection of loads. Arruda can see this as a good week to educate patrons at the Station. The new trash truck could be ready mid-July.

Lieutenant Jim Hayford – The boat is in the water and available to assist DPW with the raft installation adding a resident has been kind enough to allow it to be docked at their home. Hayford added:

- The radar trailer is out and being moved around town;
- The need to fill the vacant position when the Chief retires is being actively worked on with certified and non-certified officers being considered.

Rec Director Heather O'Donnell – Summer Camp is going well. The installation of a tent is still needed with an OHW tent available. Mike Brooks will be back soon and has offered his help. O'Donnell also mentioned:

- The water supply has had some issues that have been solved with it being decided that the wells will be tested;
- Camp is doing a field trip to Aqua Bogin on Friday;
- Consideration of the purchase of a tent next year was suggested by O'Donnell while it was noted that the school's gymnasium will be available next summer.

SIGNATURE ITEMS

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

WC Law Notice of Compliance Form WCP-1

Rec Program Volunteer Appointment – Megan Thomson

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to adjourn. The motion passed **2-0** at 5:38pm.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2024 commencing at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator