

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
July 23, 2024
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – John Arruda, Adam Price, Joy Gray

Others Present –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Lieutenant Jim Hayford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Code Officer Bob Boyd; Rec Director Heather O'Donnell; 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 4:34 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 the July 9, 2024 as written. The motion passed **2-0-1** with Gray abstaining because she did not attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Gray to approve the Manifest of July 22 – 29, 2024 in the amount of \$916,832.63. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$124,988.59 for accounts payable; \$40,557.31 for payroll; \$12,014.32 for payroll liabilities; \$395,765.00 for VDOE; \$18,507.41 for NHRS; and \$325,000 for Madison Schools. The motion passed **3-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nick Borelli spoke with former Selectman Bill Lord and received details of \$10,000 - \$11,000 in fines collected from the Verrochi junkyard suit supporting Borelli's case to go after STR fines. STRs are a business and it is not like you are going after poor people for the fines. Bill Lord did his job, please reconsider pursuing STR fines.

Nordell Gagnon of 133 Pondwood Drive said there are carloads of people at a neighboring STR that he has had to police himself. They are charging \$4,000 a week.

Tom Stevens, owner of 472 Plains Rd asked for an update of the request to petition the State to reduce the speed limit by his house as he was not copied nor given follow-up on the issue. No response on the issue has been received by the Town from the Department of Safety; we will follow up.

Gray noted that the police department has had the speed trailer set up near that location. Stevens said the prime offenders are large trucks. Stevens said no one pays attention to the 35 mph speed limit signs.

Price reiterated that we will follow up and send a request for more patrols from the Sheriff and State Police departments. Gray supported that approach.

DISCUSSION ITEM/NEW BUSINESS:

Paulette Lowry Regarding the Monument and Committees – Lowry asked for an update on the refacing of the veteran’s monument. Price explained that Arthur’s could not get it out of the ground so Brooks and the DPW were able to do it. Other vendors have been contacted to do the work. Lowry said it would be nice to get a little transparency to the public on the project.

Lowry asked about the Veterans Advisory Committee suggesting that it be combined with the Veterans Services Committee and then have sub-committees. Lowry also asked for clarification on the name of the committee citing it being listed in Town Reports that the Veterans Advisory Committee and the Veterans Monument Committee; it was determined that they are the same.

Gray asked the scope of the Veterans Advisory Committee. Brooks responded it was originally formed with Henry Forest to raise money for the monument. Now that it is complete the only task is to have names engraved which does not require a committee.

The members of the Veterans Advisory Committee were listed as Franklin Jones, Michael Brooks and Paulette Lowry with Brooks adding the committee has not met in years.

Price said the Veterans Support Committee can refer questions to Town Hall with Gray mirroring Price’s thought by commenting that the Veterans Support Committee’s charge is to field questions and make referrals.

The management of the monument will be handled by the Selectmen.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Price to dissolve the Veterans Advisory Committee. The motion passed **3-0**.

Chief Brooks Recognizing First Responders – Brooks recognized three first responders with Certificates of Appreciation from Action Ambulance. Firemen Ralph Chick IV and Garrett Furnbach, along with Sergeant Jake Martin were first on the scene to a serious medical emergency and were able to perform CPR and successfully bring the patient out of cardiac arrest. That patient is alive and deficit free because of their actions. All joined in a round of appreciative applause by request of Gray.

Phone System Upgrade – Shackford explained that the fourteen-year-old phone system has begun to fail citing several reboots necessary and having to call Northledge Technology to bring it back to working order last week. Two options were obtained for an upgrade. One being replacing just the switch, which is the “brain” of the system, for \$1,675 and the other option was to replace the entire system which included new phones and installation for an estimate of \$10,785.00.

Replacing the switch will bring the system back to being reliable with no need to replace any phones now was stated by Shackford. Gray and Shackford spoke earlier of the upgrade and suggest looking into a more basic phone as there could be features that we may not use on the \$285.00 phone. Shackford will reach out to Northledge for options.

Motion by Price, seconded by Gray to replace the switch on the phone system for \$1,675.00. The motion passed **3-0**.

OLD BUSINESS:

2021 Tax Deed Property List Review for Inspections – Brooks presented the most updated list of potential properties for deeding on August 20th. Brooks shared his previous experience with most of the properties but having two, Map 104 Lot 134 and Map 204 Lot 025 having no history of late payments.

The Board asked Bob Boyd to visit both of those properties to do an exterior inspection for any reason not to take the property for non-payment of taxes.

Selectman Gray's List – No items.

Selectman Arruda's List – The Drawdown at the 56.2% point of the year has had 56.1% spent. Arruda also noted that the Transfer Station receivables are in line at within 3% of last year.

Selectman Price's List – With Old Home Week coming soon Price asked Fidium to be contacted about moving their spools of wire and picking up behind the fire station. Price also mentioned having a heated remark for Fidium employee spinning their tires on Town Hall property; they did apologize. Shackford has a contact and will call about the clean-up and spools.

Administrator's List – No items.

Department Heads' Lists:

Lieutenant Hayford – The department has been busy and the officers have been keeping up with the call volume.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Brooks – The P01 2024 tax collection is line with previous years at 94%. Brooks also spoke about:

- There is word getting out that the Town is not getting FEMA money because of missed deadlines and that the information came from a Selectmen's meeting. Brooks stated that information is blatantly false. All submissions are up to date. There is still work to be performed that will be done within the timeframe. Since the beginning of the process Brooks has worked with three project managers and each time, they need to be brought up to speed on projects. The Town has already received \$263,000.
- No report has been received from Wilcox & Barton regarding the PFAS well contamination. Brooks will reach out tomorrow. Gray offered her assistance regarding funding.
- NH Monuments gave the impression that they will be up to take a look at the granite monument. If they can do the project, it would include a stone company in Vermont.

Rec Director Heather O'Donnell – Thank you to Mike and Adam for erecting the tent for the summer campers. O'Donnell also mentioned:

- Swim lessons for tomorrow have been cancelled due to weather but they will still use the bus and maybe go for a hike;
- Friday's field trip plan is to go to the ocean;
- Fall sports registration is open with soccer, field hockey and flag football on the list.

Code Officer Bob Boyd – The permit count is at 300 between mechanical and building with a steady flow coming. Boyd asked for permits to be submitted thirty days in advance of the project.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Yield Tax: 24-283-02-T Abenaki Cons. Associates \$516.60

Oath of Office: Elwin King, ABC Member

Audit Management Representation Letter

5:35 PM Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to enter **Non-Public Sessions under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a)** The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, 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.

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

6:10 PM Motion by Arruda, 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 two set of 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.
The motion passed **3-0**.

Roll Call Vote: Arruda – aye; Gray – aye; Price - aye

Motion by Gray, seconded by Price to adjourn at 6:10 pm. The motion passed **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2024 commencing at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator