

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
October 15, 2024
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – Adam Price, John Arruda; Joy Gray

Others Present –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Chief Jim Hayford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Administrative Assistant Kate Young; Librarian Sloane Jarell; 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 Gray to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Gray to approve and unseal the non-public minutes of the August 20, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Gray to approve the Manifest of September 30 – October 7, 2024 in the amount of \$435,732.73. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$71,489.01 for accounts payable; \$29,695.20 for payroll; \$9,548.52 for payroll liabilities; and \$325,000 for Madison Schools. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Gray to approve the Manifest of October 15 -25, 2024 in the amount of \$457,495.28. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$71,567.29 for accounts payable; \$30,590.41 for payroll; \$9,814.44 for payroll liabilities;\$20,523.14 for New Hampshire Retirement System and \$325,000 for Madison Schools. The motion passed **3-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michael Veilleux asked why the Town created a water retention area in the vicinity of Snake Road. Price was not familiar with such a project and would have to check with DPW. Donna Veilleux expanded on the discussion and was told it would be looked into.

Kathy Koziell, referencing the agreement made with the owner of 10 Barden Place, hoped the Town will take a stronger position on collecting fines.

Donna Veilleux asked for the first date the Town was notified about PFAS. Price did not know off the top of his head; he suggested the discussion be requested of Shackford as an agenda item.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

Request \$5,890.50 to the Trustees of Trust Funds from PEG TV ETF:

Motion by Price, seconded by Gray to request the withdrawal by the Trustees of Trust Funds from the PEG TV Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$5,890.50. This will reimburse the general fund for payments TelVue for the purpose of a 5-year support coverage plan. The motion passed **3-0**.

Request \$26,650.38 to the Trustees of Trust Funds from Groundwater Remediation ETF:

Motion by Price, seconded by Gray to request the withdrawal by the Trustees of Trust Funds from the Groundwater Remediation Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$26,650.38. This will reimburse the general fund for payments to Wilcox & Barton for Invoices #14613, #15111, #15241 and #15445 for the purpose of investigation and remediation of groundwater conditions. The motion passed **3-0**.

Request \$23,945.68 to the Trustees of Trust Funds from Ballfield ETF:

Motion by Price, seconded by Gray to request the withdrawal by the Trustees of Trust Funds from the Ballfield Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$23,945.68. This will reimburse the general fund for payments to Casella Organics, Village Green Lawncare, Burke Quarry and Ossipee Aggregates for the purpose of rehabilitating Burke Field. The motion passed **3-0**.

NH Office of Highway Safety Grant Agreement – Chief Hayford explained to the Board the application for the \$6,600.00 Highway Safety Grant noting it covers DWI, distracted driving and seatbelt violations. This is a grant that the department has been involved with for several years. These hours are in addition to his officers' regular schedules.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to accept and sign the Office of Highway Safety Grant Agreement #25-122 in the amount of \$6,600.00. The motion passed **3-0**.

Request for Appointment: Amy Power to Rec Committee: A request for appointment was received from Amy Power. The Board was not familiar with Power, but knowing the Committee is in need of members and that Power has attended Rec Committee meetings the Board appreciates her desire to serve.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Price to appoint Power as a member of the Rec Committee. The motion passes **3-0**. Shackford will have an Oath of Office made up for the next meeting.

Conway Branch Planning Group Meeting October 24th: It was decided that Shackford will attend the meeting to represent the Board. This will be the first meeting relative to NH RSA 137:1 that will formulate a plan for the best public use of the "Conway Branch" of the existing rail corridor.

Re-appointment of Chief Brooks as Fire Chief: The members of the Fire Department voted to re-appoint Chief Brooks. Six of the eleven members were in attendance for the vote and they all voted in the affirmative. Gray questioned Brooks about the status of the Madison Fire Rescue 501C3. Brooks answered as best he could, noting he is not and cannot, be involved with its business. Gray asked Brooks about how the 501C3's revenues from Christmas Trees sales and OHW chicken dinner are spent to which Brooks replied those are questions better answered by the Board of Directors. Price asked for any questions that pertain to the Chief. Gray asked how the \$44,000 for member stipends works which Brooks explained.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to re-appoint Michael Brooks as Fire Chief. The motion passed **3-0**.

FEMA Project #748123 – Brooks explained the he has been told that FEMA is offering two options for the request for funds for the repairs to Modoc Hill Road; one is the withdrawal of the application and the other is to leave in process and if denied, the decision can be appealed. Having had several changes in point personnel at FEMA, the original thought was that the project could be covered but the new representative thinks differently. Brooks explained the work that he has already put into the project.

Motion by Price, seconded by Gray to continue to pursue funds with regards to FEMA Project #748123 and continue to request reimbursement for the storm event of December 18, 2023. The motion passed **3-0**.

Intent to Cut: Fadden 238-001-001 Consider Scenic and Class VI Road – Arruda asked how this property will be accessed. Shackford stated it has not been determined if the access will be off Maple Grove Road or Ami Kennett Road. Concern for any damage to the newly paved Pound Road and Class VI Ami Kennett Road was discussed. It was decided that a bond of \$5,000, as suggested by Price and agreed upon by Arruda, will be required for the protection of Ami Kennett Road and pictures of Pound and Maple Grove Roads will be obtained by DPW.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to require a \$5,000 bond for the cut on Map 238 Lot 001-001 to protect Class VI Ami Kennett Road. The motion passed **3-0**.

Consider a Stipend for TTF Bookkeeper – Shackford mentioned that a request for consideration of a stipend for the Trustee of Trust Funds Bookkeeper will be on the draft warrant for their consideration. Statutorily this has to be decided upon by Town Meeting.

Health Insurance Rates 2025 – The rates for 2025 health and dental have been received. The health insurance premium rates increased 6.3% over 2024. Price sees information that would allow for a significant savings by switching to a higher co-pay and higher deductible plan. Shackford has asked a couple of co-workers their thoughts on the change. The feedback it is not an overwhelming difference and no negative reaction was received. Gray stated the ABC proposed an increase in the employee contribution. Shackford reiterated her opinion shared at the ABC meeting that perhaps that is a change for 2026 allowing time to process the change correctly and suggesting making one change at a time for the employees. Arruda was in favor of the plan and its minimal impact.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to move to HealthTrust Plan ABSOS25/50/3KDED in an effort to reduce the cost of employee healthcare benefits. The motion passed **3-0**. Shackford will reach out to our HealthTrust representative and ask for an updated agreement to be signed at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Follow up STR Question from 9/17 Meeting – The Board is of the understanding that the STR at 13 Lucerne Drive has been taken off the market which took away concerns of how to handle fines or fees if it sold.

Shackford asked Attorney Johnston's opinion about sending out letters to the three properties spoke of at the last meeting. Attorney Johnston's opinion was that he sees no advantage to sending them. The Board discussed the idea with Arruda seeing no harm in sending them. Gray leans towards Attorney Johnston's advice and Price stated he did not want to overwhelm the

ZBA or staff until an answer has been received from the court. Arruda ultimately agreed with Gray and Price, no letters will be sent at this time.

Selectman Gray's List – Gray asked how many houses are on Dr. Mudd Road because she understands there has been quite a bit of work performed to it recently. Shackford responded two homes are on the Class V portion; adding that it has been several years since any maintenance has been done to that road. Gray also asked:

- Was there a repair issue with the new zero turn mower? Shackford explained that it was probably the old John Deere mower that had belt issues;
- Was there a Waxoyl system purchased by DPW and what was the cost? Arruda explained it is more a treatment for undercoating of vehicles than a system. The answer to Gray's question of the cost was not readily available;
- Were there repairs performed to the code car? There was a rusted exhaust that was discovered during its annual inspection; and
- Gray stated the new grader has been received, to the chagrin of Arruda because now the perfection of North Division Road causes people to drive too fast.

Selectman Arruda's List – Arruda noted the budget is in line with 76.7% used at the 79.2% of the year point. The Transfer Station has been busy with \$60,689 collected year to date. Arruda mentioned some helpful Transfer Station recycling and operational tips, noting that recycling lowers the costs for all.

Selectman Price's List – No items.

Administrator's List – No items.

Department Heads' Lists:

Rec Director Heather O'Donnell – Sunday is the Pumpkin Carving, Patriot Game and Pancake Breakfast. The soccer team is undefeated and field hockey is going well.

Code Officer Boyd – There are still a lot of applications for building and mechanical permits being received along with several zoning complaints to be investigated.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Brooks – The absentee ballot requests to date have all be satisfied. Brooks also mentioned:

- Wilcox & Barton is sending letters out to test abutter wells with the testing date being October 28th with Town wells being done on the 29th that include the ballfield well;
- A mechanical issue with the tank truck pump has arisen with prices being obtained for repair and replacement.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Purchase Requisition: 2024-GGBL-003 A&E Air Conditioning \$5,400.00

2024-DPW-004 HP Fairfield \$9,000.00

Oath of Office – Tessa Llewellyn Part-time Patrol Officer

NH Office of Highway Safety Grant Agreement

6:05 PM Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to enter **Non-Public Sessions 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.

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

6:43 PM Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to return to public session and not seal the minutes of **Non-Public Sessions 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.

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

Motion by Gray, seconded by Price to adjourn at 6:43 pm. The motion passed **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2024 commencing at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator