

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
October 29, 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; Librarian Sloane Jarell; Videographer Kasia Scentsas; 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 October 15, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Gray to approve both sets of non-public minutes of the October 15, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Arruda to approve and unseal the non-public minutes of the September 15, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Gray to approve the Manifest of October 28-31, 2024 in the amount of \$395,941.73. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$30,529.58 for accounts payable; \$30,623.81 for payroll; \$9,788.24 for payroll liabilities; and \$325,000 for Madison Schools. The motion passed **3-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

Shawn Bergeron Silver Lake Dam – Bergeron present to the Board a quote from The HL Turner Group for dam engineering consulting services. Turner Group would assist the Town in reviewing bids and making recommendations to prepare for taking the project forward to the 2026 Town Meeting. The projected amount for those services would be approximately \$165,540.00 that would need to be raised and appropriated at the 2025 Town Meeting. Gray asked when this money would be spent and estimated urgency. Bergeron responded in 2025 with the estimated total project cost of one to two million and the expectation that the dam could survive as is for a few more years, but with no guarantees.

Bergeron explained a catastrophic failure would get beyond the East Shore Drive box culvert and empty out the wetlands without real harm; but the lake level could go down up to 8’.

Bergeron further explained that the project would require a coffer dam to be constructed for most of the summer with hopes that some level of access will still be afforded to the boat launch.

Arruda suggested that this \$165,000 part of the project be placed on the 2025 warrant with Gray and Price agreeing. It was noted the potential for a \$2,000,000 bond request in 2026.

Donna Veilleux PFAS Discussion – Veilleux asked several questions :

-When did the town realize they had a PFAS problem in the Municipal Complex?

Price responded the second quarter of 2021.

-Who was put in charge when the town realized they had a PFAS problem?

Price responded the Emergency Management Director was the point of contact with the Selectmen being responsible.

-Why did it take 4 requests from DES before the Town complied with their request for a risk assessment of municipal wells?

Price responded that he did not recall that it took four requests; all requests of DES were answered.

-Were the affected town employees told about the contamination in their drinking water? And if so, when and if not, why? How were they told?

Price responded that no official memo was sent out to employees, it was communicated by word of mouth. Bottled water has been made available to employees prior to being made aware of any PFAS contamination. Jarell stated she learned of the issue through word of mouth in March of 2023 and a cooler and bottled water were delivered a few months later.

-Did the town inform the residents and businesses within the 500 ft of the well about the contamination? If so, when ? and if not, why?

Price responded that as of yesterday and today Wilcox & Barton are testing wells within 500' of the well following the protocol set forth by NHDES.

-When will the results of the recent testing of the 13 residences and businesses be available to the citizens of the Town?

It is understanding that Wilcox & Barton expects results within 30 days.

-How are we preparing for such a costly event?

Price explained that Brooks is looking into grants but the test results are necessary before application can be made and requests for funding will be brought to Town Meeting.

Further discussion resulted in a summary of where the project is at. Brooks explained that Wilcox & Barton is in process of testing private wells within 500' and until these results are obtained the scope of the issue cannot be accurately seen.

Schilling and Mike Veilleux support keeping the public informed of this issue at public meetings.

Gray would like to see medical monitoring of employees because it isn't just what you are drinking, it is washing dishes and your hands – through contact. Gray suggested that the Town's health insurance company or the State would be able to pay for the testing.

2025 Avitar Associates Revaluation/Update Contract – This item will be placed on the November 12th agenda as it is still being reviewed by Town Counsel.

OLD BUSINESS:

Conway Branch Planning Group Report – Shackford gave a brief overview of the meeting on October 24th. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for November 21st where the hope is to discuss future courses of action. It may be the Town’s responsibility to find funding opportunities.

2025 Health Insurance Agreement – This item will be place on the November 12th agenda; the new contract has not been received.

Selectman Gray’s List – Gray had someone ask her to ask about the status of the cable contract to which Shackford responded she has not heard anything since the last update. Gray also mentioned:

- If there could be PFAS in the water that the Fire Department uses to fill swimming pools? Brooks responded that that water does not come from the Town’s well and it is pumped from a tank that has never held foam;
- Wilcox & Barton gave an estimate for well water remediation point-of-use (POU) system of \$5-7,000.00 each;
- Gray would like to know if the Town’s municipal complex well is considered a public water system by DES and if not, can we please be labeled as one. Gray would like an informative memo sent to employees regarding PFAS and letting them know they need to get tested if based upon the recommendation of NHDES;
- Gray would like to see the Wilcox & Barton report uploaded to the website;
- Based upon the upcoming needs that will impact the 2025 budget, PFAS remediation, a backhoe, chipper, grader etc., we should be certain we are budgeting correctly;
- Consideration of expanding PFAS testing to Forrest Brook should be made because of the water runoff from Town Property.

Selectman Arruda’s List – No items.

Selectman Price’s List – For Rec Director O’Donnell, Price mentioned Trunk or Treat coming up, basketball registration is still open and the PTO and Rec are working together on a cabin at Halloween Town.

Administrator’s List – Shackford asked the Board if they would consider a request from the ABC to revamp their drawdown to mirror the warrant articles. It was decided that the use of separate drawdowns would serve the purpose. Shackford also mentioned:

- The need for detail from Gray for the Rec Department income for proper posting in QuickBooks;
- It was discussed that Arruda and Price will be at elections all day on November 5th with Gray available most, if not all, of the day; and
- The Burke Field porta-potty is scheduled for pick-up on November 7th. Price confirmed that will be after the sports are finished and it should be fine.

Department Heads’ Lists:

Tax Collector/Town Clerk/Fire Chief Brooks – An update was given as to the latest FEMA projects. Brooks asked for the Board discuss the FEMA Modoc Hill Project. The emergency work that involved the steel plate purchase, due to an issue with timing they ask for the Board to consider withdrawing the that portion of the project. Based on the scope and timing of the plates purchase it does not line up with the work and therefore there is no way to present

reimbursement of those plates for it to be funded. The request for withdrawal of \$12,000 is only a portion of the whole project, the actual culvert repair of the road is still moving forward. The Board's discussion led to the feel that if removing this portion could help in the long run, it may behoove the Board to remove it.

Motion by Price, seconded by Gray to withdraw the Category B submission of the Modoc Hill Road culvert Project to FEMA. The motion passed **3-0**.

- Brooks answered a question of culvert installation on Colby Hill Road.
- Brooks explained he has just over 248 absentee ballot requests and explained the process.

Chief Hayford – During the Drug Take Back about 30lbs were collected with another 14lbs having been dropped in the lobby. The receptacle in the lobby is there all year round.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Oath of Office: Amy Power, Rec Committee

Tessa Llewellyn, Full-time Police Officer

6:20 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: Gray – aye; Arruda – aye; Price – aye

6:49 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 6:49 pm. The motion passed **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024 commencing at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator