

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
November 12, 2024
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – Adam Price, Joy Gray

Selectmen Excused – John Arruda

Others Present –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Chief Jim Hayford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/EMD/Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Librarian Sloane Jarell; Rec Director Heather O'Donnell; Videographer Amanda Hayford; 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 Price, seconded by Gray to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2024 meeting as amended. The motion passed **2-0**.

Motion by Gray, seconded by Price to approve both sets of non-public minutes of the October 29, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed **2-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:

Motion by Gray, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of November 12-24, 2024 in the amount of \$493,966.74. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$104,633.90 for accounts payable; \$33,650.38 for payroll; \$10,449.30 for payroll liabilities; \$20,233.97 for NHRS; and \$325,000 for Madison Schools. The motion passed **2-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donna Veilleux stated that Madison's tax rate is higher than Tamworth's.

Sharon Schilling thanked the Town for the improvements to the Veterans Monument, noting Mike Brooks' involvement and that it looks great.

Nicole Nordlund stated that the Governor has asked for flatlines to all state budgets hoping the Town will look carefully at theirs.

Doug Kennett of 2229 Village Road claims that he is not being allowed to reasonably use his property for storage because of the zoning officer. Kennett stated there are thirty other properties in Town, including a Town owned parcel and a parcel across the street from him that do not meet the standards he is being held to. Kennett was directed to ask his attorney to contact Town Counsel since there is already litigation in process. Nordlund stated it is lunacy to spend money on this during this economy.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS: There was none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Health Insurance 2025 Agreement – The updated agreement has not been received. This item will be place on the next agenda.

Avitar Associates Contract – The contract has not been finalized since being review by Town Counsel and sent to Avitar. This item will be placed on the next agenda.

Tax Rate Setting Review – The Board set the 2024 tax rate on November 5th and used \$550,000 of unassigned fund balance to offset it. The rate for 2024 is \$15.77 which is \$1.22 lower than last year overall, with the breakdown as follows:

Town	\$3.79
County	\$1.28
School	\$8.73
State Ed	<u>\$1.97</u>
	\$15.77
Eidelweiss	\$5.63

Selectman Gray’s List:

Gray asked Chief Brooks if he received an answer from DES about whether the town well should or shouldn’t be a public water supply. Brooks responded that the person who would answer that was on vacation, and he would expect to hear back this week.

Gray asked Brooks about DES recommendations for medical testing of employees. Brooks responded that it is not recommended because there are too many variables; there is more PFAS in the makeup on your face than you are exposed to in the water. Gray indicated that consumption of contaminated water, especially over years, was more direct contact than eye shadow. Price said there’s no traceability back to town hall because it could have come from anywhere, it’s all over the state. Gray noted that she looked at numbers across the state, and Madison’s numbers are high in comparison. Gray asked if the town health insurance would cover testing. Shackford was not sure. Gray indicated medical testing of employees is still an important need.

Gray asked about an informational memo to employees. One had not yet been drafted. Gray offered to compile information.

Sharon Schilling asked if the town had a Public Health Officer. Bob Boyd was identified. After discussion, Gray proposed that the Wilcox & Barton PFAS Focused Site Investigation report be relocated on the Town’s website to make it easier to find, suggesting it be under a Health Officer heading. It was noted that Boyd has been cc:ed on correspondence, but this was not putting any responsibility on Boyd.

Sloane Jarrell asked if water filtration systems are the next step for the properties that have tested above recommendations. Price said the first step is bottled water until water filtration systems can be installed. Jarell asked if we were putting a system in at the library. Price said it will be placed in an area before it feeds any other building.

Gray asked if we had numbers of well results. Price and Shackford indicated the numbers were upstairs.

Gray asked if we had tested all the wells, including residents that Wilcox & Barton weren't able to get a hold of. Brooks indicated he had not received any update on that. Draft CIPs have been created that show ten and twenty-year outlooks. These will be distributed to the Advisory Budget Committee, the Planning Board and the Selectmen.

Donna Veilleux asked if a decision had been made about testing employees for PFAS levels, and asked for confirmation that the state does not recommend testing. Brooks said you're not going to be able to prove where the PFAS came from. Shackford said health insurance only covers a small number of the 40 employees. Gray noted that DES may cover testing. Brooks noted it may be covered by the PFAS revolving fund grant that we've applied for, but he had not seen the follow-on paperwork. Linda will reach out to Primex and the employees' health insurance carrier to see about coverage of PFAS blood testing.

Selectman Price's List – No items.

Administrator's List – No items.

Department Heads' Lists:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/EMD/Fire Chief Brooks – The final proof for the tax bills has been approved and they should be in the mail by the end of the week with the information already uploaded to the tax kiosk.

Librarian Jarell – The new generator is going to be installed at the library on Thursday.

Chief Hayford – Officer Llewelyn is out on the road performing field training.

Rec Director O'Donnell – Basketball registration is open with boy's being full and some space left for girls to join. O'Donnell also mentioned:

- O'Donnell will be attending the county rec committee meeting tomorrow;
- The soccer team went undefeated at 9-0-1; the soccer nets can be put away for the season.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Intent to Cut: Baker 219-002 and 219-011

Request for Payment: Adam Price \$139.68 Rec Rev Fund

Motion by Gray, seconded by Price to adjourn at 5:19 pm. The motion passed **2-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2024 commencing at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator