

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
FEBRUARY 10, 2015
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present - Josh Shackford and Michael Brooks. **Absent** - Chairman John Arruda.

Others Present – Town Administrator Melissa Arias; Deputy Town Administrator Sue Stacey; Moderator George Epstein; and Madison TV videographer Tim Hughes.

Where and When Posted - Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 7, 2015.

Meeting Called to Order – By the Acting Chairman Shackford at 5:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Brooks made a **motion** to approve the Selectmen’s Meeting minutes of January 27, 2015 and February 3, 2015 as prepared, seconded by Shackford, and so voted **2-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS – Brooks made a **motion** to approve the Manifest of February 9 - 13, 2015 in the amount of \$180,122.23, seconded by Shackford, and so voted **2-0**. The Manifest breakdown is as follows: \$71,011.67 for accounts payable; \$26,047.18 for payroll; \$75,000.00 for the Madison School District (release date 2/12/15); and \$8,063.38 for payroll liabilities.

THERE WERE NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

TOWN MEETING PREPARATIONS WITH MODERATOR – Moderator George Epstein was in to talk with the Selectmen about preparations for the March 14th Town Meeting day. Epstein said he will be looking to the Selectmen to place warrant articles on the floor except for those that were petitioned. Epstein went through the warrant and discussed the following articles with the Selectmen.

Article 6 – Fire Truck purchase: Epstein said the ballot vote will stay open for one hour. The group talked about requirements of a bond vote. Since this article bonds \$99,999 there is no need for a Public Hearing because the threshold for one is \$100,000. Brooks told Epstein that Fire Pumper Replacement Committee Chairman Bill Lord will have a presentation to make prior to Article 6. Brooks said the Selectmen will defer their speaking time to Lord so he can get through the entire presentation. Epstein said he will use his Moderator’s discretion on this. Epstein also suggested having hard copies of the presentation available since it’s not always easy to see the overhead projector screen.

Article 13 – Madison TV Expendable Trust: Epstein was surprised the Department of Revenue Administration allowed the term “up to” for this article. Stacey said it’s likely because there may not be the full amount of \$3,281 remaining from Madison TV’s 2014 operating budget to transfer. Epstein would prefer to see the article placing on the floor at Town Meeting with a sum certain.

Articles 14 & 15 – Lead Mine Road: Epstein said he is familiar with the legal settlement that is driving these article. Epstein wanted to ensure he is correct in that both articles have to be placed on the warrant and recommended by the Selectmen in 2015; and if neither article passes in 2015 both articles have to be proposed again in 2016. Brooks said that is correct. Epstein asked if the Selectmen will be speaking in favor of one article over the other this year, either as a Board or individually. Shackford said he’s willing to explain his individual reasoning for choosing to settle this case. Epstein said he anticipates questions from the public during Article 7 (the operating budget) and again during these two articles as to why Town

Counsel recommended a settlement after 4-5 years of defending this case. Shackford said he told Town Counsel she would need to explain the settlement rational to the voters at Town Meeting. Shackford said the Board was told that taking the case to trial would cost around \$30,000 and an appeal would be at least that amount or more. Brooks said he doesn't plan on speaking on these articles at Town Meeting because he is on record as opposed to the settlement. Brooks pointed out that the voters cut the increase in the legal line of the operating budget article on the floor of Town Meeting last year which would have made trying the case difficult financially.

Article 16 – Easement to Rockhouse Mountain Property Owners Association: Brooks said he intends to sponsor a representative from Rockhouse Mountain Property Owner's Association at Town Meeting so they can explain the need for the waterline easement under Class VI Modoc Hill Road.

Articles 17 & 18 – Discontinuing 2 Capital Reserve Funds: Epstein asked for the approximate amounts in these articles. Brooks said the Backhoe Expendable Trust (Article 17) contains about \$5 and the Road Construction Capital Reserve Fund (Article 18) contains about \$500.

Articles 20 - 27 – Charity Petitioned Articles: Epstein asked Stacey to have three sets of charity totals ready for voters to consider voting as a group. Articles 21-26 were recommended by the Selectmen and Advisory Budget Committee where Article 20 (Carroll County Transit Blue Loon) and Article 27 (Madison Preschool) were not recommended by the majority of the Selectmen and Advisory Budget Committee.

Epstein asked whether any Madison organization has offered to serve food on Town Meeting day. Brooks said he will contact the Madison Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to see if they are interested. Epstein hasn't heard from the Library which sold food last year. Epstein predicted Town Meeting will end around noon, or 1 pm at the latest.

SELECTMEN'S DEED FOR TAX DEEDED PROPERTY – The Selectmen reviewed the language of the Selectmen's Deed for tax deeded property (map 117, lot 036) on Winter Road which failed to close after the July 2014 Public Auction and was later put out for sealed bid to the auction attendees. The successful bidder was Philip Reilly for \$20,025.

Motion: Shackford made a **motion** to sign the Selectmen's Deed for tax map 117, lot 036, seconded by Brooks, and so voted **2-0**.

Decision: Arias will witness and notarize the Selectmen's signatures before mailing the original to Town Counsel for processing.

STATISTICAL ASSESSING UPDATE CONTRACT REVIEW – In Arruda's absence, the Selectmen decided to place this topic on the next agenda when a full board is present. Brooks noticed the contract states that Cross Country Appraisal Group (CCAG) will be setting the utility and telecommunication values instead of Madison using the values set by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA). Arias said Madison has been using CCAG's utility values since the 2010 revaluation so Brooks was fine with continuing even though PSNH & FairPoint are appealing the values put in place. Arias wanted the Selectmen to be aware that CCAG only employs one individual certified by the DRA to set property values. That person's certification expired December 31, 2014 but was extended for 6 months on December 30, 2014 at the person's request. Arias said they likely need more training hours or credits to be recertified. Arias said Madison might be in a bind if they don't become recertified prior to the extension deadline.

ASPEN DRIVE HAZARDOUS PROPERTY CLEANUP DEADLINE – Attorney Diane Gorrow has informed the Selectmen that the Court ordered cleanup date for the hazardous property on Aspen Drive has passed. The Selectmen said the Town will have to hire a contractor to clean up the site once spring comes and have a lien placed against the property for the cleanup cost. Arias was asked to put this topic on the agenda in early April.

ALBANY/MADISON PERAMBULATION – The Town of Albany has received a quote from Surveyor Paul King to perambulate the Albany/Madison town line in 2015. The total cost is \$1,200 which will be divided equally between the two towns. The Selectmen will sign a Purchase Requisition for \$600 under Signature Items. Arias said the law requires town lines to be perambulated every 7 years. Madison is current with Tamworth and Conway but way overdue with Eaton and Freedom. The Selectmen were in favor of asking Paul King for a price to perambulate the lines for Eaton/Madison & Freedom/Madison. Brooks pointed out that the older municipality is supposed to approach the younger municipality to coordinate the perambulation. Even though Madison is the junior town to both Eaton and Freedom the Selectmen asked Arias to contact Paul King for an estimate and e-mail the Town Administrator's for Eaton and Freedom about sharing the cost.

SIGNATURE ITEMS –

Manifest

Selectmen's Deed (117-036)

CD-57-S Real Estate Transfer Tax Declaration of Consideration Real Estate Seller form (Arias to sign)

2015 Warrant

2015 DRA Budget form (MS-636)

Purchase Requisition #2015-GGBL-001 – Paul King Surveyor (\$600) perambulate Albany/Madison line

6:06 PM – Shackford made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Brooks, and so voted **2-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. The Fire Commissioners are also meeting as part of that agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary