

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
FEBRUARY 7, 2013  
MINUTES**

**Selectmen Present:** Chairman Michael Brooks, Josh Shackford, and John Arruda.

**Others Present:** Town Administrator Melissa Arias; Deputy Town Administrator Sue Stacey; Trustees of the Trust Funds Pam Wells & Lynne Gilman; Fire Commissioners Richard Wells & Alan Gilman; Deputy Fire Chief Richard Clark; Firefighter David Cribbie; Budget Committee member Hersh Sosnoff and Cheryl Littlefield (arriving late); Madison TV Videographer Emilie Riss.

**Where and When Posted:** Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on February 6, 2013 before 4 pm.

**Meeting Called to Order:** By the Chairman at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was called to discuss the current state of the 2013 tentative warrant and a couple individual warrant articles.

**WARRANT ARTICLE #2: FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE** – Arruda said the Selectmen originally voted on 2/5/13 to remove Article 2 from the Warrant but later changed the vote and tabled the matter to this meeting. Arruda said he talked at length with Clark this morning at Town Hall and received some pertinent information. Arruda wishes the Selectmen had been included in the fire truck process from the start. Arruda said it's too big of an issue to not present to the voters at Town Meeting. Arruda said the Article has to pass with a 2/3 majority vote required. Brooks asked Clark whether the Fire Department would be willing to have the Board of Selectmen contact NH DOT for a thorough safety inspection of the fire truck. Clark said he has no issue with it. The group talked about what could happen if the inspection doesn't go well and the truck has to be taken off the road until repaired. Shackford said if that's the case, fire personnel shouldn't be using the vehicle anyway until the deficiencies are corrected. Brooks said deficiencies with the truck would likely constitute an emergency situation where a special meeting would be scheduled and the Department of Revenue Administration would be asked to consider freeing up the funds in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund account for this purpose. Shackford will reach out to Sgt. Nate Boothby of DOT tomorrow to request an inspection of Engine 1. Brooks would like to be there during the inspection to hear what is said. Shackford will coordinate the inspection through Clark and have Arias inform the other Selectmen of the date and time. Wells asked what would happen to homeowner insurance ratings if the Town's front-line attack pumper is taken out of service. Shackford said he didn't know the answer to that question but it would only be for a short period of time. Clark said it can cost up to \$6,000 per month to rent a front-line fire truck to put in our station in place of Engine 1. Arruda is inclined to recommend the Article 2 based on the information he obtained today but will change his recommendation at Town Meeting after the DOT inspection results are rendered. The Board voted to recommend Article 2 by vote of 2-0-1 with Brooks abstaining from the vote as a member of the Fire Department. Brooks asked Stacey to add "Class A Attack Pumper" to Article 2 after the word new.

**WARRANT ARTICLE #3: REPAIRS TO 4 ENGINE 1** – The Selectmen said the intent for Article 3 was to only go forward at Town Meeting if Article 2 failed. However, the Selectmen decided to change Article 3 from a Capital Reserve Fund to being raised through general taxation for the repair or replacement of the pumper. The Selectmen said the amount could be amended upward on the floor of Town Meeting based on the DOT inspection. The Selectmen said another meeting like this one tonight

will be in order after the DOT inspection so everyone goes to Town Meeting with the facts. The Selectmen voted to recommend Article 3 by a vote of 2-0-1 with Brooks abstaining as a member of the Fire Department.

**2013 OPERATING BUDGET** – Brooks said he hasn’t had an opportunity to review the operating budget since Tuesday night’s meeting so he isn’t prepared to propose or consider any changes at this time. Brooks would feel more comfortable having the budget printed and presented the way it is with changes proposed by the Selectmen on the floor at Town Meeting.

**WARRANT ARTICLE ORDER & RECOMMENDATIONS** – The Selectmen were asked at the Public Budget Hearing to move the petitioned article on Lead Mine Road higher up on the Warrant to ensure as many people are present during the discussion and vote. Arruda would be willing to move the petitioned article up before the other petitioned articles into the Article 12 slot. Shackford agreed with Arruda. Brooks conceded after requesting it be before the operating budget since there is a cost factor should the article pass.

The Selectmen voted earlier in the meeting to recommend Articles 2 & 3. All other recommendations were voted by the Selectmen and Budget Committee on 2/5/13. A complete list of warrant articles and recommendations has been inserted below.

| WA # | Warrant Article/Item                            | Dept.    | \$\$            | Selectmen Recommendation<br>aye-nay-abstain | Budget Comm. Recommendation<br>aye-nay-abstain |
|------|---|----------|-----------------|---|--|
| 2    | Fire Truck 10-yr lease/purchase<br>Dissolve CRF | Fire     | \$ -            | 2-0-1                                       | 0-3-4  |
| 3    | Fire Truck Repair                               | BOS      | \$ 50,000.00    | 2-0-1                                       | 3-1-3  |
| 4    | Operating Budget                                | BOS      | \$ 2,283,598.00 | 1-2-0                                       | 2-5-0  |
| 5    | E. Madison Rd NL<br>Engineering & Reconstruct   | Hwy      | \$ 100,000.00   | 3-0-0                                       | 7-0-0  |
| 6    | Hwy Heavy Truck 4-yr lease                      | Hwy      | \$ 49,500.00    | 3-0-0                                       | 3-4-0  |
| 7    | Assessing Expendable Trust <b>CRF</b>           | BOS      | \$ 30,000.00    | 3-0-0                                       | 7-0-0  |
| 8    | Police SUV Cruiser 3 or 4-yr lease              | Police   | \$ 19,800.00    | 3-0-0                                       | 7-0-0  |
| 9    | Hwy Heavy Equip<br>Expendable Trust <b>CRF</b>  | Hwy      | \$ 10,000.00    | 2-1-0                                       | 4-2-1  |
| 10   | Conway Channel 3                                | BOS      | \$ 5,000.00     | 1-2-0                                       | 1-4-2  |
| 11   | PEG TV Equipment                                | BOS      | \$ 5,000.00     | 1-2-0                                       | 1-3-3  |
| 12   | Carroll County Transit                          | Petition | \$ 3,000.00     | 0-3-0                                       | 2-4-1  |
| 13   | White Mtn. Comm. Health                         | Petition | \$ 6,511.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 4-3-0  |
| 14   | Gibson Center Meals on Wheels                   | Petition | \$ 3,500.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 5-2-0  |
| 15   | TriCAP - fuel assistance                        | Petition | \$ 5,000.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 4-3-0  |
| 16   | Ossipee Children’s Fund                         | Petition | \$ 4,500.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 4-3-0  |
| 17   | Children Unlimited<br>early support & services  | Petition | \$ 2,800.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 4-3-0  |
| 18   | Starting Point domestic violence                | Petition | \$ 1,751.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 4-3-0  |
| 19   | Northern Human Services<br>Mental Health        | Petition | \$ 2,149.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 4-3-0  |
| 20   | American Red Cross                              | Petition | \$ 1,120.00     | 3-0-0                                       | 5-2-0  |

|    |  |          |                        |                   |                   |
|----|--|----------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 21 | Dissolve Library Equipment Expendable Trust <b>CRF</b>                 | Library  | \$ -                   | Non-money article | Non-money article |
| 22 | Hwy/Transfer Station Backhoe <b>CRF</b> from surplus                   | BOS      | \$ -                   | 2-1-0             | 3-3-1             |
| 23 | Remove Hwy to Summer Cottages Designation on a portion of Lead Mine Rd | Petition | \$ -                   | Non-money article | Non-money article |
|    | <b>Total Warrant</b>   |          | <b>\$ 2,583,229.00</b> |                   |                   |
| 24 | <i>Any other business</i>  |          |                        |                   |                   |

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Shackford brought up the organization of the Fire Department and said there has been a lot of negative talk about the Fire Commission lately. Shackford had heard rumor that a petitioned warrant article was coming in to abolish the Fire Commission but that never happened. Shackford said the Selectmen have been unable to locate the exact year and Town Meeting vote for the establishment of the Madison Fire Commission. Shackford said RSA 154:1,I(a) deals with the manner in which Fire Departments can be organized. Shackford said his recommendation is by no means a personal attack on the existing Commissioners. However, based on the fact that Madison doesn't have any separate fire wards or districts, and given what we're going through with this new fire truck proposal process, Shackford sees it being more efficient to dissolve the Fire Commission and run everything through the Board of Selectmen. Shackford likened this to how municipal highway and police departments are typically organized with the Chief and Road Agent managing the department with issues and capital purchases being filtered through the Board of Selectmen. Arruda said Stacey found documentation from 1935 when the first Fire Commissioner's report was printed in the Town Report but there was no Fire Commissioner's report printed for the several years. Shackford outlined the other types of Fire Department organizations allowed under the State Law, including the election of the Fire Chief by the legislative body, the appointment of the Fire Chief by the governing body, and Fire Commissioners (firewards).

**Motion:** Shackford made a **motion** to present an Article at Town Meeting to do away with the Fire Commission and reorganize the Fire Department under RSA 154:1,I(a) with the Fire Chief appointed by the Board of Selectmen and the firefighters appointed by the Fire Chief, seconded by Arruda, and so voted **2-0-1**, with Brooks abstaining as a member of the Fire Department. Brooks plans to inquire with Town Counsel about a potential conflict of interest with him being a Selectman and a member of the Fire Department. Clark said it appears as though the people approaching Shackford are looking for better transparency in the management of the Fire Department. Shackford agreed. Clark warned that electing the Fire Chief can be a risky way to organize a department, same with the internal election of Chief Officers and members of the Fire Department which is how Madison Fire was once organized.

**Decision:** Another article will be added to the Warrant.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Pam Wells asked about the Warrant Article to dissolve the Library Equipment Expendable Trust. Brooks said the remaining funds will be deposited into the Town's General Fund and the Library Trustees will build money into their annual operating budget for this purpose.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – There were no Minutes to approve at this meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MANIFEST** – There was no Manifest to approve at this meeting.

**SIGNATURE ITEMS** – There were no Signature Items at this meeting.

**SIGNING OF TENTATIVE WARRANT** – Brooks made a **motion** to sign the final warrant out of session once prepared, seconded by Arruda, and so voted **3-0**.

**6:30 PM** – Shackford made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Arruda, and so voted **3-0**.

**NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING** – The next Selectmen’s meeting will be February 19, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. The Selectmen and Town Counsel will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 in the Town Hall Meeting Room to hear a Petition to Layout and/or alter a Class V Highway by removing “Highway to Summer Cottages” designation and otherwise keeping open, maintaining, and repairing Lead Mine Road throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias, Town Administrator  
Recording Secretary