

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
FEBRUARY 26, 2013  
MINUTES**

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

**Others Present:** Town Administrator Melissa Arias; Deputy Fire Chief Richard Clark and Firefighter David Cribbie; residents Mike & Donna Veilleux and Bob King; Madison TV Videographer Noreen Downs.

**Where and When Posted:** Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on February 21, 2013.

**Meeting Called to Order:** By the Chairman at 5:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Shackford made a **motion** to approve the Selectmen’s Meeting minutes of February 19, 2013 as prepared, seconded by Arruda and so voted **3-0**.

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

**TOWN MEETING PREPARATION WITH MODERATOR** – Moderator George Epstein was in to talk with the Selectmen about Town Meeting preparation since he can’t attend next Tuesday’s regular meeting of the Board. Epstein apologized for his scheduling conflict. Epstein asked whether the Selectmen will look to change the order of any warrant articles in comparison to the final Warrant dated 2/12/13. Although the Selectmen have received a request to move the Lead Mine Road petitioned article to the front of the meeting Brooks said the warrant has gone to print and will stay so ordered as far as the Selectmen are concerned. Brooks said a group could still request to move the article up on the floor at Town Meeting. Epstein asked whether having the operating budget high in the warrant order could cause a funding issue if one or more of the articles following it are defeated. The Selectmen said there won’t be a need to alter the operating budget amount should any of the subsequent articles fail. Arruda said Articles 2 and 3 are contingent upon one another in that Article 3 will be passed over if Article 2 passes. If Article 2 fails Arruda said Article 3 will be considered. Brooks said Article 2 must pass by a 2/3 ballot vote so there will need to be some lag-time between the two articles. Epstein asked about the two Madison PEG TV articles. Brooks said he will do his best to explain these articles on the floor at Town Meeting. Epstein said he’s heard that Conway Selectman Mike DeGregorio may be at Town Meeting willing to give input. Epstein said he has been fairly lenient in the past about out-of-town people being able to speak at Town Meeting but asked the Selectmen what their thought was on this. Brooks said the Madison Board of Selectmen should be capable of getting the information across without the need for Conway to speak. Brooks said having Conway speak at Town Meeting could give the perception of Madison being threatened by Conway where PEG TV and Time Warner shared Channel 3 is concerned.

Epstein said he’s unable to moderate next week’s Candidates Night and will ask Ray O’Brien to substitute since he’s acted in the capacity before. Epstein will confirm the arrangement with Arias.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Michael Veilleux wanted to comment on the February 12, 2013 Public Hearing minutes. Veilleux said he had a dialog with the Town Administrator requesting the Madison

PEG TV video be attached to the minutes as part of the official record due to discrepancies with the content of the minutes. Veilleux said he now understands there is a Town Policy prohibiting Madison TV recordings from being attached to meeting minutes. Although Veilleux understands the Policy he still contests the minutes and asked to reserve the ability to bring up the disparities at a later date. **END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**LAYOUT PETITION DECISION FORMAT** – Brooks read into the record the re-formatted ‘Decision on Petition for Laying Out/Altering Lead Mine Road, Town of Madison, New Hampshire’. The re-formatted document was the result of advice from Town Counsel received after the 2/19/13 Board deliberation that dictated language into the minutes. Brooks said the biggest change from Town Counsel was to change the title of the document for a *Return of Highway Petition, Town of Madison, NH* to a *Decision on Petition for Laying Out/Altering Lead Mine Road, Madison, NH*. Town Counsel said a “return” would only be issued had the layout been granted.

**Motion:** Shackford made a **motion** to approve the re-formatted decision as printed, seconded by Arruda, and so voted **3-0**.

**Decision:** Brooks changed the date on the document from 2/19/13 to 2/26/13 and handed the document down for the Board to sign with the original being filed with the Town Clerk’s Office.

**2013 OPERATING BUDGET** – The Selectmen reviewed the proposed 2013 operating budget line by line in an attempt to put Warrant Article 4 on the floor at Town Meeting in an amount less than the \$2,283,598 originally proposed. As discussed at previous Selectmen and Budget Committee meetings, two of the three Selectmen were uncomfortable with the 4.1% increase over 2012 approved.

**General Government Buildings** - Brooks said the Board needs to discuss two recent estimates and whether to increase the general government building budget line to accommodate the two projects. Brooks said the Road Agent got an estimate of \$2,750 to have 6 ceiling fans installed in the Madison Garage to circulate heat back down toward the floor in the hopes of using less heating oil. Arruda wondered if the fan direction can be reversed seasonally like residential fans can. Arruda said the \$23,040 price to re-ply the Town Hall roof needs to be considered. Arruda said the Selectmen have attempted to get proposals to either paint or replace the Town Hall roof but had no takers because of the height of the building. The Selectmen decided to add both these project to the GGB operating budget but asked that they be listed individually, and not lumped together under maintenance, so one or both could be backed out of the GGB budget on the floor at Town Meeting if the voters don’t want to support the project(s). The two projects add \$25,790 to the 2013 general government buildings budget line.

**Street Lighting** - Brooks said Arias talked with a representative from PSNH about the anticipated reduction in 2013 street lighting costs once the Smart Start Program payback is fulfilled. Based upon the information from PSNH the Selectmen will cut the 2013 street lighting budget line by \$6,000.

**Conservation Commission** – Arruda proposed cutting the administration line by \$200 which is still \$100 more than approved in 2012 yet accounts for the \$50 over-expended last year. The Commission proposed a \$300 increase for additional administrative hours in 2013. Arruda also proposed cutting the new \$250 Old Home Week line which reduces the 2013 conservation budget line by \$450.

**Executive** – Arruda asked Arias whether \$500 could be cut from the office supplies line and \$1,000 cut from the postage line for 2013. Arias and Stacey previously looked Arruda’s recommendation over and were fine with making the deductions. These changes lower the 2013 executive budget line by \$1,500.

**General Government Equipment** – Arruda suggested cutting \$500 from the equipment maintenance line and \$500 from the technology services line. Arias said these cuts may or may not pay off depending upon the extent of equipment failure or IT services needed in 2013. The Selectmen will reduce the 2013 general government equipment budget line by \$1,000.

**Highway Department** – Between cuts by Brooks and Arruda the highway department budget line was reduced by \$17,500 in the following lines: contracted services = -\$1,000; culverts = -\$1,000; gravel = -\$1,000; part-time seasonal labor = -\$7,500; road maintenance = -\$5,000; sand = -\$1,000; supplies = -\$1,000.

**Library** – Arruda proposed a \$1,660 cut to the Library budget line to remove the proposed pay increases because no other employees are receiving increases in 2013 except for one Police Officer under contract.

**Parks and Recreation** – Since the Madison School District has agreed to take on the youth sports and summer program portion of the former Recreation Department, the Selectmen were able to cut this budget line by \$31,780. The school has included their 50% share of the original 2013 parks and recreation budget within their 2013-2014 Budget so the likelihood of it not being funded is slim to none. Ultimately the overall cost to the taxpayers won’t decrease but Arias and Stacey prepared a worksheet to show which lines of the proposed budget will be paid by the town and which would be paid by the school.

**Planning Board** – Based upon the difference between what was proposed in 2012 and 2013 for the secretary line and what was actually expended in 2012 Arruda suggested reducing the Planning Board secretary line by \$1,000.

**Solid Waste Disposal** – Arruda felt comfortable cutting the contract line by \$1,000. Brooks suggested cutting the supplies line by \$200 for a total reduction of \$1,200 to the solid waste budget line.

**Fire Department** – The Board discussed how to approach the proposed 12.3% increase in the fire department budget. Brooks asked to have the new ‘officer stipend’ line renamed to ‘chief officer stipends’ so it appears alphabetically under the chief stipend line. The Selectmen decided to keep the \$1,525 new contracted services line and adjust the following lines downward from the proposed amounts: general maintenance = -\$100; heat = -\$260; new equipment = -\$177; phone = +\$100; reimbursement = -\$10,000; vehicle maintenance = -\$2,000. This will reduce the bottom line of the fire department budget by \$12,437 and bring the increase to 2.6%.

The overall changes reduce the 2013 proposed operating budget from \$2,283,598 (a 4.1% increase) to \$2,234,861 (a 1.8% increase). Stacey will be asked to change the budget sheets and issue each Selectman a fresh new packet so there’s no chance of having incorrect information in their budget books.

**FIRE TRUCK ARTICLES** - Richard Clark asked to talk about the previous comment to the Moderator that Article 3 would be passed over if Article 2 passes. Clark said if Article 2 does pass it will still take 9 – 12 months until the new fire truck is delivered. Clark asked the Selectmen to not pass over Article 3 because Engine 1 may need repairs during the interim. Clark said he found a used 1997 custom chassis

fire truck in Rhode Island that is the Town could buy for \$32,000. Clark has looked the used truck over and found it to be in much better shape than Engine 1. Clark estimates it costing \$20,000 to retrofit components from Engine 1 onto the used custom engine and having it re-lettered. Clark said he's talked with two different brokers about what Engine 1 would be worth and the estimate is between \$20,000 and \$22,000. Clark said Engine 1 has major transmission/engine and electrical/wiring problems that have yet to be addressed. Clark said the used Rhode Island truck would likely last Madison 5-10 years. Arruda asked Clark how the Chief feels about buying a used fire truck. Clark said he can't speak for the Chief but Arruda should be able to ask him directly on Saturday when the Chief returns home from Florida.

**SIGNATURE ITEMS** – There were no Signature Items at this meeting other than the Lead Mine Road Layout Petition Decision.

**7:17 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 March 5, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias, Town Administrator  
Recording Secretary