

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
JANUARY 29, 2013
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Town Administrator Melissa Arias; Fire Commissioners Richard Wells & Joyce Elliott; Deputy Fire Chief Richard Clark; Fire Department members David Cribbie, Jeff Eldridge & Sean Dunker-Bendigo; residents Jesse Shackford III, Greg Hill & Fred Ham; Budget Committee Members Dave Chase, Jim Lyons, Hersh Sosnoff, Suki Norris, Ray O'Brien & Ron Force; Library Trustee Peter Stevens; Madison TV Videographer Noreen Downs.

Where and When Posted: Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 17, 2013.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – There were no minutes to approve at this special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST – There was no manifest to approve at this special meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – FIRE ENGINE WARRANT ARTICLE & FUNDING – Public Hearing notice was posted in the Madison and Silver Lake Post Offices and the upper and lower Town Hall bulletin boards on January 17, 2013. The notice was also run in the Conway Daily Sun on January 19 & 26, 2013. The Chairman said the purpose of this public hearing is to discuss and get public input on the proposed purchase of a fire truck to replace Engine 1 at a cost of \$449,256. The proposed 2013 warrant article is written as a long-term bond with the down payment coming from an existing Capital Reserve Fund. The 2013 warrant article will bind future Town Meetings for up to 10 years if approved. Brooks said the fire truck purchase won't be through the usual municipal lease/purchase agreement that contains an escape clause for lack of funding. Based on the cost and the bond situation the article must pass Town Meeting with a 2/3 majority vote. The Chairman opened the Public Comments portion of the Public Hearing. Jesse Shackford asked what the Fire Department's contingency plan will be if the warrant article doesn't pass. Clark said the Fire Officers will have to go back to the table and come up with a plan to try and repair the existing truck. Clark continued by saying there are other mechanical issues with the truck on top of the rusted and separated frame, including corrosion, electrical wiring, injectors, jamming gears, brakes and exhaust (which have already been fixed), and inadequate cabinet space based upon the amount of equipment required today. Josh Shackford asked more about the inspection report that advised the truck wouldn't pass another State Inspection process. Clark said the issues are beyond just the chassis; the truck is 20 years old and current standards on the age of a front-line piece of apparatus are no more than 25 years. Clark said the tank is in good shape and the pump is working properly. There are other aspects of the truck that are still operational but the time has come to compare repair of an old vehicle versus replacement. Clark said it's a shame to put personnel at risk by having them driving and working with the existing truck. Josh Shackford said he's heard a lot of questions from the public about the need and necessity, the bid process, and the large cost of the truck. Wells produced a copy of the listing from Lakes Region Fire Apparatus that spelled out the issues with Engine 1. Jesse Shackford pointed out that Lakes Region Fire didn't associate any cost with the various issues that show as immediate concerns.

Wells said they didn't cost it out because they wouldn't be doing the repair work. Josh Shackford said from a Selectman and taxpayer standpoint it would have been helpful to have a repair proposal with actual numbers to compare with the cost of a new truck. Clark said the NFPA Standards require a fire truck to be refurbished to the same level of service that the truck had when new. Sosnoff was equally disappointed to not have a cost repair estimate. Ham asked what the Town paid for the truck new and what it might be worth today. It is believed that the Town spent slightly over \$150,000 in 1993. Ham cautioned the Selectmen about supporting a fire truck purchase for nearly a half-million dollars. Ham said a truck salesman should have been asked to a Selectmen's Meeting to discuss the various options for replacing Engine 1. Ham said this new purchase can't be our only option. Cribbie said he started the bid specification process 3 years ago by drawing up a list of equipment required for the truck. Next they started talking with truck manufacturers and compiling a bid specification packet. Cribbie said they tried to keep the specifications open enough so various manufacturers could bid. Wells said the specs were sent out to 10 companies with only 3 bids coming back. Shackford asked whether they received a response from the other 7 companies, or if they just chose to not respond. Shackford remembers meeting with the Fire Department a few months ago and hearing that only one of the 3 bids met the specifications exactly. Clark said there was a lot of time and effort that went into the bidding and selection process. Cribbie said the Department tried to ensure the new truck would be adaptable and in use as a front-line vehicle for the next 25 years. Shackford asked how much money is in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. Wells said the balance in the fund as of 12/31/12 was \$163,824.46 which will be put toward the down payment and then closed. Shackford asked what the next vehicle on the replacement schedule is after Engine 1. The Commissioners said it is likely the 1995 Ford ambulance. Shackford asked whether Engine 1's replacement is on the current Capital Improvement Plan for replacement in 2013. Brooks said no, the replacement year is listed as 2015 but proposed by the Fire Department this year because of the rusting frame. Josh Shackford read the immediate needs for the truck as outlined by Lakes Region Fire Apparatus in June 2011 and thought most of the needs could be cost out as repairs without having to take the truck apart. Clark said the Fire Department could take the truck and pay to have it evaluated again but he's not sure how quickly it can be done. Hersh would like to know whether the existing truck has any resale value. Josh Shackford asked what the Town would do with the existing Engine 1. Clark said North Conway just sold a 1995 engine for \$65,000 and Engine 1 would probably be sold to a small municipality. Josh Shackford asked what kind of warranties or guarantees come with the new truck. Cribbie said the frame of the new truck carries a lifetime warranty but there are other components like paint, transmission, bumper-to-bumper that carry warranties between 2 and 10 years. Jesse Shackford said he has detailed photos of the frame of Engine 1 and said the matter before the Town is a truck issues, not a fire apparatus issues. Frame, brakes, springs, wiring, engine & transmission work and tune-ups would clear up the truck issues. Shackford said the other apparatus issues should be minor and less of an issues, especially if the Fire Department had kept their equipment well serviced and up to date. Greg Hill said he owns heavy equipment and works toward repairing issues as they come up, not replacing equipment as it starts to get old. Jesse Shackford said the frame is separating because the bolt pattern is too wide apart; it needs to be scraped down, sanded, and painted with the possibility for a few new bolts installed to bridge the gap. Dunker-Bendigo said the nature of the conversation tonight is troubling him because ultimately everyone wants what's best for the Town as a whole. Dunker-Bendigo has been through this before and found that starting conversations with negative connotations just puts everyone on the defensive. Dunker-Bendigo said having the cost to refurbish and the cost to buy new is really all that the voters need to make their decision. Josh Shackford said that's the message he's been trying to get across during this meeting. In closing, the Chairman said there have been confrontations with most every large capital expenditure before past Town Meetings and yet the Town still hasn't learned to be as open

and public about the process leading up to the vote. The Chairman closed the Public Comment portion of the Public Hearing.

SIGNATURE ITEMS – There were no signature items at this special meeting.

6:17 PM – Brooks made a **motion** to adjourn to attend the Advisory Budget Committee Meeting, seconded by Shackford, and so voted **2-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – The next Selectmen’s meeting will be an abbreviated one on February 5, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. The Selectmen will hold the annual Public Budget Hearing at 7:00 p.m. that evening in the James Noyes Memorial Hall at Madison Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary