

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
MARCH 5, 2013
MINUTES**

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

Others Present: Town Administrator Melissa Arias; Deputy Fire Chief Richard Clark; Eidelweiss Commissioner Mark Graffam; and Madison TV Videographer Noreen Downs.

Where and When Posted: Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on June 30, 2011.

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 26, 2013 as prepared, seconded by Arruda, and so voted **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST – Shackford made a **motion** to approve the Manifest of February 25 – March 6, 2013 in the amount of \$292,056.58, seconded by Arruda, and so voted **3-0**. The Manifest breakdown is as follows: \$23,645.73 for payroll; \$7,708.86 for payroll liabilities; \$85,701.99 for accounts payable; \$175,000.00 for the Madison School District (release date 3/14/13).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Eidelweiss Commissioner Mark Graffam was in to talk with the Selectmen about the Village District of Eidelweiss’ (VDOE) Oak Ridge Road improvement project. Graffam said the VDOE had Oak Ridge Road engineered for Phase 1 of the road project. Graffam said there is a wet area in the vicinity of the St. Moritz Drive intersection that will require additional drainage. Graffam said the drainage system is scheduled to run under Oak Ridge Road and onto a steeply sloped parcel of land with delinquent property taxes. Graffam said the parcel may be tax deeded to the Town of Madison in September 2013 if the delinquent property taxes are not paid. Graffam said the VDOE would like to get a drainage easement from the Town if we tax deed the property in order to divert water from the road onto the Town-owned property as part of the Oak Ridge Road project. Arias brought up the statutory three-year redemption period in which the former owner has a legal right to repurchase the property in the same condition for which it was taken if all the back taxes, fees, penalties, interest, and 15% of the assessed value are paid back to the Town. Arias wondered if adding a drainage easement during this three-year redemption period would constitute a change in the property’s condition. Brooks said the Selectmen could deviate from the three-year redemption period as long as the proper certified notices were sent to the former owner and any mortgagees that the Town will be disposing of the property sooner than three years from the taking. Graffam said the lot probably doesn’t have value as a building lot due to the topography and seasonal wetness but suggested the Town try to sell it to an abutter, or split the lot between two abutters, for the amount of the back taxes. Graffam said the parcel should ultimately stay on the tax rolls but said the VDOE would be willing to buy the lot from the Town if the abutters weren’t interested. Graffam said the VDOE is looking to get bids for the next phase of the Oak Ridge Road project but the plan and funding is contingent upon the completion of Phase 1, which includes this drainage issue. Graffam asked the Board if they want him to come back to discuss this at a future meeting and they said yes but not until sometime in April. **END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

SOLID WASTE OPERATOR CERTIFICATION – The Selectmen discussed correspondence from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) resulting from the review of Madison’s 2012 Annual Solid Waste Facility Report. The DES Solid Waste Training Coordinator has informed the Town that all Transfer Station employees must obtain at least the minimum level of certification in order to handle solid waste. The next training course in Concord will be April 4th. Brooks suggested sending a couple Highway employees down for the minimum level of certification so substitute coverage by them isn’t an issue. Arias has drafted a Memo to the part-time Transfer Station employees conveying this information and encouraging them to complete an application to attend the April training. Arias will also include any Highway Department employees that might substitute at the Transfer Station.

ENGINE 1 TRANSMISSION & ENGINE INSPECTION – Arruda brought up the need to have Engine 1’s transmission and engine gone over by a mechanic after last week’s comments by Clark that those truck components are having issues. Arruda asked Clark what would be entailed in having Engine 1 test driven and gone through to determine what the transmission and engine repair work could potentially cost. Clark added that there are also wiring issues that would need to be addressed due to corrosion in the 14-15 connectors. Arruda wants to ensure all the options and costs are known before Town Meeting so voters can make an informed decision. Clark said the Town will be continually chasing issues with Engine 1 if we decide to keep it. The used engine in Rhode Island is a much better choice according to Clark. He said Engine 1’s existing foam system would be removed by Lakes Region Fire Apparatus and reinstalled by Bulldog Fire Apparatus in Massachusetts who would have the used RI engine ready to go in service within 30 days. Clark said Engine 1 will only have to be out of service for a couple days during this process. When asked again about the estimated life of the used RI engine Clark said front-line engines should only be in service for 25 years and the used RI truck is a 1997 model. Clark said the two brokers who looked at Engine 1 plan on minimally refurbishing the truck before looking to sell it to a very small fire department in the mid-west. Arruda and Shackford weren’t in favor of having Engine 1 looked at if the used RI truck is the best option for the Town. However, Brooks said it won’t cost anything to have the transmission and engine looked at and an estimate given for repair. Shackford said it could further complicate the matter and confuse taxpayers at Town Meeting. Brooks would prefer to obtain the answers to any questions that might possibly come up at Town Meeting, with this questions being one of them. Although Clark is concerned about not getting a new fire engine he wants the voters to realize that the option of the used RI truck is the smartest and safest choice for the taxpayers. Clark said the used truck would serve the Town well for a few years until the voters buy a new truck in the next couple years. Clark asked the Board to consider taking Engine 1 to an International truck dealer for any inspection and repair estimate rather than having the Town mechanic or a local establishment look at it. The Board agreed. Clark said the used truck article shouldn’t be looked at as a replacement for a new fire truck purchase. Brooks said because the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was deviated from over the last number of years there is only \$163,000 in Capital Reserve instead of the \$300,000 that should be in the fund. The CIP had \$50,000 being put into Capital Reserve every year so that \$450,000 would be available for a new truck purchase in 2015.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS – Shackford asked Clark what he’s heard about the proposed warrant article to abolish the Fire Commissioners. Shackford said communication will ultimately be improved if the Selectmen can work directly with the Chief Fire Officers. Clark said he views all those involved as being at fault with the breakdown of communication between the Selectmen and Fire Department. Although Clark doesn’t want to say what his personal feelings are he hopes the Town Meeting discussion will bring forth the pros and cons of the proposal so the voters can make an informed decision. Clark said it will be up to the Town to decide how they want the Fire Department to operate.

2013 OPERATING BUDGET – Arias made sure the Selectmen received their updated 2013 operating budget sheets containing the changes made during last week’s meeting. Arias said there were two lines that needed slight modification after the Selectmen’s adjustments. These were Parks & Recreation due to the 2013 basketball referees being paid for out of the Town’s budget instead of the School’s budget as will be done in the future and the calculation of pay increases for the Library employees. Arias said the final 2013 operating budget is now at \$2,237,304 which is a 2.0% increase over the 2012 approved operating budget of \$2,194,346. The Selectmen were aware and in favor of the two necessary adjustments.

SIGNATURE ITEMS –

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Timber Tax Warrant & Worksheet – Patrignani (222-020 & 222-021)

Disabled Tax Deferral – (204-044)

Tax Collector’s Abatement #2012-011 – (204-044)

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – 6:25 PM – Brooks made a **motion** to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II(c) to discuss a property tax matter with a property owners, seconded by Shackford, and so voted. Roll Call Vote: Shackford – aye, Arruda – aye, Brooks – aye. **7:00 PM** – Brooks made a **motion** to return to public session and seal the minutes of the non-public meeting, seconded by Shackford, and so voted **3-0**.

7:00 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 19, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Two or more Selectmen may be present in the James Noyes Memorial Hall at the Madison Elementary School on Election Day, Tuesday, March 12, 2013, to assist with the carrying out of election duties. Two or more Selectmen will be present in the James Noyes Memorial Hall at the Madison Elementary School on Town Meeting Day, Saturday, March 16, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary