

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
January 26, 2021  
MINUTES**

**Selectmen Present** – John Arruda, William T. Lord and Josh L. Shackford

**Others Present** –DPW Director Jon Cyr, Jr.; Police Chief Robert J. King, Jr.; Officers Mike Mosher and Jake Martin; Town Clerk/Assistant Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; and MadTV Videographer Carol Dandeneau

**Others Present via Phone** – Moderator George Epstein; Broadband Committee Members Mary Cronin and Sloane Jarell

**Where and When Posted** – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on December 31, 2020.

**Meeting Called to Order** – By Arruda at 4:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion** by Lord, seconded by J. Shackford, to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

**APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:**

**Motion** by Lord, seconded by J. Shackford to approve the Manifest of January 25 – February 1, 2021 in the amount of \$377,091.54. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$36,425.93 for Accounts Payable; \$31,240.15 for payroll; \$9,424.46 for payroll liabilities; and \$300,000.00 for Madison Elementary School. The motion passed **3-0**.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Moderator Epstein- Town Meeting & Emergency Order #83** – Moderator George Epstein called in to speak with the Board regarding the Governor’s Emergency Order #83. The order allows Towns to postpone their Town Meeting and elections until selected dates in April through June after consultation between the Board, Moderator and Town Clerk.

Arruda offered information from the news that states the Mount Washington Valley rates of vaccination are very low and is in favor of postponing until May. J. Shackford would like to see us keep the March dates, with social distancing and masks, as he feels it will not make any difference as this virus is going to be around for a long time. Lord agreed with Arruda to “kick the can” further allowing people to get vaccinated but was still not sure that it would change the turnout.

Epstein cited his reasoning stating that his job as moderator is to make democracy work. He is not in favor of HB 1129 which allows for splitting the school voting from the town voting; and is not in favor of a virtual meeting versus an in person. Postponing to June will allow for it to be as normal as possible with maximum attendance.

Cyr expressed his concern of postponement regarding warrant article purchases and projects citing increased costs to paving, if even able to get paving scheduled, and the inability to order vehicles in time for use in 2021. King concurred noting that there are build dates for model years on vehicles and if not purchased in the timeframe it may not be feasible.

Arruda stated that this a tough call but he always sees the older population at Town Meeting and he would not go if held in March as most older people with health issues wouldn't go.

Arruda made a **motion**, seconded by Lord to postpone Town Meeting and voting until May with a request for comments.

J. Shackford feels delaying it will not make a difference; people that are not going to come in March are not going to come in May. Brooks noted that the Town handled hundreds of people during the presidential election without incident. Epstein stated that he will not have his vaccination by March so he will not go to a March Town Meeting nor run a March election feeling that he will be enormously more safer in May than March.

Arruda reiterated the motion on the floor, clarifying that elections would be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> with the business portion of the meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The **Motion** passed **2-1** with J. Shackford opposed.

**Cronin and Jarell for Broadband Committee HB1111 Request from Provider Letter** – Broadband Committee Members Cronin and Jarell called in to ask that the Board re-send a request for information letter to Charter/Spectrum. Cronin explained that recent NH legislation puts some teeth into the chance that the committee will receive a response.

Lord liked the suggested letter with the exception of paragraph five that states “Once information is received or two months have passed, the Town of Madison may issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purpose of improving broadband infrastructure. Proposals would be sought from all providers interested in entering into a public-private partnership with the Town for this purpose.”. Lord feels that knowing we currently have a contractual agreement, it comes across as a bit threatening and would like to see it removed. Arruda agreed with Lord's suggestion adding that our current contract is into 2023. Cronin and Jarell agreed with the change. L. Shackford will adjust the letter and asked that the Board sign it out of session. Cronin asked that it be sent by certified mail with return receipt requested. **Motion** by Arruda, seconded by Lord to sign the amended letter that has the last paragraph removed. The motion passed **3-0**.

**2021 Warrant Review** – The Board agreed that in light of the change to of Town Meeting dates that this will be done at a later date.

**Town Meeting Gymnasium Space** – The Board agreed that in light of the change to Town Meeting dates this discussion is not necessary at this point.

**Ambulance Contract Total as Related to Responses** – Brooks explained that a Selectman from Eaton sent correspondence to the towns involved with the ambulance contract asking if the town portions need to be adjusted based on calls for service. The contract states that each September it will be reviewed to be sure each town is carrying their fair share. The choice to review now or wait until this September and use a two-year average. Arruda thought that the 2020 March - September time would be a better

snapshot of time if we wait until September. Brooks offered to tabulate the data and send it out to the involved towns and use it to make the decision.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Timber Cut Update** – The cut on Black Brook Rd is almost finished with the Town receiving a first payment of just under \$2,000.00. These funds will be deposited into the Forest Management account.

**Selectman Shackford's List** – No items

**Selectman Arruda's List** – No items

**Selectman Lord's List** – No items

**Administrator's List** – L. Shackford reported that a letter was received that stated the County has decided not to charge a late fee to the Town regarding the annual county payment.

**SIGNATURE ITEMS**

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Purchase Requisition: 2020-DPW-001 Don's Pressure Washer \$4,875.00

**5:18 PM** - Shackford made a **motion** to go into **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (c)** Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Roll call vote: Lord – aye; Shackford – aye; Arruda – aye

**5:30 PM** – Arruda made a **motion** to return to public session and seal the minutes under RSA 91-A:3II (c) seconded by Lord and so voted **3-0**.

**5:30 PM** – Arruda made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Lord, and so voted **3-0**.

**NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING** – The next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2021 commencing at 4:30pm in the lower level of Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator