

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
June 15, 2021
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – William T. Lord, Josh L. Shackford and Michael A. Mauro

Others Present –DPW Director Jon Cyr; Town Clerk/Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Chief Robert J. King, Jr; Officer Michael Mosher with Maverick; Residents John Arruda, Shawn Bergeron, Jay Buckley; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; MadTV Videographer Carol Dandeneau

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 Lord at 4:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Mauro to approve the minutes of June 1, 2021, June 3, 2021 and June 1, 2021 made public as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:

Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Mauro to approve the Manifest of June 14 – 25, 2021 in the amount of \$331,136.04. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$78,505.98 for Accounts Payable; \$33,136.04 for payroll; \$9,493.54 for payroll liabilities; and \$16,147.49 for NHRS. The motion passed **3-0**.

Lord made note that we did not have to use any of the TAN obtained to pay the school their remaining balance by the end of their fiscal year. We hope to work with them with better communication in the future to avoid these kinds of issues. Brooks noted that changes at the SAU will have the towns of Madison and Freedom working with a new Business Administrator/Lead Accountant adding it would be beneficial to invite them for an introduction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

Short-Term Rental (STR) Discussion – J. Shackford spoke to this topic informing all of a virtual meeting that was held with Granicus. Granicus is a company that can provide services regarding identifying STRs adding it is the same company that is assisting the Town of Conway. Mauro added that the research provided by Granicus was clear and left us with the task of how to move forward. The company monitors 29 different sites that showed 171 active rentals over 227 listings.

The company offers several options which Lord liked. They offered modular pricing with services that included address identification, compliance monitoring, permitting and registration, complaint hotline and rental activity monitoring. J. Shackford's suggestion is to begin with the address identification and then the compliance monitoring which has an estimated first year cost of \$14,000; the Board would have to decide where to take the money from in the budget.

Lord asked Chief King for a sense of places that cause problems. Chief King stated there are two particular houses that are 99% of the problem; Chief King has been in contact with the house manager but looks with concern for when we are into the thick of summer.

Shawn Bergeron of 93 Forest Pines Road commended the Board for getting ahead of the STR issue stating that Conway has not done a good job. Bergeron feels that Madison's Zoning Ordinance needs to define single family homes and STR to remove the gaps. Bergeron submitted in writing his thoughts on a STR ordinance to place reasonable controls and urged the Board to not act too quickly and add some clarity to the ordinance before making a move.

Jay Buckley, resident, stated he had a STR but sold it, then having licensed his own home as a rental. Buckley stated that rentals have gone on for years with no problems but society has changed. Buckley told of times that an agreement to rent to 3-5 people turns into ten cars in the yard; zoning is something that the Town call fall back on.

J. Shackford stated that the first line of the Zoning Ordinance speaks to the rural character of the area feeling assured that the Town call enforce no commercial use in a residential zone. In J. Shackford's opinion Conway did not jump the gun as this issue went to a vote of the town after a year long process. The Planning Board does not need to be involved with this unless we want to regulate STRs. Mauro stated he feels enforcement is better than regulating noting the taxing of services such as the transfer station, police, fire, roads and our residents.

Lord and J. Shackford would like to begin the process with J. Shackford making a **motion** to contract with Granicus to perform the address identification and compliance monitoring for one year.

Bergeron called for a point-of-order. Bergeron asked what is compliance monitoring. J. Shackford responded that they will send letters to violators.

Brooks noted that his office has a State of NH Landlord/Agent form available offering this as a minimal step to getting identification of STRs in town. Mauro noted that a long-term rental has someone to be accountable to, STR renters who stay for 2 or 3 days don't care with an "I'm out of here" attitude. Lord agrees the form is a start.

J. Shackford reiterated his **motion**, seconded by Mauro, to contract with Granicus to perform the address identification and compliance monitoring for one year. The motion passed **3-0**.

Appointments to Boards and Committees – The list of appointments to Town boards and committees for the ensuing year were discussed. After discussion the Board agreed to:

Planning Board - Shackford

Conservation Commission – Lord

Joint Loss Committee – Mauro

Municipal Records Committee – Shackford

Aging Committee – Mauro

Broadband Communications Committee – Lord

Advisory Budget Committee – Lord

The police liaison and DPW liaison were not deemed necessary as these department heads are in attendance at each Selectman's meeting.

Reconsideration of Waiver of Tax Interest – The Board addressed the request by the owners of 132-011 for a waiver of interest and penalties for a late payment of their 2020P02 tax bill at their June 1st meeting. Their decision to deny their request was sent in letter form to the owner by L. Shackford. The property owner asked for the Board to reconsider their decision tonight.

L. Shackford explained that after further research, it appears that the change to their address in 2018 was corrected by a program that the printer uses to cross-reference with the USPS forwarding service. The 2019

bill was sent to the old address since the forwarding service is USPS had expired. The Town was never notified of the address change by the property owner. The Board agreed to stand by their decision on June 1st to not waive the interest and penalties. Brooks offered to respond to the property owner which L. Shackford accepted.

OLD BUSINESS: There was none

Selectman Shackford's List – A recent incident at the Transfer Station reinforced the need for a shed at the Transfer Station. J. Shackford told of a vehicle that sneakily disposed of bags of trash, avoiding the attendants and payment. J. Shackford was able to follow the violator and get their plate number. Chief King was able to call the owner of the vehicle, the violator's mother, and will be seeking restitution. J. Shackford complimented the attendants at the Transfer Station for their great work expressing his concern of how often this kind of behavior occurs.

Selectman Mauro's List – Mauro offered his kudo to the DPW crew for the great work being done to maintain the Town's properties citing large groups of people at the beaches.

J. Shackford asked about the vandalism to a picnic table at Nichols Beach. Lord noted the same paint on the picnic table was the same used to vandalize the sign at the same beach last year. Director Cyr would will have the table re-painted and would like to moved it to the Foot of the Lake Beach. The Board was in agreement.

While on a similar subject, Lord spoke to the television viewers about a continuing theme of obnoxious behavior by property owners that cause the need for the police to get involved. The employees of Madison do not deserve this treatment. Brooks spoke up in defense of the employees in the Selectmen's office that they are just doing their jobs and following the directives of the Board regarding eligibility for facility stickers. If people have a problem with the rules, they need to direct their aggravation to the Board. Chief King stated the repeat offenders will have their privileges to use town facilities revoked.

Selectman Lord's List – Lord confirmed with Cyr that he is looking into the erosion concern on Winter Road.

Lord expressed his appreciation to Chief King for mentioning in the Town column that the conservation commission is working with DPW to fund a brine system. The Conservation Commission has offered to use \$5,000 of the Land Use Change Tax account to pay for the brine tank system. As agents to expend Lord asked the Board to agree to pay for the entire bill from the account. The Board was in agreement.

The irrigation project for the veteran's memorial has begun with Cyr adding that the contractor has pulled some lines and he and the contractor have a handle on moving forward.

Lord directed his questions to King, Brooks and Cyr regarding the poor communication via radio for inter-department communication. Lord asked if there is any value to hiring someone to find what improvements can be made to have adequate radio coverage. Brooks sees the necessity especially for the DPW's safety noting that places in town do not have cell service either. King stated that communication with Carroll County is not as big of a problem but feels that Ossipee Mountain Electronics could assist with a repeater system. Lord asked if there is real estate in town with the suggestions of Town Hall, CC Sheriff Department or VDOE. Lord offered to take this on and get something in the works.

Administrator's List – No items

Department Heads' List:

DPW Director Cyr – Cyr asked Arruda to present to the Board a revised report for receivables at the transfer station which includes readings from the cash register. Arruda explained that if the Board agrees, he will begin the process to set up credit card payments with Hartland at an initial set up cost

of \$200 and a transaction fee of 2-3%. Arruda asked the Board if they are inclined to approve the credit card use, he suggests absorbing the transaction fee into the disposal fee. The Board was in agreement with the proposal and using the existing phone line to process those transactions.

Cyr reported that the new International Truck was delivered yesterday with the new loader to be delivered soon. The lumber for the construction of the guard shed at the Transfer Station has been delivered. Preparations are in way for the paving of King Pine and Fox Roads occurring July 7-8; and the chip seal material has been delivered for the work on Boulder Road and High Street.

Fire Chief Brooks – The department won the bid on the air compressor for less than \$4,000. It will be picked up from Rhode Island with the electrical and venting work still to be done at the station.

Police Chief King – King introduced the new canine, Maverick, that was picked up in New York City after coming from Germany. Officer Mosher and Maverick will begin their 380 hours of training this summer. King made it a point to compliment J. Shackford on his recent haircut. Raffle ticket to benefit the canine are still on sale being half way to the goal.

SIGNATURE ITEMS

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Northway Bank Signature Page for General Fund

Oath of Office – George Rau, Zoning Board Alternate

Lord expressed his appreciation to George Rau for volunteering on the ZBA.

Abatement: 227-013 \$1,031.21

Yield Tax: Stark 20-283-06-T \$616.37

6:00 PM - Lord 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: Shackford – aye; Mauro – aye; Lord – aye

6:05 PM – Lord made a **motion** to return to public session and seal the minutes under RSA 91-A:3II (c) seconded by J. Shackford and so voted **3-0**.

6:05 PM – Lord made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by J. Shackford, and so voted **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2021 commencing at 4:30 pm in the lower level of Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator