

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
June 13, 2023
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – John Arruda, Adam Price

Selectmen Excused – Michael Mauro

Others Present –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/ Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Chief Robert King, Jr.; Officer Jake Martin; Foreman Justin Chick; Code Officer Bob Boyd; Rec Director Heather O’Donnell; Rec Committee Member Joy Gray; MadTV Videographer Amanda Hayford; members of the public

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on December 20, 2022.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Arruda led all in attendance in reciting the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to approve the minutes of May 30, 2023 as written. The motion passed **2-0**.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to approve the non-public minutes of May 30, 2023 made public as written. The motion passed **2-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of June 12-25, 2023 in the amount of \$355,175.12. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$284,047.72 for accounts payable; \$33,070.65 for payroll; \$9,348.00 for payroll liabilities; and \$28,708.75 for NHRS. The motion passed **2-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Paul McKenna of 59 Oak Ridge Road read aloud, and submitted documents regarding a police report involving a short-term rental disturbance at neighboring 3 Upper Lakeview Drive. McKenna also questioned why response to a complaint at his home regarding signage was addressed so much quicker than the Selectmen’s response to STR issues. McKenna wants the Selectmen to enforce the zoning ordinance.

Bill Dempster of 157 Doe Drive mirrored McKenna’s request for action from the Selectmen regarding short-term rentals.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Stevens - Plains Road (Route 41) Speed Limit – Stevens of 742 Plains Rd brought to the Board a request for a reduction in the speed limit in the area of the turns near his home. Stevens spoke to several incidents of near accidents and the fact that his property is bisected by Plains Road which caused his family the need to cross the road. Stevens cited RSA 265:12 as a way to reduce the speed limit from 35mph to 25pmh. Commercial vehicles use Route 41 as a secondary route instead of using Route 16.

Chief King explained that RSA 265:12 allows for the Town to petition the commissioner to change the speed limit. There is poor site distance and a large density of homes and in his opinion, there a location in Town that have lower speed limits with less density. Chief King supports the change and is willing to have his name associated with the request letter.

Ron Ducharme of 748 Plains Rd mirrored Stevens' comments and the need for a lower speed limit offering examples of close calls he experienced. Ducharme has contacted local businesses and asked that their truck drivers be asked to slow down in the area. Chief King offered to check into through trucking on state roads and remarked on the accidents in that area over the years.

Price and Arruda were in agreement to get a letter together to petition the State to consider a reduction in the speed limit.

Hank Walther and his fiancé expressed similar concerns and asked if consideration of a cross-walk at Nichols Beach with Sharon Schilling supporting the same idea.

Chief King offered to draft a letter for the Selectmen to the State that would include asking for consideration of lowering the speed limit to 25 mph, lighted signage and the addition of a crosswalk at Nichols Beach in that area of Plains Rd/Route 41.

Big Island Loon Nests – Ann Haralambie made requests of the Selectmen regarding protection of the loons nesting on Big Island;

1. Install a floating rope at the cove opening with signage;
2. Place 12"x18" signs on the island near where kayakers pull up; and
3. Erect a sign on the rope swing side of the island.

Haralambie expects these all to be erected and removed by the Loon Preservation Committee after they finish nesting in four weeks.

Arruda was in agreement with the proposal as presented and was assured that the configuration of the ropes will not cause any boating issues. Price was in agreement.

Transfer Station Flyer Revision – Arruda made updates to the Transfer Station flyer that were approved by Arruda and Price with the addition of listing propane tanks under items not accepted. Arruda asked for Swift to review before publication.

With the new compactor comes an order for new signage that will instruct people to only put plastic containers, mixed paper and cardboard into the container. The changes to the sign were reviewed and approved.

STR Letters Post March 2022 – A list was reviewed by the Board of letters informing five property owners that their STR that began after March of 2022 is not permitted. Two Notice of Violations were sent to owners that had not yet responded to the letters previously sent. Shackford summarized the responses received to letters noting that the owner was thanked for responding and told respondents that this was not an official approval that they are in compliance or "off the hook".

Schilling asked if there is a clear plan moving forward. Price stated that they STRs that began after March 2022 are being notified because in his opinion the Town has not case regarding pre-March 2022.

Schilling disagreed with Price and said the Board is not moving in a manner that is expedient, refined or focused.

Dempster would like to see guidelines for proof to be set and drop the hammer versus asking for voluntary compliance.

A meeting with Attorney Johnston will be scheduled to seek advice with discussion of what criteria is necessary to prove compliance. Arruda and Price agreed to send out the seven letters present.

OLD BUSINESS:

FEMA Road Damage May 1st Storm – Chick explained that he has R&D Paving in line to do the annual paving and they can send an additional crew at the same time to do the patch work for the damages caused by the May 1st storm. The erosion issues are all back to pre-storm status. The Modoc Hill Road culverts replacement has been inspected by an engineer and the suggestion of a free span bridge was suggested as it could be less expensive than replacement of the culverts.

Arruda asked what the FEMA assistance looks like. Brooks explained that he spent approximately 40 hours on paperwork that he got to them as quickly as possible, but it does not look good that we will qualify for relief from FEMA because the level of response has been poor; the threshold for numbers is not being met easily.

Price, knowing we will have to pay for the repairs with or without FEMA, would like to be able to see some numbers. Arruda and Price agreed that Brooks and Chick can do an RFP with Shackford looking into how to go about getting approval to spend money not raised and appropriated at Town Meeting.

Boat Dock Estimates – Swift was not in attendance; this was table to the next meeting. Arruda noted that the chain securing the raft at the beach broke. Brooks offered to look into having one of the fire department volunteers, who dives, help with it.

Reach the Beach Race – Chief King told the Reach the Beach sponsors that since Tamworth will be not allowing the race through their town, there is no safe alternative route for them to run in Madison. Chief King is not going to approve the race through Madison. The Board supported his decision.

Selectman Price's List – Recreation forms were reviewed and approved by Price and Arruda. Price also mentioned:

- The Planning Board requested a joint meeting to discuss STRs at their July 5th meeting. Arruda placed it on his calendar.
- The Planning Board was interested in having notification that STRs are not allowed in Madison worked into the Building Permit application.
- The School Board asked for a joint meeting with the School Board for November.

Selectman Arruda's List – Arruda noted that being at 45% of the year, 44.7% of the total budget has been spent. The Article #2 drawdown is at 49% expended. The Transfer station receivables to date are \$26,431 compared to \$20,526 at this point last year.

Administrator's List – No items.

Department Heads' List:

Tax Collector/Town Clerk/Fire Chief Brooks – Brooks presented a list of potential properties that could be deeded in August. Most all are regularly on the list and usually pay. 2023 P01 collection is at 25%. Brooks also reported:

- The State of NH did an audit of the Clerk’s office for motor vehicle transactions and procedures and received a perfect audit.
- The fire danger status has come down and please be aware of motorcycles and bears.

Foreman Chick - Chick reports that the brush has been burned at the Transfer Station and

- The wrong size slabs were delivered to the boat ramp last fall. They will be exchanged with new precasts for no charge by the company.

Recreation Committee Gray – The June 17 carnival may be rain dated to July 1st. Ball games are wrapping up for the season. There is expected to be an average of 26 campers per week.

Library – Shackford reported for Jarell that the summer reading program is happening and to thank DPW for the removal of the trees for her.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Yield Tax Nichols

Intent to Cut: Ohlson 203-010

Purchase Requisition: 2023-DPW-002 Burke Quarry

2023-GGE-002 iWorQ

The iWorQ web-based fleet management program will be utilized by DPW, Fire and Police.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to adjourn. The motion passed **2-0**. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for June 27th, 2023 commencing at 4:30 pm at the Madison Town Hall meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator