

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
JULY 28, 2015
MINUTES**

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

Others Present – Town Administrator Melissa Arias; Deputy Town Administrator Sue Stacey; new Administrative Assistant Linda Farinella; Former Carroll County Commissioner Dorothy Solomon; Mike Nork & Mike DuFour from Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA); Transfer Station Attendant Jim Cairns; Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) member Paul Littlefield; residents Gregg Bailey, Bill Lord, Stuart Lord, Karen Lord, Cindy Lord, & Phoebe Rand; Fire Chief Jeff Eldridge; firefighters Dave Aibel & David Cribbie; Emergency Management Director & Fire Warden Richard Clark; Tax Collector Marcia Shackford; & Madison TV videographer Carol Dandeneau.

Where and When Posted - Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 7, 2015.

Meeting Called to Order – By the Chairman at 5:28 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Brooks made a **motion** to approve the minutes of July 14, 2015 as prepared, seconded by Shackford, and so voted **2-0**. Brooks announced that the July 21, 2015 non-public interviews for Melissa Arias’ anticipated vacancy resulted in the hiring of Linda Farinella. Brooks introduced Farinella and said she comes with a vast knowledge of municipal work and the duties we are seeking based upon her tenure with the Town of Freedom. It was announced that this would be Arias’ last meeting with the Board of Selectmen after 20 years of employment with the Town.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS – Brooks made a **motion** to approve the Manifest of July 27 – August 3, 2015 in the amount of \$142,060.55, seconded by Shackford, and so voted **2-0**. The Manifest breakdown is as follows: \$22,632.54 for payroll; \$6,771.66 for payroll liabilities; \$112,656.35 for accounts payable; and \$0.00 for the Madison School District.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Gregg Bailey from East Shore Drive was back asking for an update on the boat situation at the Foot of the Lake Beach. Bailey presented a photograph of a boat encroaching on his buoy mooring, which has been used in that location by his family for decades under the language of their deed. Bailey provided the vehicle license plate number of the person accessing the encroaching boat and said Marine Patrol couldn’t give him their name but confirmed that they don’t live on East Shore Drive. Bailey showed a photo of a boat beached on the shore as recently as this morning. Bailey gave license plate numbers for three other boat users who are believed to be in violation. Bailey is asking the Town to establish a system of identifying who these boats belong to and read from a portion of the deed regarding the restrictive covenants on the property which makes it unlawful for the public to use the property to access their moored boats. Bailey said he’d bring a ‘loss of use’ suit against the individuals if he could identify them. Bailey suggested placing a sign near the shore requiring boat owners to place a copy of their boat registration and deed on file annually with the Selectmen. Bailey offered his deed and registration copies for the Board and said he’d be back in 2 weeks looking for another update. Brooks obtained Bailey’s phone number for follow up purposes.

Sue announced next week's Pot Luck Farewell Dinner for Melissa Arias and Marcia Shackford and families at the Elementary School between 5 pm – 7 pm. **END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

CARROLL COUNTY VETERANS PROJECT – Former Carroll County Commissioner Dorothy Solomon was in to update the Selectmen on the progress being made toward a veterans' housing project in the former County nursing home building in Ossipee. Solomon left copies of the rendering of the interior and exterior of the building. Solomon read a prepared statement asking for the Selectmen's support of the initiative. Solomon said two wings of the old nursing home building have been taken down and two wings remain for this project. Solomon said Carroll County is the only NH County without a shelter or place for the homeless to go other than Starting Point that is geared toward women. Solomon said the lack of a shelter in Carroll County makes it difficult to determine how many homeless veterans there are locally. Solomon said there will be no expenses to the County. Renovations will begin with the roof. Home Depot is donating the materials and local contractors are donating their time. Any work that can't be done through donation will hopefully be covered by grant funds. A grant specialist is being paid for by Memorial Hospital. The organization plans to help veterans who reside there find work and transition into their own residence in the future. Solomon said this would be the first facility of this kind in the North Country. Solomon said the Delegation was supposed to have taken a vote on this project in April but it has been delayed. Solomon is looking for written support from area Boards of Selectmen prior to August 10th so she can present letters to the Delegation. Shackford suggested Arias or Farinella prepare a letter for the Selectmen to sign out of session. Solomon offered condolences to the O'Brien family and the Town of Madison as a whole after the recent loss of Ray O'Brien.

Motion: Shackford made a **motion** to sign the letter of support out of session once prepared, seconded by Brooks, and so voted **2-0**.

Decision: A letter will be drafted to sign and send prior to August 10th.

PUBLIC HEARING on FIRE TRUCK ORDER/PURCHASE – The Selectmen posted a Public Hearing regarding the Fire Chief's recommendation to place an order for a new fire truck. A Public Notice was posted in the Town Hall (upper and lower bulletin boards), Madison Post Office, & Silver Lake Post Offices on July 21, 2015 and in the Conway Daily Sun on July 22nd and 28th. Glen Davis from Lakes region Fire Apparatus was in the audience to assist the Fire Chief with his proposal. Eldridge said the motor, pump, chassis, and other non-firefighting components of the new truck are the same as specked out previously. Davis said the truck will be considered a Class A rated pumper. Some equipment from the existing truck will be moved to the new truck to save money. The Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) can be purchased and installed on the truck at a later date, along with custom mountings and storage features that have been left off at this time to save money. Davis said HME has discounted the truck \$6,900 since March 2015. Davis said he approached the factory directly and has made the purchase fit our budget. Generics were the same as what was originally bid with the exception of the CAFS system and light tower. Rand asked if the CAFS would cost significantly more to install down the road and Davis said 2% - 4% more. Davis said the truck takes 270 days to build and brought revised contracts to be signed tonight if that is the decision of the Board. Davis said the truck will be delivered to the Fire Department building and Lakes Region Fire Apparatus provides several hours of training on the operability of the truck.

Bill Lord, who served as Chairman of the former Fire Truck Committee, said Eldridge didn't mention the cost of the truck, which is \$363,820. Lord said Committee member Nicole Nordlund did some independent research into grants and talked with Ann Getchell at the USDA Office in Conway. Nordlund was lead to believe that Madison could be eligible for up to \$50,000 in grant funds if we applied for a grant prior to

signing a sales agreement. Lord said the truck is different than what the Truck Committee came up with but feels the Chief did a good job balancing the financial restrictions while seeking the best possible solution for the Town. Sosnoff, another member of the former Truck Committee, sees this as a wonderful opportunity to get the ball rolling toward a replacement fire truck for Madison. Sosnoff suggested Town Counsel review the contract language before it's signed. He noted the savings of \$160,000 is significant to the Town.

Dave Aibel, a volunteer firefighter who works from his home in Madison, said the Fire Department is strapped for manpower during daytime hours so he'd prefer the Selectmen have the CAFS be part of the initial build. Shackford suggested Eldridge go to the USDA Office and start making application for the grant to cover the CAFS cost. Davis feels the additional CAFS component wouldn't be considered part of the truck purchase or hold up the ordering process or compromise receipt of the grant.

Firefighter Dave Cribbie read a long prepared statement regarding this purchase. Cribbie said he's been the longest standing member of the various fire truck search groups. Cribbie said firefighters who will drive and operate the truck haven't been asked about the new truck. Cribbie doesn't see the savings because all the add-ons that were important to the search groups have been removed from the new specification to make the purchase fit our current budget. Cribbie said the missing components, which were also agreed to and voted on by the department membership, are the CAFS, generator, hard-wired outlets, light tower, ladders thru the tank, and the top-mounted pump. Cribbie would rather the Town wait to make a purchase until next year when more funds can be raised and appropriated at Town Meeting. Cribbie said the purchase is also being single-streamed to one vendor, adding that the largest fire truck manufacturer hasn't been approached by the Town for an opportunity to put a price together for a comparable truck.

Phoebe Rand said her husband is on the Fire Department and she supports anything the department feels is necessary. She would prefer to see the CAFS included so two firefighters can fight a fire productively during daytime hours. Rand would rather take this information back to Town Meeting and let the voters decide whether this truck is the right option for Madison. Sosnoff disagreed and said Town Meeting 2015 authorized the Fire Chief to seek a truck that meets the criteria and works for the Town within the available budget. Sosnoff said the Fire Chief is recommending the Selectmen make this purchase. Cribbie corrected that Town Meeting thought the Fire Chief was seeking a pre-built demonstration model truck, not a to-be-ordered new model. Now that the Fire Chief is looking to purchase a truck that hasn't been built Cribbie said the Town's Purchasing Policy should kick in and require competitive bids to ensure we compare prices on identical vehicles. Shackford closed the Public Hearing. Shackford asked Eldridge to get information from the USDA to the Selectmen's Office as soon as possible. Brooks feels any decision should wait for a full Board of Selectmen. The item will be placed on the next meeting agenda in the hopes Arruda is present.

TRANSFER STATION RECYCLABLES – To continue the discussion from the last Selectmen's Meeting, representatives from Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) were present to discuss recyclables. Brooks asked if there's been any development on NRRRA's end in finding another hauling vendor. DuFour said the previous hauler, Empire, has apparently been in the process of liquidating their company. NRRRA has had scheduling issues with Empire for several months now. NRRRA wants to help Madison keep our materials moving but is having difficulty finding a willing hauling vendor. NRRRA said the drop in the gasoline prices has hurt the recyclable market because it affected one component of the plastic composition. DuFour said Vermont passed a law requiring all recyclables be properly disposed which is going to be phased in over a five year period. DuFour said single stream facilities have taken a financial hit over the last few years and grocery bags or other contaminants have wreaked havoc with the

processing facilities. The market in China is also having a huge effect on the United States. China is starting to inspect the contents of recyclable containers sent there from the US and are rejecting large numbers of containers, shipping them back to the US to deal with. China has plenty of stockpiled materials so they aren't buying as much as they have in past years. Where the Town used to receive revenue for certain materials we are now having to pay to dispose of those goods. DuFour said several facilities that used to accept dual-stream recyclables are being closed or further restricted. Nork said North Conway Incinerator stepped in and hauled recyclable materials to EcoMaine for \$131/ton. Nork said Casella was contacted and gave a price of \$127/ton. The industry is pushing very hard for single stream recycling. Short of going single stream, the other option is to separate and bale recyclables, storing them onsite under cover until we can sell a full load of one commodity. The options for doing the "right thing" with recyclables is very limited right now. Brooks asked if Madison could double up containers and send tandem loads to EcoMaine without getting the hauling vendor in trouble. Brooks doesn't want to undo all the work Madison has done to our customers recycling voluntarily. Brooks said putting all recyclables into one container appears to be taking a step backward and reverting from single stream back to recycling in the future would be very difficult. Baling will take manpower and enough space to store the bales. Quonset huts with a 20-year warranty would be an option for on-site storage. Brooks said we don't have enough material to bale and store on site, even if all the plastics could be baled together. Brooks said small operations like Madison have little bargaining power due to our small quantities. Aibel asked if a 'pay as you throw' system would help boost revenue to pay additional hauling expenses. It was asked if owning a truck and having a town employee drive to the disposal facility would help but the Selectmen said no. The big issue currently is the recycling market is in the tank and we need to wait for it to rebound. NRRA said they are diligently working to find us a better solution. Brooks said this problem is bigger than the Town of Madison; it's a matter that should be taken to the Carroll County Delegation to address. Nork said a cooperative or County-wide facility would cost around two million dollars but over time would produce large amounts of revenue. Nork said there are Solid Waste Districts in some states that address the needs of the towns within the district. Nork said New Mexico has some well-established recycling facilities. Balers cost between \$100,000 and \$750,000. Waste Management Headquarters recently told Nork that they are looking to get out of the recyclable business. Littlefield said the Town could continue to recycle like we have been and have Waste Management haul to Rochester and then onto Billerica. DuFour said the cost was more economical through Casella or NCIS. Littlefield said a couple of our neighboring towns are using Waste Management at a lower rate but DuFour said they may have a contract or a grandfathered status. DuFour said NRRA is watching the current market and demand for materials to try and get the best rates possible for their customers. They compare hauling expense and tip fees around New England to determine which is most economical. Brooks asked if hauling the same materials in tandem would be a cost savings. DuFour said most haulers are willing to haul two containers but would likely charge the single rate for each container and not a discounted rate for a tandem haul. DuFour said a second compactor at the Transfer Station might be an option and could save us about \$3,000 per year. The compactor would pay for itself over a 4-year period. NRRA just received a grant to conduct a Solid Waste Operator training course in the North Country and this issue will be part of the program. Shackford said Madison is about the only town in the area that doesn't charge for Transfer Station stickers. DuFour lives in Sunapee and they don't charge. Nork's town of residence doesn't charge either. DuFour said it's not necessary for every town to have a full-fledged Transfer Station. There are cooperative agreements between many towns that are located in close proximity.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT REQUEST FROM NH RETIREMENT SYSTEM – Sue Stacey asked the Selectmen to allow future payments to the NH Retirement System be done through an electronic check like is done the School and payroll liabilities.

Motion: Shackford made a **motion** to pay the NHRS via an ACH transaction, seconded by Brooks, and so voted **2-0**.

Decision: Future payments to NHRS will be made electronically rather than in paper check form.

PENDING TAX DEEDS FOR 2015 – Tax Collector Marcia Shackford was in to discuss the list of properties with outstanding 2012 property taxes. The Selectmen agreed that all vacant properties should be tax deeded. Brooks asked Marcia to review the list of improved properties looking at those who historically pay just prior to the payment deadline to avoid a tax deed. The Selectmen decided that any improved property which is not a primary residence will also be tax deeded. The Selectmen instructed Marcia to prepare one deed waiver for signing at the next meeting because the owner has an agreement with the Selectmen regarding payments toward their outstanding balance. Marcia will have a better idea of how many are unpaid at the next meeting and well before the August 25th deed date.

BRUSH PILE on CLASS VI IRON ORE ROAD – Shackford said the Selectmen received an email complaint about a pile of brush along Class VI Iron Ore Road. Brooks said Dave Charrette from Scrub Oak Scramblers (SOS) Snowmobile Club cut birch saplings in that area about 2 years ago while clearing the trail. Brooks said SOS is getting ready to go back out and do more clearing along the snowmobile trails. Brooks said Jeff Lougee at The Nature Conservancy told Charrette that the pile could be moved and left on their land for use as a shelter or home by small creatures. Brooks said it appears from the photos provided that someone has added pine saplings on top of the old birch saplings recently but didn't want to get into who did what. The Selectmen didn't see an issue with the small pile so there was no action taken by the Selectmen at this time.

PAVILION & RECREATION FUNDS – Brooks would like to get the Pavilion building concept brought to light for a warrant article at the next Town Meeting. Stacey said the Selectmen are now in charge of the Recreation accounts since the Rec Committee was abolished. Stacey suggested the Selectmen vote to move the Field Trip account to the Pavilion account. Brooks said the reports indicate there's about \$30,000 available toward building the Pavilion. Shackford said site work and a water supply should come first. Brooks offered to get prices from well drillers for an artesian well. Arias said this would also solve the issue of water quality at the dug well(s) that are supposed to feed the drinking bubbler.

Motion: Shackford made a **motion** to close the Field Trip account and move the funds to the Pavilion account, seconded by Brooks, and so voted **2-0**.

Decision: The Treasurer will be asked to move funds based on the vote above.

SIGNATURE ITEMS –

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Intent to Cut Timber #15-283-15T – Fadden/Whitaker (228-058) Conway Road

Timber Tax Warrant & Worksheet #14-283-15T – Fadden/Whitaker (228-058) Conway Road

Veterans Credit Application – (257-004)

Rental Agreement - Porter Office Machines Corp. for TC/TC Bizhub C224e

Maintenance Agreement – Porter Office Machines Corp. for TC/TC Bizhub C224e

Credit Application on 2015 International Highway truck - Tax Exempt Leasing Corp \$135,527

Abatement to Tax Collector #2015-006 – Gerrish (115-019)

The two non-public sessions shown on the agenda won't be held this evening. The Code Enforcement Officer was able to work directly with the aggrieved property owner who withdrew his request to meet with the Board of Selectmen. The applications for Town Clerk/Tax Collector can't be reviewed without Arruda but the group discussed posting a non-public session one morning next week at Arruda's convenience.

7:22 PM – Shackford made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Brooks, and so voted **2-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary