

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
May 4, 2021  
MINUTES**

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

**Others Present** –DPW Director Jon Cyr; Town Clerk Michael Brooks; Chief Robert J. King, Jr; Officers Jake Martin and Michael Mosher; Fire Chief Richard Clark; Deputy Fire Chief Russell Hawkes; Resident Nicole Nordlund; 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 Arruda at 4:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion** by J. Shackford, seconded by Lord to approve the minutes of April 6, 2021 Budget Hearing, April 6, 2021 Non-Public session made public, April 20, 2021 and April 20, 2021 Non-Public session made public as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

**APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:**

**Motion** by Lord, seconded by J. Shackford to approve the Manifest of May 3 - 13, 2021 in the amount of \$505,452.61. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$67,223.83 for Accounts Payable; \$29,667.24 for payroll; \$8,561.54 for payroll liabilities; and \$400,000.00 for Madison Elementary School. The motion passed **3-0**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Resident Nicole Nordlund offered her opinion on the impact of not allowing short-term rentals (STR) in Madison. Some of the points mentioned by Nordlund were revenue losses for room & meals taxes, business losses that include housekeeping, property maintenance companies, local establishments and home businesses; snowbirds that rely on rental income. This would impact her personal business plan along with other that have been able to get a “leg up” in the last 20 years compared to when Madison was a rural economically depressed area. Nordlund hoped the Board would consider to regulate over restrict. Arruda commented that in Nordlund’s list of reasoning it was not taken into consideration the abutters to these STR’s adding that he would not want to have one next door to him. J. Shackford lives in this area because of its rural residential atmosphere. J. Shackford cited information from a Freedom Selectmen’s meeting that used the MWV Economic Council’s discussion going 50/50 on allowing STRs. Nordlund again asked the Board to consider regulations versus restriction. Lord, on a side-note related to the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, corrected the record regarding the mask study presented by Nordlund. The study was not one supported by Stanford University.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Fire Chief** – Chief Clark asked to speak regarding the results of the recommendation from this department for the appointment as Fire Chief. Chief Clark stated he feels that the Board should agree that during his term as chief there have been no issues and it all has gone quite well. This election brought to Chief Clark old feelings of problems with past fire commissioners and rumors of untrue statements. The election was announced as a special meeting, not an election, with the only himself and the Assistant Chief aware that this was an election. Chief Clark feels he does not deserve to be treated like this. Three letters were received from members of the department in January, with two of the letters having just been given to the Board as the third cannot be found, that express issues that the authors had not been offered resolution.

Chief Clark felt he had addressed the issues with one member being suspended. The chief vote of the members was 9-7 with Assistant Chief Brooks winning the recommendation by write-in. Chief Clark stated it is hard to run a department with members that will not do the training as asked by Deputy Chief/Training Officer Hawkes.

Chief Clark cited RSA 154 & 669 and explained that a recommendation of the department is not required to appoint him as Chief adding that his comments are nothing against Assistant Chief Brooks as he has been a good assistant. Arruda noted that at the 2014 Town Meeting, after the Selectmen were made the commissioners, Article 3 called for the recommendation from the fire fighters; unless you are saying that there was something wrong with the election, Arruda finds it difficult to disregard the department's vote. J. Shackford agreed finding it hard to go against the department's vote adding that these are the first time seeing these letters from January. As not being someone to micro-manage departments, I don't know the day-to-day operations there. Arruda added Town Meeting voted to have the department make a recommendation and it would be hard to go against that. Chief Clark stated that he feels unfairly treated. Arruda asked if he feels unfairly treated by the Board of Selectmen. Chief Clark stated no, he feels some of this department members treated him unfairly. Assistant Chief Brooks noted that when the 2014 Town Meeting article came about it was to endure that the department had the chance to get the chief they wanted and is advisory to the Select Board. Assistant Chief Brooks was not looking for the position, noting he voted for Chief Clark. Lord cannot see how the Board can ignore the recommendation as that is how the Town voted for this process. Lord noted that there were five members that did not vote; those members were not in attendance.

Arruda suggested offering the Chief a one-year term and after discussion made a **motion** to appoint Chief Clark for a one-year term to be revisited by this Board a year from now. With no second to the motion, J. Shackford made a **motion** to appoint Assistant Chief Mike Brooks as Fire Chief, seconded by Lord. Lord expressed his empathy towards the situation but cannot justify overturning the recommendation of the department. The motion passed **2-1** with Arruda opposed.

**Historical Society Musical Event Request** – Linda Smith on behalf of the Historical Society asked the Board for their permission to hold small musical evenings on three Thursdays being June 17<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Foot of the Lake beach between 5pm and 7pm. The subject of parking was discussed because it would be expected that some attendees being from out of town will not have proper parking permits. Chief King offering to work with the society and suggested that it be advertised that parking be in the overflow/back lot. The Board was in agreement with the proposal. If there are issues after the first musical evening, the society may be asked to move their event to Burke Field.

**Town Clerk Week Recognition:** In observance of Municipal Clerks' Week May 2-8, 2021 Arruda read the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk is a time-honored and vital part of local government throughout the world;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Madison has an exceptional office of municipal clerks who take great pride in their work every single day;

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between residents, their local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels;

**WHEREAS**, municipal clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all;

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk serves as a vital information center for residents with regard to the functions of local government and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal clerks continually serve to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of Municipal Clerk through participation in educational programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, county, and professional organizations.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Madison Board of Selectmen recognizes May 2-8, 2021 as “Municipal Clerks’ Week” and further extends its appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Michael Brooks, as well as Rebecca Bonner, Kim Cyr, Linda Shackford and Emily Sheppard with great thanks for all of the vital services performed and their exemplary dedication to the Town of Madison and its residents.

**Motion** by Arruda, seconded by Lord to sign and post the Proclamation. The motion passed **3-0**. Arruda asked that copies be placed in the appropriate personnel files.

**OLD BUSINESS** – There was none

**Selectman Shackford’s List** – J. Shackford would like to see short-term rental discussion on up-coming agendas. The Selectmen can clearly enforce our current zoning and J. Shackford would rather enforce than regulate.

**Selectman Lord’s List** – Lord expressed the sentiment of all with a thank you to Arruda for the more than two decades he has offered to the Town of Madison as a Selectman. Lord also mentioned the departure of Mark Lucy, Ken Hughes, Stu Lord and Colleen King from Land Use Boards commending them on their combined 100 years of service. An appeal to the public for volunteers to the Zoning Board of Adjustment was made.

The porta-potties will be set soon with local businesses being hard to obtain them from. The company used last year will ultimately suit our needs if necessary.

Lord asked if the review of the CIP has begun in anticipation of the 2021 budget season. L. Shackford responded that a meeting of the department heads has been scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup> to begin the process.

**Selectman Arruda’s List** – Arruda stated that Town Meeting day will be his last official duty as a select board member after a phenomenal 21 years. Arruda has worked with some excellent people over the years and will truly miss everyone along with the morning visits to the office. Arruda warned not to be surprised if you see him on another board in the future.

**DPW Director List** – Cyr intends to bring town properties back to normal this year with the installation of docks, swim lines and rafts. The Board was in support of those efforts. Cyr would like to replace the raft at the Foot of the Lake and hopes to buy one soon with the approval of the Board. The Board was in agreement to purchase one in the \$2,000.00 price vicinity. Per Lord’s inquiry, there is no update to report on the status of finding a guard shack for the transfer station. Cyr asked the Board to sign a last-minute purchase requisition for a road mileage measuring tool. This will be handy for several reasons including assistance with numbers for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and future road work. The Board agreed and signed.

**Administrator’s List** – L. Shackford, with agreement of the Clerk, would like to open the Town Hall to the public. In following the guidance of the Governor, masks would be recommended but not mandatory, 6’ of social distancing should be maintained with a sign on the door stating those guidelines. The opening will be announced at Town Meeting and begin on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **SIGNATURE ITEMS**

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Elderly Exemption: Shackford 247-039

Abatements: 2020-02 Gagnon – Denied

2020-03 Drew – Denied

2020-04 Riss – Denied

2020-05 Smith – Denied

2020-06 Colassi – Denied  
2020-11 Riley – Denied  
2021-001 NHEC \$950.00

Oaths of Office – Ted Kramer – MWV Economic Council  
Mark Totman – ZBA  
Douglas McAllister – ZBA  
Bebe Bartlett – ZBA  
Ralph Lutjen – Conservation Commission  
Henry Forrest – Veteran’s Advisory Committee  
Franklin Jones – Veteran’s Advisory Committee  
Paulette Lowry – Veteran’s Advisory Committee  
Eric Edwards – Veteran’s Advisory Committee  
Christina McAllister – Library Trustee Alternate  
Mary Holmes – Library Trustee Alternate  
Peter Stevens – Library Trustee Alternate  
Philip Laroche – Planning Board Alternate

Intent to Cut: Shackford 229-017  
Cody 223-009  
Currier/Taylor 221-008  
Crowe Family Investments LLC 111-028, 217-009 and 220-003  
McKenna 251-013

Veteran’s Credit: Archambault 129-052  
Archambault 129-052  
Trapani 112-010-002

Yield Tax: Cody 223-009 \$427.39

Application for Current Use: Grama 234-030

Stantec 2021 Water Quality Sampling and Post-Closure Monitoring Agreement

**5:35 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

**6:09 PM** – J. Shackford 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**.

**6:09 PM** – J. Shackford 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 May 18, 2021 commencing at 4:30 pm in the lower level of Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator