

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
November 30, 2022
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – Josh L. Shackford, Michael A. Mauro, John Arruda

Others Present – TC/TC Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Chief Robert King, Jr.; Code Enforcement Officer Bob Boyd; Foreman Justin Chick; DPW Dave Swift; Historical Society Members Linda Smith and Nancy Martin; Rec Program Adam Price; MadTV Videographers Carol Dandeneau and Kasia Scentsas; members of the public

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on November 29, 2022 at 1:45pm. This meeting was rescheduled from November 29, 2022 for lack of a quorum.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: J. Shackford led all in attendance in reciting the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mauro, seconded by Arruda to approve the minutes of November 15, 2022 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

Motion by Mauro, seconded by Arruda to approve the non-public minutes of November 15, 2022, made public, as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Motion by Mauro, seconded by Arruda to approve the Manifest of November 28 – December 8, 2022 in the amount of \$477,938.96. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$37,962.13 for Accounts Payable; \$30,682.01 for payroll; \$9,284.82 for payroll liabilities; \$200,000 for MES on 12/1/22 and \$200,000 for MES on 12/8/2022. The motion passed **3-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Doug McAllister reminded the Board that back in the spring he was given the go ahead to contact Spectrum regarding the negotiation of the cable contract renewal. McAllister has unsuccessfully been able to get a response from John Maher. McAllister asked the Board if he could put in this next correspondence that if we do not hear from him, we will be turning this issue over to the Town Attorney. Arruda recalled having similar problems with the cable company in the past. The Board was in agreement that the language suggested by McAllister be used in the correspondence.

Sharon Schilling announced that on December 15th Henry Forrest will be celebrating this 93rd birthday. Forrest is the oldest veteran in the Town. All are invited to a gathering on December 17th at 10:00am being held at the Village Store and to sign birthday cards.

Zoning Officer Bob Boyd - Zoning Ordinance Enforcement Clarification – Boyd approached the Board for clarification regarding of how to handle issuance of building permits for projects that are already in violation of setbacks. It has always been handled, having received instruction from the previous Town Administrator, that as long as the construction comes to closer than what already exists,

it is not in violation and a permit can be issued without a variance. Recent communication from the ZBA informed Boyd that the ZBA's attorney feels these applications should be handled differently. Arruda, citing his own property as a similar configuration, can see the need for this to be reviewed. The Board agreed that Boyd should run this by Town Counsel.

Boyd asked the Board for their opinion on 1.3B regarding calculating the expansion of a non-conforming structure. The footprint definition added in March of 2022 caused some conflict in how it should be interpreted. In Boyd's experience, it is always the more restrictive that takes precedence. Boyd was hoping for clarification on how best to direct applicants for building permits. The Board again agreed that Boyd should bring this to Town Counsel. Boyd thanked the Board for their guidance.

Historical Society Building Improvements – Linda Smith and Nancy Martin spoke to the Board about potential needs for the Historical Society Building that include painting and window improvements. Quotes have been obtained that estimate repair of the windows at \$1,500 each; Arruda questioned if simple replacement would be a better option. Arruda asked if they intend to do all the improvements this coming year. Martin responded that is not the intention but they would like to have the project on the list noting that summer time is a good time due to not having heat in the building. Arruda asked if the roof is leaking and how many windows are in the building; he was answered with no leaks and approximately fifteen windows.

J. Shackford suggested that an EFT be created on next year's warrant, with the Board as agents to expend, that could fund the repairs. It was agreed that a reasonable amount to begin the fund would be \$20,000.

Smith asked if the Board would consider having internet access to the building. The Board will keep this in mind with the renewal of the cable contract for Town building services.

The parking in the front of the building that was proposed over the summer has been abandoned as it is a safety hazard. The DPW will be removing the stump and planting grass seed in the spring. The society already has a plan for building signage that would ask for head in parking.

Warrant article review – The Board reviewed the proposed warrant articles to date with comments listed:

DPW 6-wheeler Truck: J. Shackford stated that early estimates could be somewhere in the area of \$250,000.

Ballfield Improvements: There is almost \$13,000 in an account that could offset some of the expense. King offered an off the hip number of \$30,000 agreeing to take on obtaining a price. Brooks suggested asking Tyler Drew as he has been involved in a similar project recently.

Dam Repairs: Shawn Bergeron is helping to put together a price.

Rec Director: Arruda stated that a job description has been submitted that includes a potential \$55,000 full-time position that equates to over \$30/hr. and with benefits at a total of potentially \$95,800. Arruda supports the position, they did a great job this year, but he does not support the numbers that go from zero to \$20,000 to \$38,000 to \$95,000 in less than two years. Arruda understands that the position would be responsible for beaches, grass cutting/field maintenance but that could take away from hours for a DPW person. Arruda cannot see a town of this size spending that kind of money with Mauro agreeing. Arruda repeated a past selectman's mantra of "wants versus needs" and stated he may not support the article.

Arruda noted that the budget is already over last year by \$135,000 and that is without numbers for a truck, dam repairs, rec director, historical society ETF, charity petitions and the need to have someone to manage STRs in town. Mauro added to remember the hikes in electricity and fuel. Brooks would like to see the rural way of volunteering adding that this may not be the time for some of the items.

The discussion flowed to STRs with Mauro commenting that homes are turning from residential to businesses and many moving to Maine. King fears our kids will not be able to have a home in Madison. J. Shackford would like to see the Planning Board require STRs be owner occupied with King not seeing that happening as he stated he feels that members of the Planning Board have a financial gain.

Brooks brought the conversation back to the proposed warrant articles by stating that he is looking to ask for a warrant article to be able to install a dry hydrant in Allegro Pines using \$1,200 encumbered from this year's budget. The cost could be around \$15,000.

Request for Funds from Highway Heavy Equipment ETF - Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Mauro to request the withdrawal by the Trustees of Trust Funds for \$27,959.58 from the Highway Heavy Equipment Expendable Trust Fund to reimburse the general fund for the expenses incurred for the improvements to Truck #6, Truck #14 and the 416 Backhoe noting the amounts as follows: 416 Backhoe: \$9,198.78, Truck #14: \$4,531.40, Truck #6: \$14,229.40 The motion passed **3-0**.

Request for Funds from Transfer Station Capital Improvement ETF – Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Mauro to request the withdrawal by the Trustees of Trust Funds for \$2,019.46 from the Transfer Station Capital Project Expendable Trust Fund to reimburse the general fund for the expenses incurred for the compactor covers. The motion passed **3-0**.

Household Hazardous Waste Day 2023 Commitment – The annual request from the Town of Conway for the amount the Town commits for the Hazardous Waste Day next September. The \$3,000 already in the 2023 budget covers the average over the last few years. J. Shackford signed the commitment form committing \$3,000.

OLD BUSINESS:

Conservation Letter – L. Shackford asked for more time to get this straightened out, which was granted.

MOU for School and Town Rec – Mauro feels that the items outlined in the MOU are already existing procedures and he cannot see entering into something that is already in place. The Board agreed that they could not see the need for the MOU.

Proposed Expansion of Veterans Committee – Sharon Schilling reviewed with the Board her construct of the committee. It would expand the existing committee to provide support to Madison veterans regarding resources available; the intension is to not to do away with the current committee.

Schilling sees a five-member board of staggered 3-year terms with a Chair and Vice-Chair and hold meetings on Mondays in this conference room. Schilling is requesting \$1,500 to cover printing and a mailing to all Madison veterans, and to cover reimbursement for training and travel expenses to Manchester. Arruda does not want to see this volunteer committee get bigger citing the fact that he is a veteran and he knows where to go for help, but maybe all don't. Schilling was asked what is the need? Schilling did not know but wants to reach out and let them know what is available to them.

Mauro asked L. Shackford if there is already support available from the Town with L. Shackford responding that we do have Welfare Director Hayes as our go to for helping residents. Mauro would not want something like this committee to be blended with the monument committee.

J. Shackford is not opposed to the idea and appreciates that there are people who want to volunteer and \$1,500 is a small amount to fund it.

L. Shackford noted that the \$500 for the monument committee is strictly used for engraving. Schilling asked if they have any expenses with Brooks noting an expense of flag which is already in the patriotic purposes budget. For simplicity, Arruda suggested the \$1,500 should get its own line titled "Veterans Committee" in the patriotic purposes department of the budget.

New members would be appointed to the current committee in March, as Brooks reminded all of the current appointing process. Schilling expressing her understanding that this would be a different set of people leaving those in charge of the monument and this committee's focus would be on assisting veterans.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by J. Shackford to form a five-member committee after January 1, 2023 named "Madison Veterans Services Committee" to provide services for Madison veterans. The motion passed **3-0**.

Selectman Arruda's List – Arruda asked DPW to please grade the area near the glass pile at the Transfer Station.

Selectman Mauro's List – Mauro asked when the second part of the boat ramp will be replaced. The answer was before next year's boating season.

Selectman Shackford's List No items

Administrator's List – No items

Department Heads' List:

Chief King hoped the heat in this conference room could be kept relatively low as it pumps into their office making it unbearable.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest
Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks
Treasurer Delegation Forms
Intent to Cut Supplemental #22-283-05 Ward
Auditor Letter
MCC Assistant Job Description
Rec Program Volunteer Appointment: Patrick Murphy

6:10pm Motion by J. Shackford to enter **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (a)** The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting

and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted and **RSA 91-A:3II (b)** The hiring of any person as a public employee.

Roll call vote: J. Shackford – aye; Mauro – aye; Arruda – aye

6:31 PM – J. Shackford made a **motion** to return to public session and make public the minutes under RSA 91-A:3II (a) and seal the minutes under RSA 91-A:3II (b) seconded by Mauro and so voted **3-0**.

6:31 PM – J. Shackford made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Mauro, and so voted **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled December 13, 2022 commencing at 4:30 pm at the Madison Town Hall meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator