

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
April 18, 2023
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present – Michael A. Mauro, John Arruda and Adam Price

Others Present –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Administrative Assistant Kate Young; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/ Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Chief Robert King, Jr.; Officer Jake Martin; Foreman Justin Chick; DPW Dave Swift; Librarian Sloane Jarell; Rec Program Joy Gray; MadTV Videographer Aysia Morency; other 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 Mauro at 4:30 pm.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the minutes of March 4, 2023 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of April 17-25, 2023 in the amount of \$367,784.58. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$105,672.31 for accounts payable; \$31,358.64 for payroll; \$8,994.98 for payroll liabilities; \$21,758.65 for NHRS and \$200,000 for MES. The motion passed **3-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sharon Schilling of Bickford Road and member of the Veterans Service Committee (VSC) spoke of a communication error regarding the budget line for the VSC. Schilling suggested a reduction but it was not the intension to remove the line completely. Schilling asked for a reinstatement of \$100 - \$200 to pay for communications to inform resident veterans of the committee. The Board directed Shackford to find \$200 in the budget to be used for that purpose.

Donna Veilleux of Lead Mine Road asked the Board to reconsider the appointment of Marcia McKenna to the Conservation Commission. Veilleux lauded McKenna's accomplishments during her tenure on the commission.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

Marcia McKenna – Addressing Chairman Mauro McKenna approached the Board, casting several papers on the conference table, announcing the papers contained 243 signatures in support of her reappointment to the Conservation Commission.

McKenna questioned Mauro and the Board's understanding and interest in the Commission, the McNair Easement logging, the McNair Easement update and the securing of the purchase of the Chain of Ponds property. McKenna asked Mauro to step aside from his representation on the Commission and appoint her back onto the Commission.

McKenna accused the Board of removing the diversity of the Commission by replacing one of the two women with a man and by appointing paid employees to the Commission.

McKenna asked the Board to reconsider their appointments and allow her to return to the Commission.

Price explained that once the appointments are made they cannot be changed. Unless Mauro decides to step aside, the conversation ends here as the Board is bound by those appointments.

Mauro intends to spearhead the responsibilities of the Commission which have not been performed over the years. Mauro stated he is not against the Chain of Ponds acquisition but does have questions that no one has the answers to as of yet.

Linda Haver of Pebblebrook Lane asked how appointments are made. Mauro explained. Price clarified that Brooks is an elected official.

Michael Veilleux of Lead Mine Road expressed his opinion that McKenna should be reappointed to the Commission.

Sharon Schilling asked if there are any members of the Commission willing to step down. Price asked McKenna is she was aware of anyone from the Commission willing to do that; McKenna responded no. It was determined that the Board is full with no alternate openings available.

Donna Veilleux polled the Board asking that if someone from the Commission resigned would you consider the reappointment of McKenna. Veilleux answered for Price stating he indicated yes; Arruda asked for a moment to think; and Mauro did not want to answer a hypothetical question but if an actual resignation was received, noting he is only one vote, he would not vote to reappoint citing 22 years is a long time and to say that the Commission cannot move forward without McKenna is an insult to the Commission. Veilleux, noting Arruda's 22 years as Selectmen, asked if that is a long time. Arruda stated he is elected every three years and if the voter do not re-elect him, he will go on his way.

Arruda stated that if an opening on the Commission came to be then he would like to collect applications and review them to decide who would fill the opening. Mauro agreed with Arruda and questioned Veilleux if his feeling that there is something in the room to the effect of a resignation is true. Veilleux responded that she thinks there is something, yes.

Ted Slader a Commission alternate, asked if other members of the Commission are in jeopardy of their position? Mauro stated it is not something he has considered and when members terms are up the process will be the same, accept applications and the Board will review.

Sharon Schilling asked how McKenna's history and knowledge will be captured if no reappointed. Mauro stated that the meetings are open to the public and McKenna is welcome.

McKenna questioned the process of appointment explaining that she felt there was no discussion at the last round of appointments. Mauro stated that he knew the two applicants and their backgrounds; if he had not known them, he would have had more discussion.

Marcia began to read aloud a letter which asked the Board to accept Emily Bass' resignation but only to provide a seat for Marcia, if McKenna is not reappointed Bass will continue to serve on the Commission until the end of her term. McKenna stated that the only woman on the Board is giving up her position

for her to which Mauro stated that she is not giving it up as there is a condition attached, it is more of a threat than a resignation. Arruda partially agrees with Mauro, if you want to resign, then resign. Mauro explained that if there was a resignation received then it would be open to applications and the process would begin again.

McKenna asked if this issue is closed to which Mauro responded as far as we stand right now, correct. Price added that if Bass resigns the process of accepting applications will begin again.

Determine Action of Rec Director Applications – For clarification, Shackford and Gray asked the Board for the process to handle job applications for the Rec Program Director. It was decided that the applications will be offered to the Rec Committee for review in non-public prior to a review by the Board. The Rec Committee will then make their recommendation to the Board.

Carroll County Communications District (CCCD) Member Appointments – Town Meeting agreed to join the CCCD. The committee has asked for two members to be appointed by the Board. Shackford reached out to Bill Lord and Mary Cronin, Madison’s representatives, and both agreed to continue to serve with Lord agreeing to be the voting member and Cronin as the alternate.

Motion by Price, seconded by Arruda to appoint Lord and Cronin as voting and alternate members, respectively, to the CCCD. The motion passed **3-0**. Shackford will inform Linda Mailhot of the decision.

Rec Resignation and Appointment – The resignation of Susan Hirtle from the Rec Committee was received. An application for appointment by Heidi Thomas was received. Gray spoke to Thomas’ appointment noting that she has been active in the program.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to accept the resignation of Hirtle and appoint Thomas as a regular member to the Rec Committee. The motion passed **3-0**.

ZBA Request for Appointment: An application for appointment to the ZBA has been received from Sharon Schilling. The ZBA can have up to five alternates with there being two openings at present.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to appoint Sharon Schilling as an alternate member of the ZBA. The motion passed **3-0**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Transfer Station Brush Fees – Arruda suggested lowering the fee for brush disposal from \$30 to \$10. The cost is negligible noting the ability to burn the brush instead a chip.

Motion by Mauro, seconded by Price to lower the brush disposal fee from \$30 to \$10. The motion passed **3-0**.

Price suggested consideration of a proposed fee for the Rec Program that would charge a \$5 increment late pickup fee.

Ted Slader, Forest Pines Road, suggested the consideration of not charging during spring clean-up this year noting considerable trees and brush in need of collection, more than years prior. The Board was not in favor of no charge as it may become overwhelming.

Price questioned if these actions requires a public hearing to change the fees. Chief King stated that if such a hearing is planned he would like to suggest some fees for his department.

It was decided that a hearing will be set up for the May 2nd meeting with the notice going in the paper on Tuesday, April 25th. The wording of the fees will be sent to Young prior to Monday morning from the Rec Program and King for notice.

Veilleux asked if the issue of a request for a waiver of the boat launch fee from a non-resident was closed. It was determined that no communication has been made with the requestor.

Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) Sign Locations – Clarification from Ann Haralambie regarding the process for signage and monofilament collection containers was received via email. The LPC will take responsibility for the erecting of the signage and emptying the recycle containers.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to accept the proposal by Haralambie for the handling of the signage and monofilament collection at the beaches. The motion passed **3-0**.

Selectman Arruda's List – The operating budget is dead even with the percentage of the year. The fees at the Transfer Station are ahead of last year at this same time; \$12,896 versus \$10,259. Just as a point of interest, Staples takes old electronics at no cost, excluding televisions.

Arruda obtained a price on the repair/replacement of the lower pad at the Transfer Station. The 5'x4'x6" pad would be \$1,800.

Motion by Mauro, seconded by Price to authorize the expenditure for the concrete pad improvement. The motion passed **3-0**.

Selectman Price's List – No items.

Selectman Mauro's List – Now that the snow is going, Mauro asked for an update on the footbridge from the school. Swift expects it to be finished at the end of the week with the completion of the ramp.

Department Heads' Lists:

Chief King – Drug take back is this Saturday from 10am to 2pm, no liquids please. Mauro added that the County also has a receptacle available year round.

Chief Brooks – Permit are required for burning as it is hard to maintain the 100' of snow cover for open fires with the recent snow melt. Mauro noted that the Town does not participate in computerized permit applications and applauded the Chief for keeping up with all the inspections necessary to stay with paper permits.

Foreman Chick – Fadden's estimate for the stumping of the new cut is at \$13,500. The repairs for the grader are expected to be about \$21,000 with no date yet for its return. The crew has been cleaning up the edges of the road and sweeping. Glines Hill was opened today.

Rec Program's Joy Gray – Summer camp registration has opened with eleven applicants so far. The Eggstravaganza was a success with \$461 in donations. The chess club is happening on Saturday at the library. T-ball and softball start soon. The Rec website is up and running at www.madisonrecl.com

Librarian Jarell – Thank you to the DPW crew for cleaning up the library property, repairing the fence and putting the parking bumpers back in place. This Thursday please check out the Range the Wild Woods Over event co-sponsored by the Historical Society at 7pm in the Chick Room.

Administrator's List – No items

