

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
May 30, 2023  
MINUTES**

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

**Others Present** –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/ Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Chief Robert King, Jr.; Officer Mike Mosher; Foreman Justin Chick; DPW Dave Swift; Librarian Sloane Jarell; 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 Mauro at 4:30 pm.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion** by Price, seconded by Arruda to approve the minutes of May 16, 2023 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

**APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:**

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of May 30 – June 5, 2023 in the amount of \$300,254.29. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$103,286.46 for accounts payable; \$34,155.47 for payroll; \$9,730.36 for payroll liabilities; and \$153,082.00 for MES. The motion passed **3-0**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Noreen Downs gave a hand out to the Board citing the regional impact of the Meena gas station in Effingham. Downs is of the opinion that the station is in the wrong place and that even if the construction of the tanks is the best in the county it should still not be approved due to its proximity to the aquifer and the potential damage it could cause. Marcia McKenna mirrored Downs' remarks. McKenna asked the Board for their support of opposing the project in writing or by attendance at the June 6<sup>th</sup> Effingham Planning Board meeting.

Marcia McKenna stated that she asked for the RSAs that support Mauro's statement that a planning board member must be on the conservation committee and where political appointments are exempt from claims of discrimination. McKenna stated she was denied the request because Shackford did not have the time to do the research which confused her because she has found nothing to back up these claims believing that her claim of discrimination is still valid.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:**

**Dubois of 162 West Shore Regarding Property Assessment** – Mauro recused himself from the discussion. Dubois requests that his tax card details match the measurements of his home. The total assessed value of the home is correct, per an amount agreed upon by BTLA mediation but the computer model does not allow that computation. The adjustment is made in the features section of the card. The Board asked Shackford to set up a meeting with Arruda, Dubois and Chad Roberge of Avitar to review the issue.

Dubois also asked that the opportunity be made for him to be able to submit an absentee ballot for his vote at annual Town Meeting. It was explained that the current form of Town Meeting in Madison does not make that an option. Chief King explained the difference between Traditional Town Meeting and an SB2 form. It was suggested to Dubois to begin the process of a petition warrant article if he would like to see a change to the form of Town Meeting.

**Ted Kramer Regarding Monument Beach** - Kramer, along with Steve Bartlett, came to the Board regarding the drainage issue at Monument Beach. It was noted that the State of NH has paving plans for that area this fall which would not allow any disturbance of the pavement for seven years. This is the reason for the urgency of this project.

Kramer stated the needs from the Selectmen:

1. Immediate written response to DOT that the Town will install sidewalks after new catch basins are installed and requests confirmation of catch basin construction.
2. Ask DPW to present to the BOS plans for upgrading the lawn at Monument Beach that include:
  - a. removal of old drainage outlet
  - b. lawn reseeding around construction area
  - c. construct earthen berm to reduce runoff
3. Establish a town contact with DOT because Kramer would like to be removed from the middle.

Mauro asked Chick if this the sidewalks are a project that could be done by DPW. Chick stated that curbing is difficult to install and suggested getting prices on the project. Arruda would like to see at least two prices, one for the whole job and one for just installation of the curbing. Kramer added getting a price on the berm. Mauro stated that someone will be found to be the contact person and Kramer will be informed.

**FEMA: Road Damage May 1<sup>st</sup> Storm** – Brooks, summarizing the results of the meeting on May 24 with NH Homeland Security and FEMA, reports that damage from surrounding towns that is included with the damage in Madison could increase the numbers necessary to receive assistance. The double culvert on Modoc Hill Road that sustained damage will be inspected next week. Mauro added that the numbers for the county damage are \$220,000 and the whole state needs to reach 2.5 million dollars for a FEMA declaration to be considered. Price asked if any numbers have been submitted to the state with the answer being that they are in process of being put together.

**HealthTrust COBRA Administrative Agreement** – Shackford explained that there is an option we can take advantage of that would allow HealthTrust to manage the collection of COBRA payments. It would take the responsibility off the Town to collect the payments and then pay HealthTrust. The Board was in agreement with the change and signed the forms for an 08/01/2023 beginning.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**RSA Regarding Road Repairs for Culvert Maintenance** – Arruda noted that much of the damage caused with the May 1<sup>st</sup> storm was because of blocked driveway culverts. While Arruda is not in favor of sending bills to the homeowners, he is in favor of sending letters that remind them that it is their responsibility to keep them cleared. Mauro noted that no culvert issues were with Town culverts, they were private driveway culverts with Chick explaining that one was rotted out and another was full of yard debris. Shackford and Chick will work together to send owners with bad culverts a letter reminding them of RSA 236:13 VI that it is their responsibility to keep them cleared.

## **Selectman Arruda's List – No items**

**Selectman Price's List** – Price asked to discuss clarifying how expenditures from the Rec budget are decided and who has authority to spend. It was decided that day-to-day expenditures that follow the purchasing policy are at the discretion of Rec Director O'Donnell. Price also mentioned:

- The need for a third counselor for the summer rec program; and
- It was requested that the cooler from the DPW garage be brought back over to the shed for the rec program.

**Selectman Mauro's List** – The school walking path looks great and Mauro can see that we are just waiting on a gate. Mauro also mentioned:

- That the exposed roots at the ballfield have been taken care of and hydroseeded; it looks great.

**Administrator's List** – No items.

## **Department Heads' List:**

*Chief King:* The police department has experienced a couple of busy weeks. Chief King stated that the boat is going in the water this week adding that nine parking tickets were issued over the weekend at the beach. Chief King also mentioned:

- A fugitive from Florida was apprehended at the Transfer Station over the weekend.
- An official nod from the Board was asked for before Chief King would give the approval for the Reach the Beach to come through Town. Price expressed his opinion of not being in favor of having the race come through Madison. The fact that Tamworth is considering not allowing the race to come through their town prompted the BOS to not decide tonight and add the item to their next agenda.
- Chief King asked for clarification regarding beaching of boats. The signs at the beaches state it is not allowed yet no where in the property use ordinance is it mentioned other than not allowed overnight. It was decided that the Board will hold a public hearing to address that change and add it to the fine schedule.
- Arruda asked Chief King to place the traffic control sign at the Transfer Station on a Saturday asking for patrons to slow down. Chief King was happy to set it up.

*Foreman Chick:* The department has boat ramp improvements planned for next week, weather permitting, with one to two sections being added early morning before it get busy. Chick also mentioned:

- A boater asked for sections of firehose be added to the dock at the boat launch. It was decided that that will not be done, owners can supply their own bumpers for their boats.

*Librarian Jarell:* Jarell reported that all is well at the library.

*Rec Director O'Donnell:* Registration for summer camp closes tomorrow and there are about 38 kids that has signed up. O'Donnell also mentioned:

- June 17<sup>th</sup> will kick off summer camp with a carnival that includes food and games.
- The need for another summer camp counselor was noted based upon the number of kids anticipated participating this summer. The decision was made to advertise the position in the Conway Sun again, Shackford will take care of the notice.

*Fire Chief/Town Clerk/Tax Collector Brooks:* The Fire Department has a busy weekend full of night time calls that allowed for an average of 3 ½ hours of sleep each night. Brooks also mentioned:

- The fire danger is high, please be careful.
- Tax bills have been sent and collection is going well.
- Brooks has been working on getting FEMA numbers together from the May 1<sup>st</sup> storm damage by creating excel spreadsheets for each location that suffered damage. There are hopes that between Ossipee, Tamworth and Madison the threshold for help will be met. Arruda asked the process for making improvements in anticipation of being approved for funding, including approval from DRA. Brooks noted there are still many unanswered questions.
- The Memorial Day events were extremely well attended with several more than the usual people attending the Lyman cemetery.
- Brooks would like to pursue grants to repair and rehabilitate stones that have fallen or turned over in the cemeteries. If this comes to fruition Brooks will bring all the information back to the Board. Also, Brooks hopes to be able to work with our mapping company to get GIS location for the cemeteries and have them on our tax maps.

## SIGNATURE ITEMS

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Solar Exemption: Hughes 119-014

Wilkinson 227-029-002

Veterans Credit: Bent 129-028

LUCT: Scrub Oak Scramblers 234-049 \$350.00

Seth Shackford 246-036-001 \$3,950.00 adjusted per abatement

MS-535 Financial Report of the Budget

Yield Tax: Foley 228-064 \$3,241.40

Property Tax Abatement: 2023 Madison Baptist Church 234-001 \$1,870.00

2022 Buchanan 113-010 \$82.24

2023 Skyline Estates Owners Association 205-048 \$264.00

2022 Skyline Estates Owners Association 205-048 \$526.00

2023 Skyline Estates Owners Association 205-048-11 \$316.00

2022 Skyline Estates Owners Association 205-048-11 \$583.49

2022 Evangelista 104-070 \$314.01

2022 Buchanan 227-025 \$9.25

2023 Cunha 101-059 \$595.07

2022 Patell 221-002 Denial

Timber Tax Abatement: Corron 246-012 \$324.97

LUCT Abatement: Seth Shackford 247-036-001 \$5,130.52

**5:53 PM Motion** by Mauro to enter **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (b)** The hiring of any person as a public employee and **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (l)** Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

Roll Call Vote: Arruda – aye; Price – aye; Mauro - aye

**Motion** by Mauro, seconded by Arruda to make public the minutes of the **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (b)** The hiring of any person as a public employee.

Roll Call Vote: Mauro – aye; Arruda – aye

**Motion** by Mauro, seconded by Arruda to seal the minutes of the **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (I)** Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

Roll Call Vote: Arruda – aye; Price – aye; Mauro – aye

The Board decided to hire DTC Lawyers to review and assist with the renewal of the expired cable contract.

**Motion** by Mauro, seconded by Price to adjourn. The motion passed **3-0**. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

**NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING** – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 commencing at 4:30 pm at the Madison Town Hall meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator