

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
August 22, 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; Police Chief Robert J. King, Jr.; Officer Jake Martin; DPW Dave Swift and Josh Shackford; Rec Director Heather O’Donnell; MadTV Videographer Kasia Scontsas; 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 August 8th, 2023 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of August 21-28, 2023 in the amount of \$305,403.83. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$37,066.25 for accounts payable; \$37,475.27 for payroll; \$10,459.66 for payroll liabilities;\$20,402.65 for NHRS; and \$200,000 for Madison School. The motion passed **3-0**.

Tax Deeding: Tax Collector Brooks approached the Board with four parcels that he did not receive payment of taxes prior to the noon deeding deadline. Brooks asked for the Board’s direction on how to handle the following properties:

Map 103 Lot 057 – Brooks has not heard from owner after all notices were properly sent with extra efforts made to contact them via email.

The Board agreed to deed the property.

Map 205 Lot 025 – Brooks is of the understanding that a waiver will be granted for this property, the Board confirmed that understanding. The Board agreed to sign a waiver under RSA 80:76 II-a.

Map 115 Lot 040 – Brooks has not heard from owner after all notices were properly sent.

The Board agreed to deed the property.

Map 134 Lot 007 - Brooks is of the understanding that a waiver will be granted for this property, the Board confirmed that understanding. The Board agreed to sign a waiver under RSA 80:76 II-a.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tara Taylor, owner of property on Conway Road, told the Board of debris that is on her property due to run off during the July 16th storm event. Mauro suggested Taylor keep in mind that if a

declaration is made then FEMA may be able to offer assistance through USDA grants to assist with the clean-up.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Timber Tax Abatement: 228-066 Foley – Shackford explained that the yield tax for this cut was based upon 100% yield. The owner supplied evidence and a matrix that showed a lesser yield at 66% value.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Mauro to grant the abatement in the amount of \$476.35 plus interest. The motion passed **3-0**.

Update of the Building Permit Ordinance – Sharon Schilling of 537 Bickford Rd asked the Board to consider updates to the Building Permit Ordinance which was last updated in 1999. Schilling stated the catalyst for her to review the ordinance was because she knows someone who received a letter from the Town stating that the act of painting your house requires a permit but found the ordinance states that maintenance of the home does not need one. Shackford questioned the letter stating a permit is not required for that purpose and asked for the name of the owner; Schilling would not supply the name at that time adding she had not seen the letter. Schilling's suggestions were to increase the minimum improvement cost for a permit from \$1,000 to \$3,000, based upon inflation, and to add a section that would require review of the ordinance every five years. The Board will put this issue on the agenda for future discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dam RFP from Bergeron – Shawn Bergeron has crafted an RFP for the repairs to the Silver Lake Dam. Several vendors have been notified by Bergeron asking for their submissions. The closing date is September 15th with the opening at the September 19th Selectmen's meeting.

Short-Term Rentals – Shackford gave an overview of the status of letters sent to STR owners. Schilling wanted to be sure that all violators were being contacted and listed several that still need to receive letters. The Board reviewed the list and made instructions for the next letters to go out.

Borelli relayed a story of an issue at a neighbor's that involved a highly disturbing incident of an STR patron leaving a campfire unattended overnight.

Chief King stated he was called out for a call at a Peak Vista home which was considered a nuisance call because they have had to respond to that STR more than once to that address.

McKenna feels the amount of the fines should increase.

DPW Garage Waste Oil Heater – Another quote for the replacement of the waste oil heater at the garage has been received. The quote is not an apples-to-apples comparison as the BTUs are not the same. Swift will get some clarification on the quotes and return back with information at a later meeting.

Selectman Price's List – Price asked if the soccer nets could be moved over to Burke Field from the lower garage with Swift offering to do that tomorrow. Price also mentioned:

- He'd like to get estimates on cutting the ball field with Brooks suggesting it could be something we could do in house;
- Price asked O'Donnell for assistance in painting the soccer lines on the field with Swift stating he knows there are three cases of paint for that purpose at the garage.

Selectman Arruda's List – John gave an overview of receivables at the Transfer Station that showed 10% over last year at this time. Arruda also mentioned:

- We are at the 64.1% of the year with 64.5% of the budget spent;
- Arruda would like to consider sending a letter to State of NH DOT about the condition of Route 113. Brooks offered to speak with Representative McConkey agreeing that we deserve regular updates and made the suggestion of having a liaison similar to the system the local utility companies offer.

Selectman Mauro's List – Mauro was thrilled that the Rec Summer Camp used the Foot of the Lake Beach hoping that next summer they could do the same, planning a day in the middle of the week versus Fridays. Mauro also mentioned:

- Since the raft at Monument Beach is still out, it should just be put away for good at the end of the season. Price would like to see it go out again in future years with an agreement to re-address next spring.

Department Heads' Lists:

Tax Collector/Town Clerk/Fire Chief Brooks – Brooks has been tracking the costs for damages from the July 16th storm offering the Board a print out of his spreadsheet showing man hours, equipment hours and materials. Gathering the information and keeping track takes coordination of several departments. Brooks plans to reach out the Senator Hassan's representative for an update on FEMA funds. Brooks also mentioned:

- Old Home Week went well and was well attended. The Police Department sign board was awesome and Brooks would like to have another next year to have two in Town;
- The radio repeater is installed and works great for the Fire Department now that the radios are reprogrammed. Police and DPW radios still need to be programmed.

DPW Dave Swift – Swift will be taking care of some maintenance issues that include getting the K-1 heaters serviced, weather sealing the garage doors and servicing same. Swift also:

- Intends to take care of a berm at the Transfer Station allowing for easier plowing and will straighten the gate at the entrance;
- Adding gravel near the new compactor area;
- Moving the old storage containers at the Transfer Station to the upper garage area for use as storage for implements;
- Arruda mentioned getting something in place for protection from the weather for the person manning the recycling compactor with Swift stating he will work with Arruda on that.
- Swift would like to make a brief presentation to the Board at the next meeting to show them the new iWorq program with the Board welcoming the idea.

Rec Director O'Donnell – Summer camp has come to an end. The campers had a great time. Some of the events included a successful car wash event, fun at the Foot of the Lake and White Lake State Park and a surprise trip to Whales Tale waterpark. The focus now has shifted to fall sports.

DPW Josh Shackford – Shackford reported that 10.5 tons of steel was taken over to Rickers. Shackford also mentioned:

- Shackford also asked about disposal of the soccer nets that are too big for the elementary school players. O'Donnell will contact the Middle School to see if they have a use.

- There is an old pole broom at the garage what Shackford feels needs to be disposed of. Before disposal the Board asked to find out if it is functioning.

Administrator’s List – Shackford stated that the central air conditioning has been repaired and is working great with the balance due for the work to be paid after the first of the year.

Shackford also mentioned:

- Attorney Johnston will be going on vacation and wanted to know if the Board feels the need to engage a backup attorney. The Board felt confident going forward without another attorney.

Sharon Schilling, citing discussion at the August 8th meeting, asked about the status of an appointment to the Big Pea Porridge Pond Group with Mauro stating that the plan is for it to be brought to the next Conservation Meeting which isn’t until September 7th. Schilling thanked the DPW for grading Glines and Bickford Roads and thanked the Fire Department and DPW for clearing a tree that fell on Bickford Road.

The Oshkosh bid opening is September 5th with no bids having been received as of yet.

Price mentioned that the School Board would like to meet with the Selectmen on November 27th to be sure that both are on the same page regarding the budgets.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

LUCT – Wirth 114-074 Eben Farm Road \$1,550.00

Abatement – Schermerhorn 134-007 \$263.04

6:05 PM Motion by Mauro to enter **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: Price – aye; Arruda – aye; Mauro – aye

6:21 PM Motion by Mauro, seconded by Arruda to seal the minutes of the **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. The motion passed **3-0**.

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

6:21 PM Motion by Mauro to enter **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: Mauro – aye; Arruda – aye; Price – aye

6:46 PM Motion by Mauro, seconded by Arruda to seal the minutes of the **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 and return to public session. The motion passed **3-0**.

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

Motion by Mauro, seconded by Price to adjourn at 6:46pm. The motion passed **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2023 commencing at 4:30 pm at the Madison Town Hall meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator