

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
December 26, 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.; DPW Josh Shackford and Dave Swift; Code Officer Bob Boyd; Rec Director Heather O'Donnell; MadTV Videographer Kasia Scontsas; and 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 those in attendance in reciting the Pledge.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion** by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

**Motion** by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the non-public minutes made public of December 12, 2023 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

**APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:**

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Price to approve the Manifest of December 25-29, 2023 in the amount of \$291,284.25. The manifest breakdown is as follows: \$50,900.59 for accounts payable; \$30,991.12 for payroll; \$9,392.54 for payroll liabilities; and \$200,000 for Madison School. The motion passed **3-0**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were none.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:**

**Silver Lake Dam Update with Shawn Bergeron** – Bergeron presented an abridged version of the report by MSK Engineers regarding the status of the Silver Lake Dam. Notable points included:

Pg 6 of 15 – Left Training Wall: Generally good condition

Pg 7 of 15 – Right Training Wall: Generally fair condition

Right (Westerly) Two Piers: Generally poor condition

Pg 9 of 15 - Untreated wood timbers: Poor condition

Right Spillway Training Wall: Significantly corroded steel

Timber Handrails: No adequate lateral support

The dam is in reparable condition with issues ranging good, fair and poor.

The conclusion on pages 14 and 15 estimate the costs to be between \$615,000 to \$780,000 with information from the hydraulic and hydrologic study to still be taken into consideration.

Bergeron stated that July of 2023 brought 4.11” or above normal rain fall for Carroll County. Bergeron offered suggestions for funding that included a schedule for putting money into the ETF or doing a bond.

Mauro would like to see the results of the hydraulic and hydrologic study before he decides how to pay for the improvements but would be inclined to do it by a bond. Arruda was in agreement adding he would hope to be able to find grants too. Price asked for a time line on the hydraulic and hydrologic study to which Bergeron expects the results in the next few weeks.

The bridge will remain closed as there is not point to fix it with the DPW adding a barrier at the westerly entrance.

Mauro was pleased with the report from MSK. Brooks asked if there are firms available to do the work. Bergeron stated there are but they will be from away as there are firms that specialize in this work.

**Encumbrances** – Quotes received from Atlantic Recycling and Presby Steel for containers were reviewed. Atlantic Recycling quoted a 40-yard compactor container for \$8,375 and a 30-yard aluminum container for \$10,265 for a total of \$18,640 without delivery. Swift will contact Atlantic to see if we can pick up the containers and not pay the \$1,400 delivery fee. Presby does not offer a 30-yard aluminum container.

The Board discussed the encumbrance of funds to fix the granite at the Veteran Monument. No quote was received but previous at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board was that it would cost \$9,796. Shackford will reach out to Schilling to see if a quote has been issued.

In anticipation of receipt of the quote, it was suggested to vote to sign the paperwork for encumbrances out of session.

**Motion** by Mauro, seconded by Price to encumber \$18,640 for two solid waste containers and \$9,796 for the granite at the monument and to sign the paperwork out of session. The motion passed **3-0**.

**2024 Meeting Schedules** – Shackford asked the Board to review their meeting dates for 2024 specifically rescheduling December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 which lands on a Tuesday. The Board re-scheduled the December 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to Monday, December 23, 2024.

Shackford also asked the Board to consider scheduling the Public Budget Hearing, traditionally held on a Tuesday, to Thursday, February 8, 2024 to accommodate members of the ABC that will be out of town on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. ABC Chairman Fernandes added that if it is not possible, the ABC will hold their portion of the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed to hold the public hearing on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**ABC Report Request** – The ABC requested a report that includes employee name; salary, hourly rate or stipend; exempt or non-exempt; number of hours expected to work; end wages; threshold for overtime; cost of benefits that include FICA, NHRS and insurance. This report would be similar to the one published in the 2018 town report.

Mauro questioned if all this information is in the purview of the ABC. Tino Fernandes, ABC Chairman, feels it is the charge of the committee to gather information adding that, quite frankly, this stems from talk of nepotism which is always an element in a small town. A report was produced for the Town Report in the past and Fernandes would like to see it published again.

Chief King asked if the report request asks for more than the old report, which it does, with Fernandes feeling, even still, it is information available to the public and all this information should be transparent.

Chief King questioned the motives of the request for the report citing allegations by an ABC member that the Selectmen engaged in inappropriate nepotism and making back room deals. Fernandes can sense the personalness of the issue and stated he was elected to make things transparent.

The Board considered what can or should be in the report with Arruda suggesting something simple and Price seeing no problem with what is in the past report.

Fernandes asked the Board to provide what they feel they can and he will present it to the ABC and see if it meets their needs.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2024 Proposed Budget** – Arruda read through the proposed 2024 budget stating the percentage increase or decrease over 2023 with pertinent discussion listed below:

*Ambulance* – Shackford explained that the numbers have been received and are included. The call volume percentage for Madison has increased and therefore Madison's share is larger.

*Assessing* – Shackford suggested a possible reduction to the BTLA line as requests for abatements are less than anticipated.

*General Government Buildings* – Shackford noted that the heat and fuel lines could be lowered, suggesting a look once we are sure all 2023 invoices have been paid.

*Police* – Chief King stated that his 2024 budget amount will go down to be the same as the 2023 amount. He will get the numbers for each line to Shackford.

Arruda stated that the 2024 proposed budget is 6.6% over 2023 approved; the 2024 proposed budget is 4.3% over the 2023 proposed.

**2024 Warrant Articles** – Arruda read through the proposed 2024 warrant articles with pertinent discussion listed below:

*Solid Waste Hauling Truck* – Swift has looked into trucks and has found a 2024 Western Star around \$235,000 while still getting numbers for Freight Liner and Peterbilt. With a trade he can see the amount being under \$200,000. Arruda stated that if the first-year payment was the trade there would be no dollar impact on the warrant.

*Modoc Hill Road Repair* – Price has visited the area since this rain event and feels that replacing it in kind would not allow for the amount of water now going through the culvert. J. Shackford has prices that range from \$400,000 for a bridge to \$600,000 for a box culvert. Price will reach out to Noah Coleman to see if he can give any ideas. Brooks stated that NH Homeland Security visited the inlet and both pipes have failed structurally with the headwall being disturbed and stones settled. Brooks would like to see this storm receive and emergency declaration.

*Create Veteran Monument ETF* – It was decided that this ETF will not be created in 2024. Mauro sees that most of the management of the monument is handled by Town Hall employees. Price sees more names being solicited and that increases the annual cost. Brooks said that the names will be caught up when the stone is remediated.

*Petition to Accept Banfield Hollow Roads* – Brooks feels this should have an amount associated with it as there will be an annual cost to the Town to maintain the roads. That amount will be calculated based upon costs obtained for the legal issue on Danforth Lane.

Arruda stated that the total warrant for 2024 is at \$4,105,640 which is an increase of \$264,570 (6.89%) over last year.

**Selectman Price's List** – No items.

**Selectman Arruda's List** – The revenue for the year at the Transfer Station for tipping fees was \$68,537 with 2022 being \$57,898.

**Selectman Mauro's List** – Mauro thanked the DPW for their work on the roads, especially the dirt ones, with that last rain storm. Mauro complimented the Police Department for being one man down on the roster and the only town to not use deputies for call outs.

**Administrator's List** – No items.

**Department Heads' Lists:**

*Tax Collector/Town Clerk/Fire Chief Brooks* – 2023 Property tax collection is at 95.45% collected; collection is \$261,324 ahead of last year, which Brooks attributes to transfers of property that were consistently delinquent. Brooks also mentioned:

- Materials for the dry hydrant in Allegro Pines have been delivered. Brooks will work with the DPW to begin installation tomorrow;
- As Emergency Management Director, Brooks met with Homeland Security to review Modoc Hill Road after the last flooding event; and
- Brooks has scheduled a non-public with the Board to inform them of a local emergency situation in Town.

*Chief King* – The department is still working with one less officer and Chief King plans to run his department for a little while that way.

*DPW Shackford* – The DPW has been cleaning up storm damage, filling potholes and repairing washouts on several roads not limited to George Chick, Bickford, Pound Colby Hill and Glines Hill Roads. Shackford reported:

- Culvert inventory done on Mooney Hill Road;
- Arranged for large dangerous tree removal at King Pine Road;
- Assisted VDOE with disposal of discarded trash bags.

*Rec Director O'Donnell* – O'Donnell announced that Rec is sponsoring a trivia night this Thursday at 6:00. Basketball began last week to an excited crowd with O'Donnell noting no practice this week because of vacation.

**SIGNATURE ITEMS:**

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

Yield Tax Mosher

Sullivan Tire Federal Tax Exemption

Abatement 225-025 \$95.92

LUCT - Petell 228-058 \$9,800.00

Veterans Credit – 221-026

**6:12 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; and

**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

**Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (e)** Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.

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

**7:15 PM Motion** by Mauro, seconded by Price to return to public session and seal the minutes of **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 to make public the minutes of the **Non-Public Sessions 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 seal the minutes of **Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (e)** Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph. The motion passed **3-0**.

**Motion** by Mauro, seconded by Price to adjourn at 7:24 pm. The motion passed **3-0**.

**NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING** – The next Selectmen’s Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2024 commencing at 4:30 pm at the Madison Town Hall meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator