

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
November 19, 2025  
MINUTES**

**Selectmen Present** – Adam Price; Joy Gray; Jim Eldridge; Jake Boewe; Nicole Nordlund

**Others Present** – Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Videographers Evan Woss; several members of the public

**Where and When Posted** – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on November 17, 2025.

**Meeting Called to Order** – By Price at 4:30 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Price led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were none at this time. Nordlund asked that public comment be allowed during discussion. Price will entertain comments after the Board has a chance to discuss.

**Letter of Intent with O'Connor for Purchase of Mack Truck for Grant:**

The Board engaged in a detailed discussion about signing a new letter of intent to O'Connor for the purchase of a Mack all-wheel drive truck as part of Granite State Clean Fleet grant program. This purchase is part of a state grant program that would cover \$255,000, or 70% of the truck's \$365,000 cost. The Town's portion, approximately \$110,000, would be sourced from the unreserved fund balance.

The discussion highlighted several key considerations:

- The initial letter of intent included a condition requiring approval at the Town Meeting in March 2026, which the dealership, O'Connor, refused to accept. The dealership requested the removal of this contingency to proceed with the ordering of the truck.
- The necessity for the truck was emphasized, as it would replace a 2005 Peterbilt scheduled for replacement in the 2026/2027. The new Mack truck is seen as uniquely capable due to its all-wheel drive, particularly for handling Madison's challenging terrain, such as Mooney Hill and Glines Hill.
- The state grant's timeline necessitates the truck to be in service by December 2026 to avoid forfeiting the grant funds. This timeline puts pressure on the Town to act quickly to secure the vehicle.
- The grant specifically required the submitted truck configuration. The Board noted that the Mack truck was cross-referenced with a similar model successfully used by the Town of Freedom.

Concerns raised during the meeting included:

- The process used in the grant application, which relied on a last-minute quote and older quotes from 2022-2023. There were complaints about the lack of comprehensive exploration of alternative dealers or truck configurations.
- Financial risks were discussed, particularly if the Town meeting rejects the purchase, in which case the town would be responsible for any upfront payments made.

**Public comments** during the discussion were offered:

- **Sharon Schilling** raised concerns over the specificity in the grant writing process that resulted in limited flexibility with the choice of dealerships and truck types. She emphasized the need for improved processes in handling town grants and suggested that more knowledgeable personnel in grant writing could be beneficial.
- **Joe Dame** defended the decision to move forward, acknowledging process flaws but citing the financial advantages of securing the grant. He urged consensus to capitalize on the opportunity to procure the truck at a significantly reduced cost, advocating immediate action to benefit from the grant before a deadline.
- **Rich Ventura** highlighted the importance of modifying the Town's grant application processes. He echoed frustration about the current methods and recommended introducing clear policies to prevent similar situations in the future.
- **Brian Ursino** questioned the choice of a Mack truck, suggesting alternatives like International trucks that might offer better value. He underscored his experience with Massachusetts DOT, stressing that evaluating a broader range of bids might save money.
- **Cheryl Brooks** agreed that the future grant procurement processes should be reviewed but accusations about Town employees' performance should be curtailed as they are doing the best they can.

Eldridge reiterated most all of the concerns expressed and added that he cannot fathom that Town Meeting would turn down this opportunity. The Board recognized the substantial financial savings along with the frustration of the process but understood that not signing the Letter of Intent could give up a valuable opportunity.

**Motion** by Eldridge, seconded by Boewe to sign the Letter of Intent. The motion passed **5-0**.

**SIGNATURE ITEM:**

**Request for Payment – DS Cole Growers**

The Board approved a payment request of \$526.25 from the Rec Revolving Fund for the purchase of poinsettias.

The meeting adjourned with a final discussion about reviewing and revising the Town's purchasing policies and procedures at an upcoming meeting on December 9th.

**Motion** by Eldridge, seconded by Boewe to adjourn. The motion passed **5-0**.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.

**NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING** – The next Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 2025 commencing at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator