

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF MADISON  
February 17, 2026  
MINUTES**

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

**Others Present** – Recording Secretary pro tem Aysia Wellinghurst; Admin Asst/Land Use Admin Kate Young; Police Chief Jim Hayford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Michael Brooks; Code Enforcement Officer Bob Boyd; DPW Acting Director Dylan Eldridge; Videographer Evan Woss; DPW crew members; and members of the public.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion** by Gray, seconded by Boewe to approve the non-public minutes made public of both January 30, 2026 and February 3, 2026 as written. The motion passed **4-0-1** with Eldridge abstaining due to him being absent.

Price asked Gray to make edits to the public meeting minutes of February 3, 2026 and bring them to the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE MANIFESTS:** Price read aloud the February 17 through 23, 2026 manifest totals in the amount of \$487,714.4. The manifest breakdown was as follows: \$17,956.08 for payroll; \$76,535.81 for accounts payable; \$21,254.49 for NHRS; and \$325,000 for Madison School District.

**Motion** by Eldridge, seconded by Boewe to approve the manifest as written. The motion passed **5-0**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jesse Shackford asked Price to explain his actions regarding the board's decision to fund an investigation into town employee personal use of town property. Shackford stated that at a previous selectmen meeting, Price was in consensus with the board to fund the investigation from the budget, but during the February 10, 2026 budget hearing made a motion to fund the investigation from a warrant article. Shackford accused Price of encouraging members of the public to vote down that article. Price denied the accusation.

Dave Scarborough, chair of the steering committee of the Silver Lake Watershed Management Plan, requested DPW attendance for a February 24, 2026 11:00am Zoom call with FB Environmental, the engineering firm conducting the watershed management study. Scarborough explained the time commitment would be the one meeting for now, but felt it would be helpful to have a standing DPW member included on future calls, as discussions of mitigation projects

(e.g ditches and culverts) arise. Price asked Scarborough to forward the Zoom invite to the DPW email address.

Lengthy discussion ensued between the board and members of the public regarding the aforementioned warrant article. Jesse Shackford asked selectmen to clarify their individual positions on the warrant article. Eldridge stated he does not support the article. Boewe expressed the issue should be left to the tax payers to decide. Gray stated that although she supported the investigation she wishes it could have been done internally, four months ago, and does not feel that \$8,000 should be spent. Nordlund expressed it is not the job of the selectmen to ignore tax-payer's inquiries; whether they be written in letters or in-person and thought the board would have been under contract by now. Eldridge stated that he thought the investigation should have been handled internally and it was unnecessary to spend \$8,000. Price expressed that he initiated re-writing the policy to correct the issue of personal use of town property but due to the conclusion from the board's attorney that no action could be taken upon prior employees or board members, \$8,000 was a waste of money.

Linda Haver asked about the legality of personal use of equipment and expressed that conducting an investigation would help the public regain trust with the board. Scarborough expressed concern that Price made the decision to move the investigation to a warrant article without consensus from the board as a whole. Price responded that he made a motion at a public budget hearing, which is anyone's prerogative to make.

Charles Allen stated that spending \$8,000 would not result in the ability to sue and therefore an unbiased discussion from the selectmen should be had with DPW staff to ask what happened. Allen suggested to then move forward with enforcing the new policy, which if not followed, would have consequences.

Austin Thomas stated he is a Madison tax payer and was not coerced by Price to speak on behalf of the investigation at the February 10 budget hearing. Thomas further stated Gray contacted his brother-in-law to discuss said accused coercion. Gray denied doing so. Paul Mckenna suggested the selectmen perform the investigation internally in order to save money. Gray expressed concern that management and leadership allowed the personal use and therefore could not be unbiased in an investigation.

John Arruda spoke of prior experience with MRI and warned the board that although MRI does quality work, they are expensive. Arruda said the money saved not using MRI would be better spent on preparing for town meeting. Mike Mauro asked why the investigation would only go back three years. Gray expressed concern that that option was discussed in a non-public session. Haver suggested the selectmen forfeit their stipends to pay for the investigation in order to restore trust.

Marcia Shackford asked each selectman if they have attended municipal trainings, how many sessions, and if the session covered the subject at hand. Boewe, Eldridge, and Gray responded they had all attended one when they were elected. Price stated he has attended two. Nordlund

none because she was appointed to fill a vacancy. Discussion ensued between Gray and Price regarding how many instances of personal use of town property Price is aware of. Price said he knew of one instance at a person's home and it is possible there is some use from the Old Home Week Committee. Discussion further developed regarding if operators of the equipment at the time were employees covered under insurance. Price stated he knew of one instance where they were not.

Tom Reinfuss stated that he felt there was a problem with transparency and in a small town mistakes should be brought into the open. Ron Force expressed that the investigation could be done internally and asked if the warrant was a finalized decision. Price answered that the warrant is complete. Nordlund explained that the warrant is worded as "up to \$8,000" and the selectmen can discontinue the investigation at any time they feel there is enough evidence. Sharon Schilling noted that if the warrant gets voted down, it would prevent any investigation from happening. Donna Veilluex asked the board to move the warrant. Price explained that moving a warrant could be done on the floor at town meeting, but not prior to, as DRA has already approved the warrant articles.

Mauro asked for clarification regarding if the warrant article were to not pass, it would not preclude the selectmen from conducting an internal investigation. Price confirmed that if the warrant failed, the selectmen could not spend money with an outside firm this year, but could conduct an investigation internally.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Town Administrator Job Description-**

Price read aloud letters of resignation from Town Administrator Linda Shackford and DPW Director Josh Shackford. Paul McKenna inquired of acting DPW Director, Dylan Eldridge's experience in DPW. Price responded that Eldridge has been a DPW employee for 6 years. Administrative Assistant and Land Use Boards Administrator Kate Young read aloud a personal letter to the members of the public and selectboard highlighting disparities of transparency and accountability. Price vocalized his appreciation of Linda Shackford's service to the town. Charles Allen suggested a thank you letter to be sent to Linda. The board agreed to a thank you letter. The selectboard arranged to meet Thursday, February 19th, 6:30pm to finalize the job description.

##### **Joe Dame for Silver Lake Dam Grant Funding-**

Joe Dame asked for the board's permission to apply for a FY2027 Community Funding Request through the office of Chris Pappas for purposes of securing funding of \$1.2M for the Silver Lake Dam repairs. Dame believed there would be a 20% cost share from the town if awarded the grant. Dame asked the selectmen for prior estimates and information regarding the dam with the application due by March 6, 2026. Gray agreed to gather information for Dame.

##### **Cable Contract Letter Update from Attorney Miller-**

Price noted there was no update at this time from Attorney Miller.

### **Review, Comment, Approve CIP Committee Documentation-**

Gray detailed the components of the purchasing policy and procedure that the Capital Improvement Committee (CIC) drafted. Gray asked for board amendments to the policy and worksheet. Price noted the policy was in need of the selectmen's signature page. Price asked Michael Brooks if the CIP would be adopted by the Planning Board or Selectboard. Brooks suggested the Selectmen hold a joint board meeting with the Planning Board. Nordlund suggested department heads preview the worksheet before it is adopted. Brooks suggested a timeline within the worksheet as prices fluctuate overtime. Schilling stated that as a member of the CIC the implication of the worksheet was that it was a living document; which could be submitted with general information to begin with and becoming more detailed as specifics arise. Price asked Brooks to send the documents to department heads for review. The board approved a draft of the CIP and the road- CIP to be uploaded to the town website under the warrant. Price stated he would ask the Planning Board at their March 4 meeting to meet with the Selectmen at their April 14 meeting. In addition, the board approved Selectmen Gray work with Carla to fix and update the town calendar.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Discussion of Personnel Policy: Town of Madison Property-**

**Motion** by Boewe, seconded by Eldridge to adopt the "Personnel Policy: Town of Madison Property" as read on February 17, 2026. The motion passed **5-0**.

Charles Allen mentioned that although the DPW have all attended the ten hour OSHA certification class, the thirty hour class would allow them to issue certifications to others to use equipment.

#### **Discussion of DRAFT Purchasing Policy Changes-**

The board agreed to bring the draft to the next Selectmen meeting.

### **SELECTMEN'S LISTS:**

**Selectman Nordlund** stated that she had started looking into security cameras for the transfer station and found them to range from \$150 to \$250. Discussion arose regarding the type of camera to purchase as there is no Wi-Fi at the transfer station and DPW staff do not have town issued phones or an office computer. Chief Hayford recommended not using game cameras due the time-cost spent reviewing excessive footage. Price asked acting DPW Director D. Eldridge to look into what type of camera would suffice.

**Selectman Gray** had no items.

**Selectman Eldridge** stated the fallen tree at the head of the lake would be cleaned up by two individuals and the homeowner before ice-out and therefore there was no need to contact the homeowner.

**Selectman Price** displayed two plaques; one being for the Madison Mustang girls basketball team for winning 1st place in the Carroll County Tournament; the other for the boys basketball

team for second place. Price also stated that Madison Rec Summer Camp registration is now open.

**Selectman Boewe** updated the board that he has been working with DPW and Dig & Doze LLC on preliminary designs of the salt shed. Boewe detailed some possible design features; wood frame, metal exterior, 8' walled bays for dumping, paved flooring and the possibility of a lean-to on one side to store equipment under. Cost savings were discussed; such as a simpler design, having volunteers build the structure, and multiple quotes dependent on features of the design.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD LISTS:**

**Admin Asst/Land Use Administrator Young** had no items.

**Chief of Police Hayford** had no items.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Brooks** stated the pump on the tank truck has been replaced. Brooks noted the vehicle is back in service but new adapters are needed. Brooks stated the truck has been well maintained and although it is an older vehicle should last for years. Brooks disclosed there has been a 98% collection of 2025 taxes and announced to the public there is one more week to pay taxes due before penalties are applied. Brooks also addressed the public regarding absentee ballots and highlighted the difference to this year's online ballot requests that will now require a copy of a drivers license.

**Acting DPW Director D. Eldridge** noted that he had submitted the two-week DPW report to the selectmen. D. Eldridge informed the board a rubber edge for plowing dirt roads was needed. He asked if this budget item should come under maintenance and referred to two separate quotes. The board said that because the cost was under \$1,000 he did not need board approval. Gray and Nordlund mentioned they had both received many compliments on the condition of the roads and thanked the DPW for their job well done. Brooks expressed that due to the numerous frost heaves this season, emergency vehicles may have slower arrival times. Gray asked D. Eldridge to email the DPW reports.

Price stated that he would call MRI to fill the vacant town administrator position and share their response with the board via email as he would be out of town for the February 19 meeting. D. Eldridge asked if the DPW laptop could be unlocked for the watershed management Zoom call. Brooks stated he would ask Patrick. Nordlund inquired about the selectmen's report for the town annual report. **Motion** by Gray seconded by Boewe to accept as written, the selectmen's report for the 2025 Town Annual Report. The motion passed **5-0**.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Donna Veilleux asked about investigations that were referenced in Young's letter during the meeting. Price responded there were two prior, public investigations of town personnel (one regarding hours worked and one regarding conduct) that were state-agency run, initiated by a citizen, and unfounded.

**SIGNATURE ITEMS:**

Manifest

Payroll & Accounts Payable Checks

2026 Warrant (signed copy needs to be in Town Report)

MS- 636 2026 Budget

Veteran's Credit: Krellner 246-013

**Motion** by Boewe seconded by Eldridge to work with Attorney Chris Boldt of Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella for town meeting. The motion passed **5-0**.

**6:51pm Motion** by Price, seconded by Boewe to enter into 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.

Gray - aye, Nordlund - aye, Eldridge- aye, Boewe- aye; Price- aye

Respectfully submitted,

Aysia Wellinghurst,

Recording secretary pro tem