

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
March 3, 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; Videographer Evan Woss; and members of the public.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:The board agreed to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2026 at a later meeting due to Selectmen Gray having not yet brought her edits before the board. The board agreed to approve the meeting minutes of February 17, 2026 at a later meeting due to copier issues causing the board to only have the odd numbered pages of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MANIFEST: Price read aloud the February 24 through March 3, 2026 manifest totals in the amount of \$285,290.27. The manifest breakdown was as follows: \$37,017.26 for payroll; \$10,045.18 for payroll liabilities ; \$38,227.83 for accounts payable; and \$200,000 for Madison School District. **Motion** by Boewe, seconded by Eldridge to approve the manifest as written. The motion passed **4-1-0**.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Scarborough inquired of conveying to the public details of the hiring process for the Town Administrator position. Price detailed posted locations of the job listing and explained the board is holding non-public sessions to review incoming resumes. Price and Gray explained the board of selectmen have a ranking matrix of qualifications that each application will be graded on. Donna Veilleux asked how many applications have been received. Young responded, eleven.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS:

White Mountain Center for Creative Development - Use of beach June, July, August- third Thursday of each month and raffle-

The board reviewed an application for the use of the White Mountain Center for Creative Development for the use of the town beach. The applicant was not present. The board determined the application was incomplete, missing a facilities use form and a specific request for the raffle. Price asked Young to forward the applicant the facilities use form.

Chocorua Men's Softball- April 1 to August 21, 2026- Playoffs August 15th and 16th from 7:00am to 6:00pm-

The board reviewed a facilities use form application from Chocorua Men's Softball League. Gray inquired of the dates of usage. Brooks stated that the schedule will be sent to his office later in the Spring. Gray inquired if Madison Recreation will have priority of use of Burke field. Brooks confirmed that the league is aware that Madison Recreation has priority. Gray inquired of the fees of usage. Price responded that in past years the fee was \$400, but was cut to \$200 in 2025 because the league offered to help maintain the field. Discussion occurred regarding complaints of trash accumulation from the League in years prior. Ideas for a clause within the contract, or an increased fee to cover trash removal were discussed, however, the board determined trash removal is included in the contract and did not move to adjust the fee. Price asked Young to contact the applicant to sign the form as it was missing in the submitted application.

Presentation from the Madison Community Garden- Kate Frati, Laura McFeeley, Kristin Morel & Liz Kiilday (Requested 30 Minutes)-

Madison resident, Kat Frati, deliberated to the board the vision for resurrecting the old community garden space that previously existed at the edge of Burke Field. Frati identified the members of the Community Garden Steering Committee. Frati detailed materials needed; a fence to keep out wildlife, and ten to twelve, 4' by 4', raised beds, and water requirements noting the proximity to a stream where a pump was previously installed. It was noted the condition of the pump was unknown and inspection of the pump would need to wait until Spring thaw. Sue Vatnick suggested checking the water quality of the brook that feeds the pump.

Frati outlined that although the previous community garden was run by resident Ray O'Brien with help from the town, the committee was interested in running the new community as a non-profit. Other members of the steering committee highlighted their experience with community projects. Frati stated the committee would like to work with the Madison Conservation Commission and the elementary school as well. Price inquired of insurance. Frati stated she received a quote but was not clear what the insurance covered and would send the quote to the board.

Frati stated the steering committee is seeking the selectboard's permission to use the property. The board discussed that although they had no issue with the land being used, a call to the town's insurance provider, Primex, would be the best course of action to inquire of liability risk and legality of membership dues. Price assigned Young to contact Primex. Donna Veiellex suggested the garden be named "The Ray O'Brien Memorial Community Garden".

Letter of support to the Honorable Chris Pappas re:TY-27 Congressional Project Funding Request- Madison, NH Silver Lake Dam Replacement-

Nordlund inquired of the timeline of funding from this project. Dame noted it was for fiscal year 2027 which typically comes out in October. **Motion** by Eldridge, seconded by Boewe to sign the letter of support for the Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2027 through the office of Congressman Chris Pappas, drafted by budget committee member Joe Dame. The motion passed **5-0**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Final Discussion on DRAFT Purchasing Policy Changes-

Price explained a motion was approved at a prior meeting to sign the new Purchasing Policy with the only differences to the policy since the motion being the date and signature lines. The board signed the policy.

SELECTMEN'S LISTS:

Selectman Nordlund had no items.

Selectman Gray stated she sent Young a copy of the draft CIP to put on the town website ahead of Town Meeting. Young expressed she did not have a copy of a color-coded road CIP that Gray requested also go on the website. Boewe stated he would send Young the list of roads that are color-coded, noting there is no map included in the document. Gray inquired of Young for the board to receive a detailed town budget drawdown while the Budget Committee has no scheduled meetings until later in the year. Gray stated the DPW had requested to meet with the selectmen once a month. Price stated the DPW department is welcome to every meeting. Young noted, given the in-coming snow storm, the DPW was absent.

Selectman Eldridge had no items.

Selectman Price stated he was contacted by an EMS personnel in regards to whether washing their personal vehicles at the fire station upon returning from a call was no longer permitted in light of the recent amendments to the personnel policy regarding town of Madison property. Brooks stated he directed personnel to discontinue this practice for the time being. The board was in agreement of Young drafting a document permitting the action in the event the vehicle was used on a call.

Price noted the Madison Recreation Director had inquired if the selectboard would like to hold a public hearing to increase the fee of pickleball to \$10 per person per night. Comments from members of the public expressed that Tamworth does not charge fees to residents and although North Conway does charge a fee, it is run through a privately funded club. Further public comments expressed that \$10 seemed steep. Nordlund inquired of costs for pickleball (e.g. hiring a custodian to clean up). Price responded Madison Rec is responsible for all clean-up, leaving the gymnasium as it was found after each event. The board agreed to not instate a fee for pickleball at this time.

Price reminded the board he would be inviting the Planning Board to attend the Selectmen's April 14, 2026 meeting to discuss the CIP. Price declared Young needs to be appointed as the new contact for Primex. Price noted that Attorney Miller has requested a non-meeting on March 17, 2026 at 3pm via Zoom to discuss developments to the Charter Communications contract.

Price requested a non-public session following tonight's meeting.

Selectman Boewe presented the board with an estimate from Dig & Doze LLC in the amount of \$232,730.30 for the construction and installation, not including a foundation, of the salt shed.

Boewe detailed specifications for the shed, noting that excluding the lean-to from the proposal would decrease the estimate by \$35,000. Dame noted that Jean Shaheen's office is interested in funding projects of this scope through grants. The board was in agreement of Dame drafting a letter. **Motion** by Gray, seconded by Eldridge to sign the letter out of session. The motion passed **5-0**.

ADMINISTRATOR'S LIST:

Admin/ Asst Land Use Admin Young inquired of a tax-exempt invoice due April 15, 2026 noting that a warrant article to pay the truck in full exists. The board agreed to not pay the invoice at this time. Young noted the Town of Madison Property amendment in the Personnel Policy would be delivered to employees tomorrow to sign and return.

DEPARTMENT HEAD LIST:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Brooks stated he had been copied on correspondence to Bob Boyd regarding the excess of municipal hazardous waste buildup at a residence on Allard Hill. Brooks inquired of the board if an open top container could be delivered to the residence. Discussion ensued of the details of the situation, noting concerns including; the residents of the property do not have the physical capability to move waste to the transfer station themselves; what steps would procure to ensure the property maintains cleanliness following an initial clean-up; and a better understanding of the magnitude of waste currently there. The board directed Brooks to collect further evidence of the situation prior to making any decisions.

Brooks reminded attendees of voting day and election day noting two new voting machines would be used at the polls this year.

Chief of Police Hayford had no items.

SIGNATURE ITEMS:

Manifest
Payroll and Accounts Payable Checks
Execute Final Policy Purchasing Policy Changes
Letter of Support to the Honorable Chris Pappas
NHRS User Access Form Adding Katharine Young
Execute Professional Services Agreement with Municipal Resources Inc for consulting services to assist in the Executive Office
Porter Office Machines Contract for BizHub 4052– Code enforcement office copier
Wage Verification Form

Price read aloud the agreement letter from Municipal Resources Inc., MRI. Gray noted there was no mention in the letter of knowledge of payroll systems or State Library form submissions but acknowledged other duties the board requested assistance with were covered. **Motion** by Boewe, seconded by Eldridge to sign the MRI agreement letter. The motion passed **5-0**.

Gray requested documents to the board to be sent as PDFs to avoid format and printing errors.

6:11pm Motion by Price, seconded by Eldridge to enter into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.
Gray - aye, Nordlund - aye, Eldridge- aye, Boewe- aye; Price- aye

Respectfully submitted,

Aysia Wellinghurst,
Recording secretary pro tem