**TOWN OF MADISON - PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Inhabitants of the Town of Madison are hereby notified about the following public meeting:

The time, place and purpose of which are as follows:

**MINUTES**

**MADISON SELECT BOARD**

**OLD POINT SCHOOL MEETING ROOM 104**

**108 OLD POINT AVENUE**

**Monday January 22, 2024**

## 6:30 p.m.

1. Called to order at 6:30pm. All saluted to the flag.
2. Roll Call: Present were Vice Chair Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Estes and Mr. Bean. Chairman Veneziano arrived shortly after the meeting began. Mr. Moody was absent.
3. Consent Agenda

A/P Warrants:

 #19 – 1-8-24 = $499,340.03

Payroll Registers:

 #2 – 1-11-24 - $18,170.54

 #3 – 1-18-24 - $19,868.60

Motion to approve the warrants by Ms. Estes, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the Select Board meeting on January 8, 2024.

Motion to accept the minutes as written by Mr. Bean, second by Ms. Estes. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

1. Old Business:
2. Appointment of Tax Collector – Julie Rich has conditionally accepted. More details in Executive Session.
3. Items of Communication:

1. Thank you letter from Robin Turek, American Legion Auxiliary President, for use of Old Point Avenue school meeting room temporarily.
2. Living Well in Madison reports week ending 1/14/2024 and 1/21/2024
3. Town Manager’s report on expenses and budget – currently at 51% overall (week 29 = 56%).

The Town Manager mentioned that there are several categories that are already more than 75% expended in the highway department and will be keeping a close eye on those budget lines as the winter progresses.

The Town Manager discussed looking for money in the budget to support a part-time temporary (per diem). Ms. Estes asked if there was any likelihood of finding someone for the parttime position that had experience behind a municipal counter. The Town Manager responded that there were two people who indicated an interest in such a position and one of them has municipal experience and one would need training.

1. New Business
2. Resolution authorizing the Town Manager, Denise Ducharme, to act on behalf of the Town of Madison as the Authorized Official to accept and expend grant funds from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) for the TimberHP/GoLab grant.

Motion to approve the resolution by Ms. Estes, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

1. Somerset Broadband Coalition (SBC), an arm of the Somerset Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) - to introduce the beneficial digital/broadband opportunities available to Madison residents.

Liz Caruso, Broadband Director for SEDC, and Susan Hathaway, Digital Navigator, presented opportunities available for Madison residents. “Broadband is no longer a luxury, now it is more of a utility.” The Federal government has given grant money to state organizations to distribute locally, focusing on the population of citizens who are less likely to be connected or have the technical expertise to navigate the internet safely.

* Infrastructure
* Affordable internet access – have given out 48 laptops and tablets to frontline partners in Somerset County
* Affordable devices – partnered with “Give IT, Get IT” (GI-GI) in Waterville – they refurbish commercial grade computers and sell them cheaply – people can apply on their website and GI-GI will build them a computer that suits their needs if they qualify.
* Free digital skills classes – 10 laptops/tables available for use in mobile lab.

Discussion/Questions:

* Does GI-GI take old computers for recycling?
	+ Yes, but they only refurbish and sell commercial grade equipment.
* Is there a place in Madison where SBC can set up a mobile lab for up to 10 people for an hour at a time?
	+ Yes, work with the Town Manager to secure a place (OPA meeting room?) or fill out a facility form with the middle school to use the library or a classroom, but there may be firewall issues with the school internet.
1. Response(s) to RFP for structural engineering study of municipal buildings

Only one response – possibly due to short turn-around time of RFP.

Discussion/Questions – Chairman Veneziano suggested it should wait until we put this cost into the budget for FY 25. Current bid will be held (no need to resubmit). New bids to be submitted by March 31, 2024. Accepted bid would be effective July 1, 2024 and engineering study would be due back to the Town by August 1, 2024.

1. Citizen Concerns:
2. None
3. Select Board Concerns:

Ms. Dwyer - none

Mr. Bean – asked about the status of ice rink for this year. Discussed options. Mr. Bean will reach out to Joe Hayden to find out more.

Ms. Estes – asked if the Town Manager reached out to Sheriff Lancaster about the public hearing. Yes, but no response yet. The Town Manager will follow-up.

Mr. Moody

Chairman Veneziano

1. Executive Session to consider:
2. Personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405-6(A).

Motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matter by Ms. Estes, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0. Entered executive session at 7:10pm.

Executive session concluded at 7:48pm.

Motion by Ms. Estes to increase pay-rate for Julie Rich as tax collector by $2.50 per hour, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

1. Adjournment:

Motion by Ms. Dwyer, second by Mr. Bean. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

NEXT REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING IS FEBRUARY 12, 2024

OLD POINT SCHOOL

6:30 pm