

MINUTES

**MADISON SELECT BOARD
OLD POINT SCHOOL MEETING ROOM 104
108 OLD POINT AVENUE
Monday June 24, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

A. Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. All saluted to the flag.

B. Roll Call: All elected select board members were present.

C. Election of Select Board Chair and Vice Chair

The Town Manager presided. Nomination of Albert Veneziano for Chair by Ms. Estes, second by Mr. Moody. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. Veneziano abstained).

Chairman Veneziano presided. Nomination of Sally Dwyer for Vice Chair by Ms. Estes, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Ms. Dwyer abstained).

D. **Consent Agenda**

1. A/P Warrants:

#40 – 05-29-2024 - \$108,654.61

#41 – 05-29-2004 - \$3,008.67

#42 – 06-11-2024 - \$466,239.50

2. Payroll Registers:

#22 – 05-30-2024 - \$16,795.78

#23 – 06-06-2024 - \$17,577.92

#24 – 06-13-2024 - \$13,798.93

#25 – 06-20-2024 - \$46,365.17 (semi-annual fire fighters pay & stipends)

Motion by Ms. Estes to approve the AP and PR warrants as presented, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

E. **Acceptance of the minutes** of the Select Board meeting on May 28, 2024.

Motion by Ms. Dwyer to accept the minutes of May 28, 2024, as presented, second by Ms. Estes. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. Bean abstained).

Acceptance of the minutes of the Select Board meeting on April 8, 2024 (requires Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Estes, and Mr. Bean to be present)

Motion by Ms. Estes to accept the minutes of April 8, 2024, as presented, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0-2 (Mr. Veneziano and Mr. Moody abstained).

F. **Old Business:**

1. Report on interest earned since switching to new insured cash sweep account

New sweep account earned \$7,000+ interest in May – about double of previous months.

2. Review progress of planning board on new ordinance (proposed Chapter 170) for controlled substance facilities in safe zones

The Planning Board met June 12, 2024, to discuss the existing “Safe Zone” ordinance {as it relates to the new “Controlled Substance Facilities” [CSF] ordinance}, adding Yogi Bear Jellystone Campground, churches and religious organizations, as well as daycare and childcare facilities to the list of safe zones. They also want to add more definitions to the CSF ordinance for clarification. They are proposing limiting the allowed areas to the 201 corridor between White School House Road and the Skowhegan Town Line, as well as the Business Park.

Chairman Veneziano encouraged anyone interested in attending the next Planning Board meeting to do so – Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:30pm in the OPA meeting room. He outlined the process:

- Planning Board will create a draft of the new ordinance for CSF;
- Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the new ordinance;
- Planning Board will revise as necessary and send to the Select Board;
- Select Board will review and discuss;
- Select Board will hold a public hearing on the updated ordinance proposal;
- Select Board will revise as necessary and send to Town Meeting for adoption.

Mr. Moody asked why the Planning Board restricted the allowable area from the end of 148 to the Skowhegan town line. The Town Manager responded that it also includes the Business Park as the most open-spaced spots and least populated. Mr. Moody asked if there was any restriction on residential properties other than the regular 15 foot setback. There is no such restriction yet, but it can be suggested to the Planning Board that a buffer zone sh15-foot included. Code Enforcement Officer shared a map of buffer areas surrounding the existing safe zones. Mr. Moody and Chairman Veneziano reiterated the need to ask the Planning Board to add buffers around allowable areas that would increase the nominal 15-foot setback provisions between buildings on adjoining lots to a greater distance.

Citizen John Martins mentioned that there were a number of townspeople who said they didn’t want the CSF in Madison at all and that if that is a plausibility, it should be investigated. Citizen Leon Dorr asked for clarification on the 201 corridor to find out if it extended to Lakewood. It would not extend past the end of 148 (White School House Road). Citizen Pete Sirois offered a suggestion that the Planning Board could consider a buffer between the CSF and existing residences of (example only) 1,000 feet or so.

The Town Manager agreed to bring this feedback and suggestions to the Planning Board. Chairman Veneziano reminded everyone that it will ultimately come down to a town vote, that we would need to reach some sort of consensus.

3. Tax acquired properties sold since 2018

Description of the two properties sold for more than the outstanding taxes, fees, and other amounts due:

- a) 232 Bagley Road, sold for \$20,232, amount owed was \$5,034.28. Potential liability for excess sale proceeds of \$15,197.72.
- b) 1162 Lakewood Road, sold for \$12,220, amount owed was \$3,090.64. Potential liability for excess proceeds of \$9,129.36.

The Town Manager and Town Clerk will forward this information to the FOAA requestor.

Town liability under new law is \$24,327.08. Current amount in the General Foreclosure Sales account for the Town is \$13,233.19, leaving an estimated liability of \$11,093.89.

4. Quit Claim Deeds

- a. Corrected Quit Claim Deed for 11 Mountain View Road, for Carroll, Wayne W.
No motion required – already approved May 28, 2024.
- b. Quit Claim Deed for 32 Hayden Street, for Allain, Roland III

Motion by Ms. Estes to approve the quit claim deed for Allain, Roland III, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

G. **Items of Communication:**

1. Living Well reports
2. Town Manager's report on expenses and budget – currently at 89% (week 51 = 98%)

Revenues are running slightly behind at 88%. Maine Revenue Sharing is above projected by almost \$100,000. Neither the Homestead Exemption (\$337,333.05) nor the Veteran's Exemption (\$4,000) has been recorded as revenues yet.

To date, four (4) applications for the full-time Director of Parks and Recreation have been received. Interviews will be scheduled for the week of July 1st. Interview panel will include Town Manager Ducharme, HR Director Burrows, Chairman Veneziano, Selectmen Bean, Kristie LeBlanc and Jason Furbush.

3. MDOT notification for resurfacing of Madison-Anson bridge (spring/summer/fall 2025)

Tim Aguilar and Mark Parlin from Maine DOT conducted an introductory meeting about the Anson-Madison "Bicentennial Bridge" on June 18, 2024. Town Manger Ducharme, Fire Chief French, and Road Commissioner Gordon attended, along with Anson Town Administrator Tammy Murray attended the meeting. The plan is for MDOT to replace the wearing surface, not reconstruct the bridge. The hope is to prolong the life of the bridge which was originally constructed in 1974 and resurfaced in 1996.

MDOT does not intend to use a temporary bridge during the project, but to restrict the traffic to one lane (with a sidewalk) while they work on the other lane. They will use a light system to control the flow of traffic from north and south lanes on the Anson side, as well as from the entrance to TimberHP parking lot(s), Pine Street and Main Street in Madison.

The project is expected to begin in the Spring of 2025 and last 4-5 months. MDOT will be realigning the finger joints as they progress through the project. According to them, there is an average daily traffic count of more than 8,000 vehicles in a given day traveling in either direction.

Town Administrator Murray stated that she was concerned about the Anson Fire Department and the AMS Ambulance Service being unable to breach the traffic on or near the bridge when responding to emergencies. MDOT representatives stated that the light bars have signal interrupters that emergency vehicles can use to clear the way. Each vehicle would need a transducer at a cost of approximately \$1,200 apiece. The costs would be borne by the municipalities.

H. **New Business**

1. Ratification of contract with Somerset County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Moody asked if there were any changes from the previous year's contract. The Town Manager explained that the base contract amount was less than last year because the County has moved away from using the unspent payments (set aside in a contingency fund) to offering a lower contract price.

Motion by Ms. Dwyer to approve the contract as presented, second by Mr. Moody.

Discussion – Citizen Jeff Wright asked how the County ended up with the Madison patrol vehicles and what happened to them. The Town Manager explained that the original vehicles transferred to the County in 2015 for use by the Madison Division have since been assimilated into the Sheriff's Office fleet and used for trade-ins for newer vehicles. Since the contract model has changed, any deputies in the Sheriff's Office could be assigned to Madison now. There are not specific deputies and specific vehicles assigned to Madison anymore.

Citizen Wright asked if the Town got any return for those vehicles. Chairman Veneziano responded that as he understood the process, each year money was taken off the contract because we got money for those vehicles. It was included in the contingency fund. Town Manager stated we would need to get confirmation from someone at the County finance office to verify that conclusion. Chairman Veneziano added that it was a selectmen's decision when they approved the contract for that year.

Ms. Estes questioned why the Town is not aware of the dollar amounts that were spent or saved on vehicles, trade-ins, and personnel staffing shortages. The Town Manager will investigate further with the County Administrator and Finance Officer.

Mr. Moody emphasized that the past contracts had all been approved and that the current discussion was not relevant.

Motion passed 3 -1 (Ms. Estes) - 1 (Mr. Bean abstained)

2. Clerk's certification of sufficiency in recall petition

Town Clerk, Ms. Stevens, notified the Select Board that there had been a petition by citizens to recall the Road Commissioner. She certified that there were sufficient valid signatures to authorize the petitioners' recall election.

No Select Board action required at this time. The Board has 10 municipal business days to set the date of the recall election. The Town Manager presented a proposed timeline for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Veneziano reviewed the proposed timeline, noting that the Select Board would set the recall election date at the July 8th board meeting. Nomination papers would be available for candidates starting July 9th and would be due by July 23rd at the Town Clerk's office. The Town Clerk would prepare ballots between July 24th and July 29th. Absentee voting would be July 30th through August 29th. August 26th would be a public hearing at the Select Board meeting if the current Road Commissioner, Mr. Gordon, requests such. The election could take place on September 4th or 5th, 2024.

Ms. Estes mentioned that the Select Board didn't have the authority to say "no" to the recall petition. Chairman Veneziano concurred and referenced the local ordinance (Chapter 120) that dictates the process.

Citizen Tim Gordon asked what the reason for the recall petition was. Chairman Veneziano referred to the committee who initiated the petition. The Town Clerk read the petitioners' cause from the affidavit presented to her, which included: lack of ability in areas of planning, budget, personnel management, safety and general understanding of highway department oversight. Mr. Gordon followed up by asking for documentation to support those claims. The Town Clerk explained that there is no documentation needed at the time of issuing the petition. Mr. Gordon asked if it was just their opinion then. The Town Clerk stated that the petitioners' committee followed the procedure required by our local ordinance. Mr. Gordon asked if there would be a chance for the public to weigh in. Chairman Veneziano responded that if the road commissioner requested a hearing, it would take place at a Select Board meeting on August 26th. Another citizen asked for clarification on the 10% of voters in the last election. The Town Clerk stated that is was 10% of the voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election (2022).

3. Appointments of:

- a. Town Manager and Welfare Director for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Motion by Ms. Estes to appoint Denise Ducharme as stated above, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- b. Tax Collector for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Motion by Ms. Estes to appoint Julie Rich as stated above, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- c. Fire Chief for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Motion by Ms. Estes to appoint Donald French as stated above, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- d. Emergency Management Director and E911 Addressing Officer for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Motion by Mr. Bean to appoint Jeff Drew as stated above, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- e. Budget Advisory Committee for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Motion by Mr. Bean to appoint Richard Bartlett, Randy Bliss, Richard Cormier, Patrick Dolan, John "Jack" Ducharme, Peter Elias, Paul Fortin, Kristie LeBlanc, Jeff Lloyd, Kenneth Moore, Robert Shibley, Bruce Thebarga, Mary Tomlinson, Robin Turek, and Shawn Young as stated above, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- f. Planning Board for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027

Motion by Ms. Estes to appoint Robin Turek and Elwynn (Jay) Watt Jr. as stated above, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- g. Board of Appeals for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027

Motion by Ms. Estes to appoint Andrew Ketterer as stated above, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- 4. Voting for MMA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) member

Motion by Ms. Estes to vote in favor of Richard LaBelle of Norridgewock for MMA's LPC, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- 5. Letter of support for Madison Anson ATV Club

Motion by Ms. Estes to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter of support on behalf of the Madison Anson ATV Club for the local access routes to the Rail Trail, second by Mr. Bean. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- I. Citizen Concerns: Peter Sirois would like to be on the agenda for the July 8th meeting to discuss a grant idea.
- J. Select Board Concerns: NONE
- K. Adjournment:

Motion by Ms. Dwyer to adjourn, second by Ms. Estes. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

NEXT REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING IS
MONDAY JULY 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm
OLD POINT SCHOOL