

TOWN OF MADISON - PUBLIC NOTICE

The Inhabitants of the Town of Madison are hereby notified of a public meeting. The time, place and purpose of which are as follows:

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OLD POINT SCHOOL MEETING ROOM
March 27, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

- A. Salute to the flag: Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm
- B. Roll Call: Selectmen Al Veneziano, Jack Ducharme, Ron Moody, Paul Fortin and Mike Edgerly were present. Town Manager Tim Curtis and Sheriff Dale Lancaster were also in attendance.

Warrants Dated: #25 (03/13/17 - \$122,162.82); Payroll Register's: #11 (3/16/17 - \$8,553.09); #12 (3/23/17 - \$11,001.71): Motion to approve by Mr. Ducharme, seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carries 5-0.

Application for pole location Fairpoint (River Road): Fairpoint Communications has applied to locate a new utility pole approximately 3700 feet north of Martins Drive off River Road. Motion to grant the permit by Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Ducharme. Mr Ducharme asked if this placement would interfere with the roadwork that the Highway Department is doing along River Road. Town Manager Curtis said he did not know but that was an important factor. It was the consensus of the board to wait to determine whether or not the pole placement would interfere. Mr. Fortin withdrew his motion and Mr. Ducharme withdrew his second. The application will be tabled until next meeting.

Application for liquor license from Lakewood Golf Course. Motion to approve by Mr. Ducharme, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 5-0.

- C. Discuss acceptance of meeting minutes of March 13, 2017: Motion to approve by Mr. Ducharme, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 5-0.
- D. Old business (Selectmen's Concerns from immediately preceding meeting): None
- E. Items of Communication: Town Manager Curtis updated the Board on the meeting of the Marijuana Education Committee from March 15. The group is a good cross section of the community and concluded that its major purpose should be education and gathering feedback. Members of the group will produce a video at Chanel 11 to help accomplish their purposes.

The organizers of the Madison Anson Days Celebration are planning to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 15th. They had asked about using some unexpended funds from M/A Days. Mr. Curtis recommended \$500, and Finance Director Tammy Carrier recommended that the TIF Budget include a line that would encompass all the different festivals.

The Town Manager shared the fund request letter from the Abnaki Sno-Riders Club. The letter outlined several expenditures to equipment that the club paid for this year totaling \$6,600. The letter requests \$1900 which is the same as last year, but indicated the club would take more if the Town could spare it.

Mr. Curtis shared that the School Board will be holding budget meetings over the next couple of weeks. On Wednesday March 29, the MSAD59 Budget will be presented to the School Board by the Superintendent. The following week on Wednesday April 5, the School Board has invited the Selectmen to hold a joint meeting to hear the details of the budget. Town Manager Curtis said if more than three selectmen plan to go he would need to know so to post a notice prior to. It was the consensus of the

Board to attend the meeting individually to hear about the budget, but not sit in an official capacity at a joint meeting.

The School Board has also scheduled May 8th as the public hearing and vote on the school budget. This is the same night that the Selectmen usually meeting. Town Manager Curtis recommended starting the Selectman Meeting at 6pm in order to be able to attend the School Board meeting at 7pm.

The Town Manager passed out a spreadsheet that he and the School Superintendent and bookkeeper had worked on to identify budgeting trends from the past ten years. Topics included valuation, budgets, tax rates, undesignated fund balances. Mr. Curtis showed the rise in valuation and decrease in tax rate during years from 2008 through 2013 and how the loss in valuation from the closure of Madison Paper impacted the tax rate and the efforts by both the Select Board and the School Board to help mitigate that increase. Selectman Edgerly asked for some clarification on the undesignated fund balance from the school. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Town Manager present this to the Advisory Board at the budget meeting on March 29, 2017.

Mr. Fortin asked if the Town Manager thought if Madison was going to have to get used to a tax rate of \$23 to \$25 per thousand. Mr. Curtis said the goal remains to work toward keeping a competitive tax rate with the surrounding communities.

F. New Business

1. **Discuss Recommendation for Police Budget:** The Town Manager explained that the Board has continued a discussion on policing for several meetings. The amount budgeted for police services from the County is \$450,000 which would fund a staffing of 4 deputies. Currently the model calls for 5 deputies. Mr. Fortin asked the Town Manager what he recommended. Mr. Curtis said his concern was that if the Town continued paying for a 5 deputy model then the costs would eventually get back to the point where it was when the Town had their own police force. In addition, the Sheriff has been operating with less than 5 deputies for the majority of the past 18 months and has been providing excellent service, which is why the Town Manager asked the Sheriff to provide two options.

Selectmen Fortin made a motion that the Board of Selectmen direct the Sheriff to provide policing services with a total of 4 deputies while holding \$50,000 in reserve in case the Sheriff determines that policing services requires 5 deputies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ducharme.

Sheriff Lancaster said he was comfortable that the County could provide services with either a 4 or 5 person model, but at the end of the day it was the Selectmen's decision as to what model to go forward with. The Sheriff says that while his office has been able to make policing work with less than 5 deputies, he cautioned that he hasn't deployed a 4 deputy model through the summer months.

Mr. Moody says he understood that the Town Manager is trying to save money and continue with the level of service that has been in place. But Mr. Moody wants to make sure that the townspeople have a say in what level of service they want. Two years ago when the voters were presented with the Sheriff's plan it was for 24 hour manned coverage. If the people want to move away from that they need to have a chance to vote on that publicly.

Mr. Fortin said that the Advisory Board will discuss this issue Wednesday night March 29, and if they offer a different approach that would provide both options for people to choose at Town Meeting. If the Advisory Board supports the 4 deputy model then the Town Manager could explain that at the beginning of Town Meeting and if a voter in attendance wanted to amend the article it could be done there.

Mr. Edgerly said that it is important to note that the difference between the 4 deputy and 5 deputy models is more than \$50,000. It also would include a new cruiser every year at an additional cost of

approximately \$35,000. If people are going to discuss options they should know what those options cost.

Mr. Veneziano said he was concerned with deputies being on call from midnight to 6 on weekends. The Sheriff clarified it would be from 2am to 6am on Friday and Saturday nights in the four deputy model.

The board asked how the choice would be presented at Town Meeting. Town Manager Curtis said there were a couple of options, one would be to create a separate article specifically asking if the residents wanted to vote to move to a 4 deputy model, or you could keep the discussion within the public safety article and have someone explain the direction from the Selectmen and the Advisory Board during Town Meeting. Mr. Ducharme said his concern with divorcing the article from the budget number is that it would create confusion for voters who may think they are voting for more coverage at less money.

It was the consensus of the Board to include the discussion in the Public Safety article with clear explanation of the difference in cost of \$450,000 to \$535,000 including a cruiser. The reason that policing is in the budget at \$450,000 is because the Town has additional funds to provide for a cruiser and a 5th deputy as needed, but that additional funding is only for this year.

Mr. Fortin suggested that the Town Manager put an article in the paper to explain the options, but after the Advisory Board decides what position to take. Motion carries 4-1. Mr. Moody voted in opposition.

2. **Discuss Road Surface Management Projects:** The Town Manager provided the board with a detailed list of proposed road projects that could be funded by re-appropriating \$175,000 dedicated in 2014 to Heald Street Reconstruction with the Sanitary District. Special attention would be given to Heald Street to make sure that driveways are repaired and the road is shimmed to alleviate the bumps and dips. It is the Town Managers intention is to provide a list as a handout at Town Meeting rather than listing each proposed road project in the Town Meeting Warrant.

The money would also be redirected to fund a new stainless steel truck body, and set money aside for the purchase of a new plow truck and pickup truck.

3. **Discuss re-appropriation of funds:** In addition to re-appropriating \$175,000 for road surface management, the Town Manager wants to ask voters at Town Meeting to re-appropriate \$33,900 from a category named debt retirement to Legal to help fund the costs of Madison Paper's ongoing abatement request. Mr. Curtis provided two draft articles for Town Meeting in that regard. Reading as follows:

Article 14: *To see if the Town will vote to re-appropriate \$175,000 from Heald Street Reconstruction to Road Surface Management.*

Article 15: *To see if the Town will vote to re-appropriate \$33,900 from Debt Retirement to Legal Fund.*

Motion by Mr. Ducharme to approve the articles as written, seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carries 5-0.

- G. **Selectman Concerns:** Mr. Fortin had questions about the total town debt. Mr. Curtis explained that in the audit there is debt listed for MEW that is paid for in an agreement with Backyard Farms, the Town's portion of the Somerset Jail debt that is paid in the annual payment to the County and the remaining school debt.

- H. **Citizen Concerns:** None

- I. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (A) to discuss a personnel matter (Town Manager Performance Review): Motion to enter executive session by Selectman Ducharme, seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carries 5-0. The Board entered executive session at 7:51. The board came out of executive session at 8:20pm
- J. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.