

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 EAST MADISON FIRE STATION May 1, 2017 6:30 p.m.

- A. Salute to the flag: Meeting was called to order at 630pm
- B. Roll Call: Selectmen Al Veneziano, Jack Ducharme, Paul Fortin, Mike Edgerly and Ron Moody were present. Town Manager Tim Curtis and Finance Officer Tammy Carrier were also in attendance.
- C. Consent Agenda: Warrants Dated: #28 (4/10/17 - \$164,161.03); Payroll Registers Dated: #15 (4/13/17 - \$12,502.14); #16 (4/20/17 - \$10,141.80); #17 (4/27/17 - \$9,499.62): Motion to approve by Selectman Edgerly, seconded by Selectman Fortin. Motion carries 5-0.

Liquor License: Silver Street Spirits Inc. Motion to approve by Selectman Moody, seconded by Selectman Ducharme. This will be for a catered affair at the Fairytale Garden wedding venue in East Madison on May 20, 2017. Motion carries 5-0.
- D. Discuss acceptance of meeting minutes of April 10, 2017: Motion to approve by Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carries 5-0.
- E. Old business (Selectmen's Concerns from immediately preceding meeting): Selectman Moody asked for follow up on his question regarding health concerns at 55 John Street. The Town Manager reported that he would have Code Enforcement Officer Bob Dunphy look into it this week.
- F. Items of Communication: Town Manager Curtis thanked the East Madison Fire Station for their hospitality. Students from Madison High School were out in Town last Thursday helping with Spring Cleanup. They raked leaves at Forest Hills, Old Point School and many local homes, and they spread wood chips around the playground. Mr. Curtis also mentioned that mowing at all the local cemeteries should begin by mid-month.

Finance Officer Tammy Carrier and Road Commissioner Mantor applied for a grant through DEP to replace the culvert on Shusta Road. The \$65,000 grant was approved and work should be done this summer.

Last week Mr. Ducharme and the Town Manager met with representatives from the Maine Forest Growth Initiative a group looking to pass legislation that would allow for a program director at Rural Development to work specifically with Towns that have suffered losses from paper mill closures.

School Budget packets are available at the Town Office. This year's \$9.8M budget includes a \$250,000 increase to the taxpayer. An informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 2 at the Junior High. The Budget Validation Meeting is Monday May 8 and the Referendum vote is Tuesday May 16 at the Town Office. Polls will be open from 8 to 8.

The Somerset County draft budget is out approved by both the Commissioners and the Budget Committee for a total of \$12M with a total increase of 1.6% or just over \$200,000. That equates to an increase of \$13,000 to the Town of Madison which will pay \$871,711 to fund this County budget. A copy of the proposed County budget is available at the Town Office.

Paving bids have been posted in the newspaper. Information packets are available at the Town Office and online. Bids are due back on Monday May 22nd and will be opened at that evening's Selectman Meeting.

The final draft of the Revaluation RFP is close to complete. Assessing Agent Shirley Bartlett reviewed the documents today and copies will be distributed to the Selectmen/Assessors before the next meeting on May 22, 2017.

Town Manager Curtis has been in contact with the attorney handling the foreclosure on the house across from the High School at 497 Main Street. The trail date is set for May 18th and after that it is expected that the bank (Ditech Mortgage) will own the property. After that the Town can begin the process of negotiating demolition of the property.

The Marijuana Education Committee met last week and would like to hold a public information meeting prior to Town Meeting to help promote and explain the survey that will be available to voters during the June 13 election. Town Manager Curtis is considering having the survey's available for the school budget referendum vote as well.

Based on information from a recent training, the Town Manager has asked Tammy Carrier to draft some changes to the Personnel Policy to include specific language about Marijuana. Those changes will come before the board at a future meeting.

The Town Manager wanted clarification on a few items discussed at the last Selectman meeting on April 10, 2017. At that meeting it was mentioned that the Selectmen have authority to move money from one account to another to cover overdrafts of budget articles approved at Town Meeting. Town Manager Curtis said according to chapter 572-4 of the Town Ordinance Code, that the process for covering an overdraft must include a warrant article at the next Town Meeting. The Town Manager recommended a review of this chapter at the first meeting of the board in the new fiscal year.

Also at the last meeting during the discussion of expenses related to the Old Point School facility it was mentioned that the Town gives money to the Madison Historical Society. Technically the Town provides the space free of charge, but beyond that no money is used to support the society which uses its own funds for upgrades to the facility.

Several members of the historical society were in attendance and asked for clarification on the town's plans for the building. Selectman Fortin said he was pleased with how things are being handled currently. The historical society members said they have put \$1095 of their own funds into upgrading the lighting and would like to do some more upgrades.

The Town had recently removed the old playground from the Old Point site and there was a question regarding replacing. The Town Manager said he is looking into funding for a small playground. He also mentioned that Somerset Public Health will be building some raised bed gardens on the site to benefit the food cupboard.

Town Manager Curtis mentioned that the final draft of the Town Report has gone to the printer and copies should be available at the Town Office by mid-May.

East Madison resident Lena Arno asked about DOT work to pave East Madison Road. Town Manager Curtis said the plans are for the crews to begin work this summer.

G. New Business

1. Discuss MEW Position Paper: Town Manager Curtis reviewed several topics related to the governing history of Madison Electric Works. Established in 1888 under the Madison Village Corporation Special

and Private Law of the Maine Legislature, the Electric works was created as a department of the Town. The special charter created in 1975 and the subsequent amendments in 1995 and 1999 raised the limits of borrowing authority but did not change the status as a department of the Town. As such, it would appear that the assets of MEW are owned by the Town.

Town Manager Curtis said he attended MEW's board meeting on April 17, 2017 and discussed the Selectmen's vote against LD1299, legislation that would have amended MEW's charter to have unlimited borrowing authority. MEW's board members understood the Town's position that there should be public input, and MEW board member Richard Bartlett asked about the two boards meeting to discuss the need for changes to the charter.

Town Manager Curtis said he has been in touch with MEW superintendent Calvin Ames about holding some sort of joint meeting on May 22, 2017.

In preparation for such a meeting, the Town Manager created a template to review what activities should involve both the MEW board of Directors and the Board of Selectmen. These activities included borrowing and Mr. Ducharme noted that there is a difference between borrowing for operating expenses and borrowing for acquisitions. Operations are expressly noted in the charter amendments but acquisitions are not. Since MEW put a significant bid on the hydro-electric facilities owned by Madison Paper and MEW has expressed plans to purchase the solar field in a few years, Mr. Ducharme said expressed legal parameters should be outlined for that kind of borrowing.

The other question that needs clarifying is who the debt belongs to. Does MEW borrowing result in rate payer debt or tax payer debt. The reading of the charter seems to indicate that any MEW borrowing would result in taxpayer debt.

Selectman Edgerly said he had been going over the MEW charter documents from the 1940s, 70s and 90s and there are no references to rate payers which to him means that the tax payers are ultimately responsible for MEW actions. Town Manager Curtis said part of the confusion is the phrase "quasi-municipal". Legal opinions have used both quasi and non-quasi language.

Mr. Moody says whatever solution the Town comes up with needs to be kept simple, to come up with a clear process for borrowing.

The Town Manager asked if the Selectmen would like to hold a joint meeting with the MEW board on May 22. It was the consensus of the Selectmen to have Town Manager Curtis and Chairman Veneziano meet with Superintendent Calvin Ames and MEW Board Chair Steve Dean and determine whether or not a joint board meeting would be beneficial.

2. Review Proposed Changes to Site Review Ordinance: The Planning Board has been meeting with planner Chris Huck with Kennebec Valley Council of Governments (KVCOG) to update the Site Review Ordinance. Town Manager Curtis thanked the planning board and Code Enforcement Officer Bob Dunphy for their diligence to meet and get these changes update prior to Town Meeting. The Selectmen reviewed a list of procedural changes and the standards that the Planning Board will be reviewing.

Selectman Fortin asked when the public hearing is held in the Site Review process. The Town Manager said right at the end prior to final approval. A public hearing on the ordinance changes will be set for the next Selectman's meeting. Mr. Ducharme wanted to make sure that the final changes to the ordinance will be available before hand for review.

Town Manager Curtis mentioned that there may be a few openings on the Planning Board in the new fiscal year and that the Selectmen should be thinking about possible candidates to appoint.

3. Discuss non-budget articles for Town Meeting: Town Manager Curtis passed out a draft of the Town Meeting Warrant which included a total of 26 articles. Selectman Ducharme asked for a clarification on the terms re-allocate or re-appropriate. Town Manager Curtis said he would ask moderator Ernie Hilton for his thoughts. There were no further questions from the board. The final draft of the warrant will be on the agenda for the May 22nd Selectmen Meeting.
- H. Selectman Concerns: Selectman Fortin asked if there were absentee ballots available for the School Budget Referendum on May 16th, Finance Officer Tammy Carrier said the ballots are in the Town Office but they will not be available until after the May 8th Validation meeting.

Selectman Veneziano asked that the Town start looking into the cemetery plots that were part of the arrangement of the sale of land near Forest Hills several years ago. Town Manager Curtis and Tammy Carrier will be in touch with the family to see what their wishes are and Treasurer Kathy Estes will look into how to set aside funds for the necessary development of the land.

- I. Citizen Concerns: None
- J. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm