

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 – Amended February 23, 2015
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OLD POINT AVENUE FACILITY, 108 OLD POINT AVENUE, MADISON
Monday, February 9, 2015
6:30 p.m.

- A. Salute to the flag. Done.
- B. Roll Call. Present were Albert Veneziano, Jack Ducharme, Cyp Johnson, Paul Fortin and Mike Edgerly.
- C. Consent Agenda.
- 1. Warrants dated: #24 (1/26/15 - \$546,497.86), #25 (1/26/15 – \$1,436.88). Payroll Registers dated: Week #5 (1/29/15 - \$17,158.18), #6 (2/5/15 - \$21,487.83). Selectman Johnson made a motion to approve. Selectman Edgerly seconded. Motion carried.
- D. Discuss meeting minutes of January 26, 2015. Selectman Fortin made a motion to approve. Selectman Edgerly seconded. Motion carried.
- E. Old business (Selectmen’s Concerns from immediately preceding meeting). None.
- F. Items of Communication.
 - 1. Madison Paper employees went back to work today.
 - 2. We have a couple items of legislation in with the State – LR 175 and 174 were submitted by Jeff McCabe. They are resolve to modify the state valuation for Madison and Skowhegan to reflect the loss of value of the paper mills. The other legislation is an act to modify the state valuation and to amend the law governing school subsidy distribution due to circumstances of sudden loss.
 - 3. Regarding our telephone system, the first bills have been received and are being reviewed from Fairpoint and the bookkeeper. Fiber has been installed up to highway. There will need to be an intricate planning meeting between Tim McDonald (IT) and Floyd Wood (SAD 59) and a separate contractor On Target will be hired to splice the fiber going to highway with the fiber that goes to the school.
 - 4. Beeline Cable has notified the Town of a rate increase effective January 1, 2015 – a total of \$4.37/month.
 - 5. We have a new sign for the ice rink that mirrors our playground sign by Gary York. Bills for the ice shack total \$3,540. We are working and waiting to receive the \$1,000 donation from New Balance Foundation to offset those costs.
 - 6. Maine General Community care would like to thank the Town for the use of the meeting room at Old Point Avenue for their bone builders exercise class for seniors.
 - 7. Spirit of America would like us to request a nominee for an award for volunteerism in April.
- G. New Business.
 - 1. Department head reports: Police, Recreation, Code Enforcement. Police Chief Moores reported the stats for the month. Mileage was 8,971 on the three cruisers. All three cruisers are on the road and have been for quite some time. Recreation was not present but gave a report – ice shack is complete and heat is on. Recommendations were made to protect siding and windows from being damaged. Basketball is hosting a tournament on February 27. Informal softball clinics will be held on Sunday mornings. Baseball sign up will take place within the next month or so. Code Enforcement said he has

been busy with E-911 addressing. He reported that there is something wrong with the computer because he can't access the 9-1-1 software. Two court cases involving property cleanup and maintenance were resolved.

2. Set date of June 8, 2015 as the date for our Annual Town Meeting and June 9, 2015 as the date for our annual Election Day. Selectman Johnson made a motion to set June 8th as the date for Town Meeting and June 9th as the date for Election Day. Selectman Fortin seconded. Motion carried.
3. Discuss preparation for Special Town Meeting. Town Manager Curtis reported a concern from the moderator for that meeting that there is only one article on the warrant and it is not the language that is on the petition. MMA agrees that both languages should appear on the warrant. Selectman Fortin made a motion to include the petitioned article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Selectman Johnson seconded. Motion carried. Selectman Ducharme will open up the discussion. Selectman Fortin will also add to the discussion as well. Selectman Fortin made a motion to modify the warrant to include that the Selectmen recommend "no" on the petitioned article (Article #2) and that the Selectmen recommend "yes" the expanded wording (Article 3). Selectman Ducharme seconded. Motion carried.
4. Update on transfer station study. Town Manager Curtis passed out a handout and showed a slideshow presentation. He met with the Recycling committee last Tuesday. We have some actual 2014 data from Waste Management. He presented data (Waste Management) on the **Front Gate**. In calendar year 2014, commercial haulers took and charged to Madison 1704 tons of solid waste at a cost of approximately \$80/ton or \$136,000. **If we were to eliminate the fee for paying those tipping fees and pass that cost along to commercial haulers it would save the Town \$136,000.**

Curbside Recycling – we picked up 65 tons of recycling and pay \$25 to drop it off at the front gate, \$1,600. We also picked up 96 tons of cardboard and received \$40/ton, a credit of \$4,000. We pay \$40,000 for curbside pickup services. **A total cost of \$37,600.** Cardboard pricing has gone down to \$20/ton.

We budget about \$275,000 for front gate, back gate and curbside pickup.

Back Gate – as best as Waste Management can tell, Madison brought 325 tons of municipal solid waste at a cost of \$90/ton or \$29,000. Bulky waste – we brought 400 tons at \$90/ton or \$36,000. Clean wood – we brought 79 tons at \$75/ton or \$5,900. Metal – we brought 21 tons at no charge because Waste Management sells metal. Recycling – we brought 27 tons at no charge. Cardboard – we brought 28 tons at no charge. Miscellaneous items for tires, fluorescent bulbs, Freon units, batteries, etc. – handling fees were \$14,403. **A total costs of \$85,303.** It was noted that these numbers were averages between the area towns.

Transfer station – there's still a significant amount of solid waste that would need to be shipped from a transfer station – bulky and solid waste would equal 800 tons. Hiring a contractor to manage a transfer station was discussed. Selectman Fortin recommended that a contractor should not handle cash. Manager Curtis stated that every other transfer station charges for handling miscellaneous items which would indicate that their handling costs is greater than the income generated from selling it. Selectman Fortin recommended keeping it simple. Selectman Ducharme recommends hiring a contractor to handle all the costs associated with disposing of recyclables, bulky and solid wastes – no bills for any service should come to the town. Selectman Fortin disagreed because the quantities are unknown. He suggests we let items pile up for an amount of time and then get rid of them depending on the market. If we encourage recycling, the numbers to haul off trash will decrease.

The Board is looking at the site off from Ash Street as the location for the transfer station. Selectman Fortin asked the Road Commissioner if they could prepare the site around the end of May, June and July. Selectman Edgerly asked how much land we owned at this site. Road Commissioner Mantor and Town Manager Curtis did not know.

Cost savings – closing the back gate will save \$75,000 in tipping fees, \$15,000 in handling fees and eliminate the \$40,000 for curbside recycling program or \$130,000. Fees to operate a transfer station, hire a contractor - \$100,000, tipping fees - \$35,000 – resulting in a “swap” of fees. Recyclable revenues and material processing fees/disposal costs were not factored in.

Eliminating the subsidy for commercial haulers was discussed. Commercial haulers would have options of offering to each of their clients to encourage them to recycle. There are some haulers who offer a pay per bag system so that the cost to the consumer are lower. The Recycling Committees recommendation is to stop paying the tipping fees at the front gate which would accomplish both – lowering the taxpayer costs and encourage more people to recycle.

Action: Selectman Fortin would like the Road Commissioner, Recycling Contractor and Town Manager to price out a Transfer Station, how long it would take to make it, what it would look like and how much it would cost (within 15%). Putting a roof over the solid waste trailer was mentioned. Town Manager Curtis suggested that we may want to make application to DEP as they are the one to approve the location. Selectman Fortin, when asked about bringing in other towns, said that it was not practical at this time but suggested that designing a site that would allow other towns to join in with us for a fee for the long term would be desirable. The Board would like this information for our next meeting.

5. Discuss equipment purchases. We paid for the new server computer out of our capital expense line for administration, leaving us with a balance after crediting a portion from TIF of \$4,500. Town Manager Curtis discussed purchasing a photocopier for Administration and Fire Department and re-locate the current copier to the Police Department at a cost of \$11,000. Fire has been without a working copier for over a year. The Police Department printer is 8 years old is will no longer be serviceable after July 1st. Admin and Fire would be set for the next several years. Lease option would cost of \$249/month over 5 years. A service agreement would be an additional charge. We run about 125,000 copies each year. The Board declined to take action. Selectman Johnson recommended getting a midrange copier for the Police and Fire departments. Selectman Fortin suggested getting two economical copiers for right now. Town Manager noted that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will be requiring us to replace our printers to a laser printer. No cost estimates are available. Office computers: replacement machines are recommended for the tax collector’s counter, the assessor’s assistant and code enforcement computers. It was also recommended that we upgrade the software that we use – windows xp and Trio no longer work well together. Selectman Fortin asked the Manager to find out what those laser printers might cost for the next meeting.

Marc Leslie has requested \$2,400 from TIF to purchase safety equipment. Marc gave the board information. Chairman Veneziano said that we would put this item on the next agenda. The Fire Chief, Police Chief and EMA Director should jointly meet to discuss/locate the emergency operating plan.

6. Budget discussion. Town Manager Curtis gave a brief overview of some of the concerns that affect the valuation of the Town and some of the items that have been mentioned in the governor’s proposed budget. 1) **it is unlikely that** the value of Madison Paper will not drop again this year. 2) The Governor’s proposal includes moving BETR to BETE – to be phased in over 4 years – it would not start until 2016-2017 budget season – a cost to the Town of approximately \$50,000/year so that when fully implemented, the Town would lose about \$200,000 in revenue. It moves what the Town has in a reimbursement program to an exemption program. 3) Revenue Sharing (roughly \$235,000 currently) would be eliminated starting with the 2016/2017 budget. 4) Homestead exemption changes would take effect this year and include eliminating the exemption for residents under the age of 65; over age 65, your homestead exemption would double to \$20,000.

Taxes are coming in similarly as in the past. The number of liens has not increased. The number of property owners using the tax club has increased to 112.

Checkbook balance – Town Manager believes we’re operating at a bare minimum at this point – we should be able to get through to the next tax due date. No draws will be needed by March. We’ll have \$3,000,000 to get us from March to September.

For budgeting purposes, using last year’s valuation of \$367,000,000 is a safe number toward estimating our tax rate for this year.

In creating the new budget, expanding the Backyard Farms TIF account to include those budget items from different departments under there, thereby reducing the amount of the total budget to be raised by taxation.

The most recent audit put fund balance at around \$2,500,000 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. This balance was reduced after Town Meeting voters approved transferring \$600,000 in June 2014 and an additional \$800,000 transferred at the Special Town Meeting in October 2014.

The Board would like the Town Manager to work with the school to get a sense of what their carryover might be at the end of the fiscal year.

Selectman Fortin doesn’t think we will be able to do any capital projects this year and advised the department heads to keep their expenses as low as they possibly can. The Road Commissioner thought we might be able to save money in the diesel fuel lines.

Selectman Ducharme recommended that the department heads cut 20% from their budgets (\$600,000).

Selectman Edgerly suggested the Town Manager reach out to the School Superintendent to hold a joint meeting on February 23 to discuss budgets.

Selectman Ducharme inquired about the value of exploring any possibility for shared services between the school and the town.

7. Discuss quitclaim deeds. Selectman Ducharme made a motion to issue a Quitclaim Deed to Margaret Inman, 60 Maple Street. Selectman Edgerly seconded. Motion carried. Selectman Ducharme made a motion to Quitclaim Deed to Herman C. Dunlap and Clarice B. Dunlap Unitrust #2. Selectman Johnson seconded. Motion carried.
8. Discuss agreements for tax acquired properties. The total list of tax acquired properties is now 18. The Town Manager has in the past sent a letter notifying them that their property has foreclosed and will be going to auction unless they notify the manager. The Board asked the Manager to send out the letters now giving them two weeks’ notice to contact the Manager. Once the 2012 taxes are paid, the Treasurer can send out a payment arrangement. Selling the property before or after April 1st was discussed. The Board and Manager agreed to take a look at these properties after snow melts.
- H. Selectmen’s Concerns. Selectman Edgerly had no concerns. Selectman Fortin had no concern. Selectman Johnson had no concerns. Selectman Ducharme asked about the snow at the intersection where the light is. Can we put salt there? Chief Moores said the problem is that it’s been so cold, the salt doesn’t melt. Selectman Veneziano had none.
- I. Citizen’s Concerns. None.
- J. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter (Economic Development) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A). Selectman Johnson made a motion to go into executive session. Selectman Ducharme seconded. The Board went into executive session at 9:26 p.m. The Board came out of executive session at 9:48 p.m. Selectman Ducharme made a motion to use TIF funds to satisfy the remaining costs of the personnel

settlement that we did in 2014. These costs weren't covered in the original motion. Selectman Fortin seconded. Motion carried.

K. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter (Police Department) pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A). Selectman Ducharme made a motion to go into executive session. Selectman Edgerly seconded. The Board went into executive session at 8:49 p.m. The Board came out of executive session at 9:25 p.m. No action taken.

L. Adjournment. Selectman Ducharme made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Johnson seconded. The Board adjourned at 9:50 p.m.