

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
Monday January 11, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

- A. Salute to the flag
- B. Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 6:33pm. Chairman Veneziano was absent. Vice Chair Ducharme, Selectmen Edgerly, Fortin and Johnson were present along with Town Manager Curtis.
- C. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. Warrants dated:#17 (12/28/15 - \$464,849.44); #18 (12/28/15 - \$2,377.70); Payroll Reg.: #52 (12/24/15 - \$12,416.94); #53 (12/31/15 - \$13,085.22); #1 (01/07/16 - \$14,424.64). Motion to accept from Mr. Edgerly, seconded by Mr. Fortin; motion carries 4-0.
- D. Discuss acceptance of meeting minutes of December 28, 2015: Motion to accept from Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Johnson; motion carries 4-0.
- E. Old business (Selectmen's Concerns from immediately preceding meeting): None
- F. Items of Communication:

The Town Manager shared a 2015 report from the Library showing over 15,000 transactions had taken place over the year. Use of electronic books continues to increase to a total of over 900 this year.

The Road Commissioner and Town Manager have reviewed quotes to repair some deterioration in the East Madison Dam. Town Manager Curtis says the amount can be covered from TIF Funds under boat landing maintenance.

Two pieces of Town Property will be auctioned off this Friday at noon at the Town Office (400 Main Street and 170 Old Point).

Town Manager Curtis updated the board that the number of delinquent taxes due for foreclosure has dropped from 62 to 51 and the Town Clerk expects several people to come in this week to pay their 2013 taxes.

The Water District will be holding a public meeting to take comment on a 3 million dollar proposed project to repair water lines in North Anson. The meeting will be at 6pm on Thursday January 28th at the Old Point School Meeting Room. Selectman Fortin asked if there were any alternatives to be considered to taking on this project such as drilling new wells in the area to access water. The Town Manager was not familiar enough with the project to comment.

The Town Manager shared a letter from Representative Jeff McCabe outlining what he hopes to accomplish in the 2016 legislative session, now in progress.

Checkbook balance is at \$825,000 and TIF balance is \$643,000.

- G. New Business

1. Department Head Reports: Highway, Police, Recreation, Fire & Code Enforcement

Road Commissioner Glen Mantor reported that the oldest plow truck will need attention soon. The automatic transmission is slipping and the sander is wearing out. Estimates to repair may be more than the truck is worth. The crew was doing some work grading roads after the rain and anticipate to be out Tuesday night for plowable snow. There are culverts in need of replacement or repair on Shusta Road and River Road.

Selectman Johnson asked about the frost heave on lower White Schoolhouse Road. The Road Commissioner and Town Manager will put a sign there and notify the state DOT in Dixfield.

The board had a few questions on the Police Report from the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Fortin noticed an increased number of calls from the dispatch. Newly hired dispatcher Sharon Cary was able to answer that she has made a number of calls to the county for training. Mr. Fortin asked about mileage on cruisers and Ms. Cary answered that it is most likely due to on the job training for new Deputies.

Mr. Ducharme asked about making alterations to the report to show comparison numbers from past years. Ms. Cary said she would be glad to make whatever changes the board needed to have the right comparison data.

Town Manager Curtis shared a letter of appreciation from Deputy Eric Bronson who has entered the State Police training program. The Board signed a letter of thanks to Deputy Bronson for his service to Madison and wished him well in his endeavors with the State.

The Town Manager shared a report from Recreation Director Chris Leblanc: Over 140 students involved in Rec Basketball and despite much effort, the crews have had hard time making ice at the rink on Weston Ave.

Town Manager Curtis added an update from the Fire Department, noting that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant application was submitted today for \$75,000 in new equipment (Jaws of Life), the town hopes to hear back by May 2016.

Town Manager Curtis shared the 2015 building permit numbers with the board from Code Enforcement. 8 Single Family Homes (Up from 4 in 2014), and a total of 43 permits (up from 35 last year).

2. Discuss SCTV11 Budget: Motion to approve spending of \$20,250.60 to support the budget for Somerset Community Television (Channel 11) by Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carries 4-0.

The Town Manager reported that after the audit, the final number that the Town owes to SCTV11 to close out the books is \$3,243.13. This is the amount left over now that Channel 11 is no longer using the Town Office for bookkeeping services. Motion from Mr. Fortin to approve \$3,243.13 to be paid as a final payment to SCTV11, seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carries 4-0.

3. Review of the Audit of the 2014 Fiscal Year: Town Manager Curtis noted that this was a long process with the audit this year due to a number of different people in the finance office during 2014. The main number that the Town Manager is concerned with is the Net Position which has decreased over the last year, but that is expected due to the amount of cash reserves that was spent. Mr. Curtis explained that at Town Meeting 2014 voters approved a total of \$1.4M to come from reserve to help reduce taxes. The audit shows that \$1.2M more was spent than money taken in. Mr. Curtis says if you factor in that revenues for that same time period were \$200,000 higher than anticipated then that accounts for the \$1.4M.

Due to the time and effort for this audit the bill from Purdy Powers was much higher than anticipated. According to notes from Dave Shorette with Purdy Powers the firm wrote off quite a bit of time but still came in with billings over \$23,000 on a bid of \$12,500. Finance Officer Tammy Carrier said when you look at the billings from the previous year it appears the accounting firm spent nearly \$12,000 worth of time auditing and correcting mistakes from the time where there was an unfilled position in the Finance Officer.

Town Manager Curtis recommends putting the accounting service out to bid for next year. Members of the board were in agreement.

4. Elect public official to Somerset County Budget Committee: Town Manager Curtis reported that he had a conversation with the chair of the County Commissioners and according to him the appointment of Mr. Johnson to the budget committee last year was a two year appointment. Mr. Johnson is willing to serve again this year. No appointment needed.
5. Discuss ordinance updates (Cemetery, Building Permits): Town Manager Curtis summarized the five ordinance changes that he recommends a public hearing for on February 22nd, 2016. The chapters include Building Construction, Property Maintenance, Cemeteries, Subdivisions and the creation of a Madison Village Area.

The Town Manager then recommended to the Board updates to the Cemetery Ordinance in regards to the number of cremated remains which can be buried in one grave site. Motion from Mr. Edgerly to amend chapter 26 to read as follows:

SINGLE GRAVE: A plot designated to contain the remains of one adult human being and two cremated remains of human beings; or two children and two cremated remains of human beings; or cremated remains of eight (8) human beings at the discretion of the Town, provided such remains are the members of the same family or anyone approved for interment within said lot by the owner of said lot.

Seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 4-0.

The board reviewed the updates from the ordinance committee on the changes to the penalty for building without a permit. Mr. Fortin motioned to bring to Town Meeting a change to Chapter 165 that reads the penalty for building without a permit will be 10% of project costs but no less than \$250. Project costs will be determined by the valuation of the proposed work as per the MUBEC Building Code, or by an assessed valuation of the project to be determined by the Town of Madison Assessing Agent. Seconded by Mr. Johnson, motion carries 4-0.

Mr. Fortin asked if these ordinances would include grandfathered clauses for properties and buildings already existing. The Town Manager said he would work with consultants from KVCOG to make sure the wording included grandfathered language.

The Town Manager recommended a public hearing date of Monday February 22nd at 630 to be the first item on the agenda of the regular Select Board meeting. The board agreed to set that date. Mr. Curtis will utilize several outlets to publicize the meeting.

- H. Selectmen's Concerns: Mr. Ducharme wanted to publicly commend the Fire Department and Madison Electric works for their collaboration on putting out a chimney fire on Heald Street. MEW provided additional equipment to help put out the fire.
- I. Citizen's Concerns: None
- J. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm