

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
Monday March 14, 2016
6:30 p.m.**

- A. Salute to the flag: Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm
- B. Roll Call: Chairman Al Veneziano was absent. Selectman Fortin, Edgerly and Johnson were present and Vice Chair Jack Ducharme chaired the meeting.
- C. Consent Agenda: Warrants dated: #23 (2/22/16 - \$269,609.52); #24 (2/22/16 - #3,783.41); Payroll registers: #8 (2/25/16 - \$12,721.35); #9 (3/3/16 - \$14,201.30); #10 (3/10/16 - \$10,853.50): Motion to approve by Selectman Cyp Johnson, seconded by Selectman Mike Edgerly, motion carries 4-0.

Application for liquor license Lakewood Golf Course: Motion to approve by Mr. Edgerly, seconded by Selectman Paul Fortin. Motion carries 4-0.

Approval of updates to Sign Placement Application: Madison Code Enforcement Officer Bob Dunphy had created an application for business or residents to put signs on their property based on the existing ordinance. The board needed to approve use of the new application. Motion to approve by Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 4-0.

- D. Discuss acceptance of meeting minutes of February 22, 2016: Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 4-0.
- E. Old business (Selectmen's Concerns from immediately preceding meeting): None

At this point the board opened the floor for discussion of the recent news of UPM's decision to stop making paper at Madison Paper Industries. Town Manager Tim Curtis read a summary of his conversation with Russ Deschel of Madison Paper from earlier in the day. The decision was based on the dropping demand for the type of paper produced and was not a bankruptcy for UPM. Madison Paper will continue to pay their contracts and their local property taxes. While this is a blow to the local economy, the fact that the Town has already made adjustments when the valuation of the mill dropped from \$149M to \$80M in 2014 softens the blow a bit. The Town Manager stressed that many more details will come to light over the next few weeks and that the Town will contact the State as soon as possible to see what aid is available.

Mr. Ducharme then opened the meeting to comments. Selectman Fortin asked if the mill was going to be sold in pieces. The Town Manager explained that it was his understanding that a project manager was going to be assigned from Helsinki, Finland to oversee the sale of the mills assets.

State Senator Rod Whittemore was in attendance and mentioned that several local representatives and Senators would be meeting with the Governors. The Senator can be reached at 431-4430.

Area Representative Brad Farrin was in attendance and commented that he will do his best to share information from the legislature back to the Selectman and to residents. Representative Farrin can be reached at 614 4123.

Representative Larry Dunphy was in attendance. He represents areas in Somerset County affected by the mill closing and was a former employee of Madison Paper for 35 years. He mentioned that the State lost

600 mill jobs last year and it appears that trend is continuing this year. He says legislators have seen this coming with the high costs of energy. Representative Dunphy can be reached at 399 4963.

Representative Scofield from Franklin County was also in attendance and mentioned that mill closings have far reaching implications well beyond Madison and Anson. Representative Scofield can be reached at 615 9800.

F. Items of Communication:

The Town Manager updated the board on several DOT projects: In the next year the State DOT will perform maintenance on Hayden Bridge in the Lakewood area, there will be the addition of centerline rumble strips along Route 201 through Madison and the DOT is looking into possible repairs of the frost heave on lower White Schoolhouse Road.

The Town Manager reported that the current checkbook balance is over \$2,000,000. With additional tax revenue anticipated tomorrow (March 15th). The \$2M figure included Madison Paper's payment received today.

G. New Business

1. Department Head Reports (Highway, Fire, Police): Road Commissioner Glen Mantor mentioned that crews had been clearing brush and working to move the travel lanes on River Road. Salt purchases were nearly half what they had been last year. Selectmen Johnson asked if they had been on Kincaid Road, the Road Commissioner stated that his plan is to close Kincaid to through traffic due to poor conditions in the middle of the road. Residents would be able to exit at either end. The Town Manager reported that he confirmed no school buses would be traveling Kincaid until it dried up.

The Town Manager passed out a report from Madison Fire noting 18 calls for the month of February and that the annual recognition dinner is tentatively scheduled for April 16th at the Masonic Lodge in Madison. Selectmen and their wives are invited to attend.

Sheriff Lancaster was in attendance to answer any questions from the Police Report. Selectman Johnson had a question about the speed limit through East Madison Village from someone who received a ticket recently. The Sheriff noted that the Town can petition the state for a change in speed limit and they would study the area. Selectman Fortin asked the Sheriff about the cost of training new deputies and if the Town would receive any compensation for the money spent training former officer Dyer who is now with the County Rural patrol. The Sheriff said he would discuss that with the Town Manager. Selectman Ducharme asked for comments on the recent fight reported at the VFW. The Town Manager explained that he received all the data from the Madison Division Office explaining that a call came in Saturday night March 6th at 11:48 regarding the brawl. Madison Deputy Morris was in East Madison doing security checks on Route 201 businesses at the time and responded within 10 minutes. A State Trooper on duty in Norridgewock was able to respond faster by about 5 minutes. In all the Sheriff noted this was a good example of the coverage Madison is receiving.

2. Discuss repairs to Main Street Traffic Light: The Town Manager and the Road Commissioner explained that after a recent power outage the loop camera in the Main Street Traffic Light is stuck on the short cycle. This means that traffic could be backed up since the camera will not switch to a long cycle to allow more traffic through. The cost to repair would be \$3,400. Mr. Fortin asked the Sheriff his advice and he said he always encourages light and sign repair and maintenance. The Town Manager noted that since the light is an infrastructure in the TIF District that TIF funds could be used to cover the costs. Motion from Mr. Fortin to repair the light with funds from TIF, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 4-0.
3. Discuss placement of Radar Speed Limit Sign: The board approved the purchase of a radar speed sign which flashes motorist speed in December 2015. The sign has arrived and been assembled by

the Highway crew. The sign could be permanently fixed or placed on a trailer to be moved from site to site. The consensus of the board was to make the sign mobile for greater use. Sheriff Lancaster said if the Town ever decided to purchase another sign he would recommend it be permanently fixed in the school zone near the Madison Junior High. The board recommended that the Sheriff and the Highway department prioritize where the mobile sign will be placed. The Town Manager mentioned that the sign does collect data and the board wanted the data to be reported at a future meeting.

4. Discuss Matching Grant Award (Curtain Up Enterprises): This past fall Curtain Up Enterprises had receive a matching grant award of \$5,000 to repair the Children's theater at Lakewood. The Town Manager noted that they had met the conditions of funding. Selectman Edgerly motioned to approve \$5,000 from TIF be paid to Curtain Up Enterprises, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 4-0.
5. Discuss Village Areas per Comprehensive Plan: The Town Manager passed out copies and held up a large map of the approved districts of Madison from the 1999 and 2014 updates to the Comprehensive Plan. The Board could utilize this information as a way of designating areas for property maintenance type ordinances. Comments from East Madison residents were positive about Lakewood and East Madison Village being included in the discussion. The Town Manager will bring this information back to committee work and report back to the Board at the next meeting.
6. Discuss Tax Acquired Property: The Town Manager mentioned that there was one property that the Board should take immediate action on. The mobile home located at 282 Main Street was on land not owned by the Town and the Town was being charged rent. The Town Manager spoke with someone willing to remove the mobile home before the end of the month and pay \$3,000 for it. That would cover the taxes and release a lien against the property. Motion by Mr. Fortin to sell the mobile home as quickly as possible, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Fortin asked for the status of 84/86 Pine Street. At the last meeting the Board had approved giving the home owner time to pay his back taxes. The Town Manager reported that the 2013 taxes had been paid. The property is also under a citation for Property Maintenance violations clearly spelled out in a letter that went out today. Mr. Fortin asked that the Town Manager report back to the board a clear plan for collecting all the back taxes for this property.

Mr. Ducharme asked if there would be property to sell at auction this spring. The Town Manager said that deeds are still be checked for liens and he would get a full report back to the board at the next meeting.

7. Set Date for Town Meeting/Civil Constable: At the request of the Town Manager the board set a date for Town Meeting. Motion by Mr. Johnson to set the meeting for 7pm Monday June 13th, 2016 at the Elias Auditorium at the Madison Junior High, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 4-0.

The Town Manager mentioned that in previous years the position of Civil Constable was held by the Madison Police Chief. A constable is any responsible citizen who officially calls the annual town meeting. The Selectmen would have to appoint a constable for this year. Mr. Johnson motioned that Ron Moody be appointed constable, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Mr. Moody was in attendance and accepted the nomination. Motion carries 4-0.

8. Appoint Civil Process Server: The Town Manager mentioned that the office had received a letter from a Cynthia Pearl asking to be appointed Civil Process Server as she has been in Fairfield and Skowhegan. The Sheriff's office noted that they can provide the same service at no cost to the Town. The consensus of the board was to leave civil processing with the Sheriff's Office and declined to take action on Ms. Pearl's request.
9. Review first draft of proposed municipal budget: The Town Manager reviewed several considerations regarding the first draft of the budget. He noted that revenue expectations for aid to education and revenue sharing would be affected by the status of Madison Paper and would hold his comments.

Homestead exemptions will increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000 this year which benefits approximately 1,100 taxpayers in Madison but because of an only 50% reimbursement from the state, the Town will lose approximately \$54,000 in revenue with the change.

The County Budget will go to committee in the next week.

The Town Manager noted that the administrative budget has been reduced again resulting in the lowest general government budget since 2007.

The Sheriff and Town Manager have proposed a budget of \$485,000 for the upcoming year which is a 1% increase. The Town Manager also has proposed a MOU for additional funds to help cover the costs of sending two deputies to Academy Training. The Town Manager mentioned that the Sheriff has received quotes of under \$27,000 to replace a police cruiser. The Town has money in the budget allotted for that this year so no additional taxes will be needed to raise money for a cruiser until the budget of 2017/18.

The Town Manager noted rate increases from both MEW and CMP resulted in higher street light costs.

The Town Manager did not include any community services changes in the draft budget but has all the requests if the Selectmen or Advisory Board wanted to review them.

The overall budget calls for \$108,000 in roadwork which results in an increase over last year of \$95,000.

Mr. Fortin asked if there was any carry over money that could be used to lower the budget. His concern is that the municipality should set the example of not showing any increase if they are going to request the same from the school and the county. The Town Manager said there is not enough room to carry forward funds that would save \$95,000 – maybe \$10,000 to \$15,000 for categories like highway and fire.

The Board discussed the difficult balance between keeping the tax rate even at \$19.50 per thousand and providing services. Mr. Ducharme stressed that the board would look to keep every essential service as they worked through the budget.

The Town Manager asked if this draft was adequate to be shared with the Advisory Committee so they could have a few weeks to review before the budget meeting on March 30th. The consensus of the board was that this draft is a good effort and it can be sent to the Advisory Committee.

The board also thanked the Town Manager and office staff, Road Commissioner, Sheriff and other department heads for their hard work in creating a good budget.

H. Selectmen's Concerns: Mr. Fortin wanted an update on the status of unemployment claims that the Town was paying for the former police chief and for a former officer. The Town Manager noted that both Barry Moores and David Trask had filed for unemployment in early January and were awarded payments of over \$300 per week. The Town contested former Chief Moores award siting that he had received a severance package. Nonetheless the Labor Department awarded both claims and the town will ask to see evidence that both Moores and Trask are doing the proper reporting and job seeking.

I. Citizen's Concerns: Kathy Edgerly noted that the East Madison Historical Society meets on Thursdays at 7pm, and Katie Oullette mentioned that there will be a celebration of Abner Coburns contributions to the area at the Skowhegan Courthouse on March 22nd.

- J. Executive Session: At the request of the Town Manager, Mr. Fortin motioned to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6)(A), seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carried 4-0 and the board entered executive session at 8:20pm.
- K. Adjournment: The board exited executive session at 9:00pm with no action taken. Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9pm.