

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 Ave School Meeting Room (108 Old Point Ave)
Monday May 9, 2016
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, Paul Fortin, Cyp Johnson and Mike Edgerly were in attendance.
- C. Consent Agenda: Warrants Dated: #30 (4/25/16 - \$463,371.16); #31 (4/25/16 - \$3,981.10); Payroll Registers: \$17 (4/28/16 - \$9,350.54); #18 (5/5/16 - \$10,346.66): Motion to approve by Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

Liquor License for Somerset Abbey: Motion to approve by Mr. Johnson seconded by Mr. Ducharme, motion carries 5-0.
- D. Discuss acceptance of meeting minutes of April 25, 2016. Motion to accept by Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Edgerly. Motion carries 5-0.
- E. Old business (Selectmen's Concerns from immediately preceding meeting): None
- F. Items of Communication: Town Manager Tim Curtis updated the Board on the status of 497 Main Street which burned in the summer of 2013 and has been in the foreclosure process since. Our Code Enforcement Office has sent 4 notices requesting the building be torn down, since there is no clear owner of the property those requests went unanswered. Attorney Hannah McMullen with Corson/Blaisdell told the Town Manager that the foreclosure process has begun and will progress through the summer after which the Town can take the bank to court if the house is not torn down or renovated. The Town could take the former owners to court to get a judgement to abate the property and tear it down but there would be no way to get the town's money back. It was the consensus of the Board to wait until the bank takes ownership. Mr. Fortin asked who the bank was and Mr. Curtis did not know, but would get back to them.

The Town Manager received word last week from Kennebec Sheriff's Office that Dwayne Holmes has been ordered to appear in Waterville court on June 12th. The Town Manager will be there for a disclosure hearing regarding the \$3700 that Mr. Holmes owes the Town for not mowing cemeteries as contracted.

The Madison VFW is asking the Madison and Anson Selectmen to consider allowing a toll bridge fundraiser. The Board asked for this to be discussed at the next meeting.

Somerset Abbey has spent over \$6000 to install the first phase of a sprinkler system which qualifies them for a \$3000 payout under the Town's Matching Grant Program. Motion from Mr. Fortin to approve \$3000 from TIF to fund the grant for Somerset Abbey, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

Town Manager Curtis would like the Board to recommend him to serve on MMA's Legislative Policy Committee, a position held by Richard Bartlett for the past 6 years. Motion from Mr. Fortin to approve the Town Manager to sit on the LPC, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

The Town Manager has asked for a change in wording on Article 23 in the 2016 Town Meeting Warrant. Motion by Mr. Fortin to change the wording to read: "To see if the Town, in accordance with 36M RSA Section 506-A, will vote to fix the rate of 3% interest to be paid on overpaid or abated taxes", seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.

Town Clerk Kathy Estes asked the Board to approve the School Districts Election Certification for a budget validation on May 16th and referendum on May 24th. Motion to approve the Town Clerk's Election Certification for MSAD#59 by Mr. Ducharme, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 5-0.

The current checkbook balance is \$1.88M.

G. New Business

1. Public Hearing: Local Food Ordinance. AT 6:35pm Chairman Veneziano opened the public hearing on the proposed ordinance regarding local foods and self-governance. William Van Tuinen spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that it was a great way to support local growers and buyers of produce and other products. The Town Manager noted that MMA legal had told other towns that this ordinance does not make the Town liable as it provides for agreements between buyers and sellers.

There were a number of people in the audience but no further public comments were offered. Chairman Veneziano closed the public hearing at 6:40.

2. Update on MEW Solar Project: Madison Electric Works Superintendent Calvin Ames reported on the Solar Field at the Business Gateway Park. The contract was finalized today for a 25 year agreement. Independent investors will build a 16.5 acre solar field this summer and MEW can purchase power for as low as \$.0795 per Kw. Because they would buy it directly the savings comes from additional fees from ISO New England that do not apply. MEW would have the option to purchase the entire field in 6 years for a price of \$4.8M. It is expected to generate enough power to supply up to 20% of Madison Electric's total load (not including Backyard Farms).

An outside investment company will be funding the construction of the solar field expected to cost approximately \$8,000,000.00. Madison Electric will invest upwards of \$200,000 in infrastructure costs. Construction is expected to begin by late May early June and should be generating power by September of 2016.

3. Discuss proposal for auditing services: Town Manager Curtis reported that 4 accounting firms had submitted bids for auditing services. After review of the proposals by Mr. Curtis and Finance Director Tammy Carrier, 2 firms were interviewed and the recommendation was made to accept the bid from RHR Smith for \$10,000 for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Motion to accept the bid from RHR Smith from Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Ducharme. Selectmen Ducharme clarified that this was \$10,000 per year for each year. The Town Manager said the bid was not to exceed \$10,000 for each year. Mr. Johnson asked what criteria was used in the selection. Mr. Curtis explained that the RFP weighed the firm's experience, approach to the audit process and the cost. The recommended proposal was not the lowest bid. Motion carried 5-0.
4. Discuss Quit Claim Deed(s): Treasurer Kathy Estes has received full payment for back taxes on 17 acres on Ward Hill Road. Motion to approve a quit claim deed for Map 002 Lot 048 by Mr. Ducharme, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0.
5. Update from Highway Department: Road Commissioner Glen Mantor updated the board on the various summer projects they would be working on, and the Town Manager asked for direction from the board as to how much the Town should invest or expect from establishing a place to recycle white goods at the Town Garage. The Town could spend anywhere from \$5000 to \$20,000 to build a site to take metals and appliances to be sent to Kennebec Metals in Skowhegan. The Road Commissioners

concern was how much involvement the Highway Department would have in collection of metal. Glen recommended having Kennebec Metals leave a roll off and see how it goes before spending town money. The board agreed. The Town Manager will make arrangements to have a roll off delivered in the next week or so.

6. Discuss Police Contract with Sheriff Lancaster: Town Manager Curtis explained that the budget for the second year of policing services provided by the Sheriff's Office is set at \$485,000. The Sheriff spoke to some of the particulars of the work of the deputies in the school, foot patrols in town and cruiser patrol throughout town. Each of the current deputies are new and require academy training, which will be factored into the budget. Selectmen Fortin mentioned that mileage on cruisers is a concern mainly because he does not want the Town to have to purchase a new cruiser every year. The Sheriff says that he has an informal restriction on mileage, which he has lifted to allow the new deputies to become more familiar with the area. The Sheriff is confident that a new cruiser will only be needed every other year. Selectman Veneziano mentioned that the presence at the school has been very good and the overall police presence is strong.

The Town Manager asked the Sheriff to explain how the budget spending is year today. The Sheriff said that any money spent under the \$481,000 for the current fiscal year will be returned to the Town. Town Manager Curtis explained that in his conversations with the County the money returned to the Town will be set aside to pay for academy training for the Deputies.

- H. Selectmen's Concerns: As recommended by the Board of Assessors Mr. Ducharme motioned to spend up to \$3000 for additional assessing work for Shirley Bartlett to work with Maine Revenue to determine a market value for Madison Paper Industries, seconded by Mr. Fortin. Motion carries 5-0.
- I. Citizen's Concerns: Resident Steve Kaelin expressed his concerns again about neighbors and the condition of their property on Preble Ave. The Town Manager said he would be visiting the places this week and if they needed to be cited for violations then that would happen. Mr. Kaelin said he wants the Town to enforce the laws that are on the books.
- J. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1MRSA 405 (6) (A): Motion to go into executive session from Mr. Fortin, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carries 5-0, the board entered executive session at 7:30pm.

The board came out of executive session at 8:10pm with no action taken.

- K. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.