

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 AVENUE FACILITY, 108 OLD POINT AVENUE, MADISON
Monday, October 27, 2014
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: #12 (10/14/14). Payroll Registers dated: Week #41 (10/09/14), #42 (10/16/14), #43 (10/23/14). Selectman Ducharme made a motion to approve. Selectman Johnson seconded. Motion carried.
- D. Discuss meeting minutes of October 14, 2014. Selectman Fortin made a motion to accept. Selectman Ducharme seconded. Motion carried.
- E. Old business (Selectmen's Concerns from immediately preceding meeting). None.
- F. Items of Communication.
 - 1. Information from Skowhegan Savings Bank and Bangor Savings Bank was given to the Board members. The Board will take action on November 10. Franklin Somerset Credit Union and Camden National Bank both declined a bid. Both banks, the Town Treasurer and the Finance Officer will be asked to attend the next meeting.
- G. New Business.
 - 1. Discussion with Dave Barrett of MMA regarding hiring of a Town Manager. Mr Barrett could not attend the meeting as there was a death in the family.
 - 2. Discuss State Valuation and Appeal process with Bill VanTuinen, Assessor's Assistant. Bill VanTuinen passed out a memo to board members. The State has not recognized the lower valuation of the Town. He explained that State Valuation affects intergovernmental funding in three ways (and the negative impact this higher than actual valuation will have to the Town this coming year): 1) county government – we will pay an additional \$307,598 based upon the higher state valuation (Madison Paper's reduced value multiplied by the rate per thousand); 2) school funding – the main component of State Education funding is the essential programs and services – we will pay an additional \$1,148,175 based upon the higher state valuation; and 3) state municipal revenue sharing – the lower your state valuation, the more you receive in revenue sharing – with our higher State Valuation, we will see a loss of about \$134,000.

Bill stressed the need to work with local legislative delegation to try to get some legislative solutions to these problems. We could ask the Legislature to reduce our State Valuation for the purposes of school funding and revenue sharing. We need to ask for a different measure in education funding law, property value fiscal capacity. Beginning in 2015, the fiscal capacity is the state valuation of the previous three years to the most recent state valuation. Thus it will take about 4 years for the reduced valuation to fully work its way into the system.

We have received our official State Valuation for the fiscal year 2015 and it includes unadjusted all of the valuation at the local level as of our 2013 valuation. He is recommending to the Board that they appeal the 2015 State Valuation. Appeals need to be filed within 45 days of receipt – we received ours on October 9th. Reasons to appeal: 1) it may give some relief; 2) it shows the State we're trying to influence them to revise the law so it doesn't affect us so negatively, 3) any Madison official can say that we're looking at other avenues available to us.

The appeal process is to appeal the state valuation to the State Board of Property Tax Review. This process will not cost the Town a lot of money. Bill has prepared all of the documents that are needed for an appeal. Such appeals go to the State Board with a high priority. We would probably have a hearing in December or January. The format is an affidavit. Bill drafted an affidavit with exhibits.

Selectman Fortin didn't see any legislation change on TIF. Bill didn't put that in there. The Board can work with Legislative Delegation to try to establish something that will work for Madison. The feedback from the legislators when they were here was "strength in numbers". If we could align ourselves with some other Towns with similar situations, they thought that would help us in our effort to change legislation. We should work on this simultaneously with the valuation appeal after the election is done so we know who we're working with.

Selectman Johnson made a motion to have Bill VanTuinen file the appeal on behalf of the Board of Selectman. Selectman Fortin seconded. Motion carried. The Board signed the appeal and Bob Dunphy notarized it.

3. Department head reports: Highway, Economic Development. Road Commissioner Mantor gave an update on the ice rink – should be finishing up tomorrow afternoon. Chris LeBlanc and his crew was going to lay that out this Thursday or Friday. MEW is going to move the lights. Highway has hauled off 138 ton of brush from the brush site. They have picked up 200 yards of leaves from in-town streets. Highway is getting equipment ready for the winter season. Tim Curtis gave an update on the current TIF balance - \$433,000 including the Town's portion of Backyard Farms half year taxes. Bill VanTuinen will submit for our BETE reimbursement or \$347,000 to come into our TIF account. They will report TIF activity on a month-by-month basis. Matching Grants – there are four remaining grants that have yet to come out of the fund. The Town received designation as a 'Business Friendly Community. We're starting to pay for the SCBA units approved by the Board. Sam Harper has completed his summer work for maintenance at the playground.
4. Discuss sidewalk quotes with Road Commissioner. The sidewalk project from the Town Office to Rowell Street will be delayed until next Spring. Fine Line Paving quoted \$10,400 to pave the Junior High to the High School sidewalk and \$9,875 from the nursing home to Cumberland Farms. From the Town Office to the traffic light could take some hand digging because of the underground cables. We're not going to touch any of the spots that Summit did. Fine Line Paving has closed off any new projects because of the change in weather. All sidewalk projects will need to wait until next Spring.
- Selectman Fortin mentioned that the Weston Avenue site was to be seeded and grassed before freeze up which will not happen now. Should we hold payment until they come and put grass in next Spring? Tim Curtis stated that we can hold payment if the project is "not substantially complete" i.e. if they have not removed the fence, leveled the lot and seeded/mulched. Their deadline was today. There's a \$500 fee per day for every day that this job or the East Madison Store job is not completed. The balance due them is \$14,000. Mike Edgerly thought we should hold payment until it's done. Mike will review the job specs and report back at the next meeting.
5. Discuss Channel 11 mail box request. Channel 11 would like to put up a mail box by the doorway to Channel 11. Selectman Ducharme made a motion to allow Channel 11 to install a mailbox at the Old Point Avenue Facility. Selectman Edgerly seconded. Motion carried.

6. Legislative update. We have common ground on the first two legislative issues (state valuation, education) with Skowhegan, East Millinocket and Jay. One comparison was with the State Valuation of Rumford. Bucksport may be interested at some point (they have not received an abatement request from the mill yet) so it's a matter of timing. The third legislative issue on the TIF, there is no common ground with Skowhegan, but maybe Bucksport, Jay and Rumford. Selectman Fortin thinks we should consider bringing in an outside firm to bring all these Towns together. Bill offered to communicate with Skowhegan and East Millinocket to raise the concept of cooperation. He may be able to do that with some other communities as well. Bill believes we need to have some level of interaction, a small committee or contact person from each Town that can agree that these are the things that we can pursue cooperatively as well as identify the things the towns can pursue independently. However, the majority of the work should be done by someone else. He suggested that we consider MMA. MMA will help us in drafting legislation. Additionally, we may want to hire a lobbyist firm or law firm who does lobbying. We have to be prepared to offer testimony in favor of our proposed legislation to the taxation, education and other committees. Bill was willing to have a few choices drafted in two weeks. Ways to approach the Property Value Fiscal Capacity for Education Funding were briefly mentioned.

- H. Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Edgerly had none. Selectman Fortin said we need to set a date for the Special Town Meeting for the Board of Assessors. The Board agreed to discuss it at the November 24th meeting. Selectman Johnson had none. Selectman Ducharme asked if Tim had any information about a sign in recognition of the donors of the playground. Tim Curtis will have an update at the next meeting. The Anson, Madison Starks Ambulance meeting is Wednesday night at Old Point Avenue at 7 p.m. Selectman Veneziano had none.
- I. Citizen's Concerns. A citizen mentioned trash and wood piled up again on a Naomi Avenue property. The renters moved out of one house and into the one beside it. He feels that the home needs to be condemned – they have little children living there too. Cyp will go back out to look at it with Bob Dunphy and Glen Mantor. They will report back to the Board at the next meeting.
- J. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A). Selectman Johnson made a motion to go into executive session. Selectman Ducharme seconded. Motion carried. The Board went into executive session at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried. The Board came out of executive session at 8:34 p.m. Selectman Johnson made a motion to handle the replacement of the Town Manager in-house as opposed to using MMA services and that we advertise for a Town Manager for two consecutive weekends beginning the week ending November 8 and November 15 requesting resumes be to us by sealed envelope by December 1st, advertising in the Morning Sentinel, Kennebec Journal, Bangor Daily, Portland Press Herald as well as Maine Municipal Association. Selectman Johnson seconded. Selectman Ducharme to work with Nancy on the ad. Motion carried.
- K. Executive Session to discuss a labor negotiations pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D). Selectman Fortin made a motion to go into executive session. Selectman Ducharme seconded. The Board went into executive session at 8:37 p.m. The Board came out of executive session at 9:05 p.m. No action taken.
- L. Adjournment. Selectman Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.