

Meeting Minutes June 10, 2024 Madison Town Meeting

To: Kathy Estes, a resident in the Town of Madison in the County of Somerset, State of Maine:

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Madison, in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Madison Main Street Middle School Auditorium, in said Town, on Monday, the tenth (10th) day of June, 2024 A.D. at seven o'clock in the evening (7PM), then and there to act upon Article 1 and Articles 3 through 39 as set out below to wit: And, to notify and warn said inhabitants to meet at the Old Point School Election Room in said Town, on Tuesday, the eleventh (11th) day of June 2024 A.D. at eight o'clock in the morning (8AM) until eight o'clock in the evening (8PM):

The Town Clerk, Cheyenne Stevens, opened the meeting and introduced the Town Manager, Denise Ducharme, who shared information about herself and spoke briefly about a few of the articles that were on the warrant.

Article 1

To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Town Clerk, Cheyenne Stevens, read warrant address to Kathy Estes. Chair Board Member Albert Veneziano nominated Ernest Hilton to be moderator, second by Town Manager, Denise Ducharme. No further nominations. Votes were cast by board to elect Ernest Hilton to be moderator at said meeting. Ernest Hilton was called to the stand and took the oath of office.

The moderator opened the meeting by asking for the number of unregistered voters and proceeded to explain the rules against speaking at the town meeting as an unregistered voter.

The moderator put a motion to pass the to adopt the Maine Moderators Manual. A motion and second occurred. Vote passed.

Article 2

To elect all Municipal Officers, Directors for S.A.D. #59 and other Municipal Officials as are required to be elected:

1 Select Board, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for 3 years

3 Directors for SAD #59 for 3 Years

1 Trustee for Anson-Madison Sanitary District for 3 years

2 Trustee for Anson-Madison Water District for 3 years

1 Trustee for Madison Public Library for 5 Years

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1 Director for Madison Electric Works for 5 Years

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to pay the Directors of the Department of Electric Works \$10,200.00 for the ensuing year, said sum to be paid from the funds of the department.

Select Board Recommends YES

A motion and a second occurred. Vote passed.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,200.00 to pay its Select Board*.

Advisory Board Recommends YES *Compensation is included under Article 6.

A motion and a second occurred. Vote passed.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to use up to \$25,000 from undesignated revenue in the event of overdrafts, unforeseen events or emergencies. Any use of this contingency arrangement must be voted on at a Select Board meeting and the expenditures made will be listed in the subsequent town report. Total transfer of undesignated revenues shall not exceed \$25,000 within the fiscal year. Transfer of undesignated revenues in excess of \$25,000 must be authorized by a town meeting vote.

Select Board Recommends YES

Advisory Board Recommends YES

A motion and a second occurred. Vote passed.

Article 6

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the General Government account in the General Fund.

Administration \$627,812

Planning Board \$6,550

Code Enforcement/Facilities Maint \$89,215

Boards and Committees \$19,940

Elections \$10,500

Assessing \$48,000

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Total expenses \$802,017

Approved revenue from TIF (\$30,000)

Total Raised by Taxation \$772,017

Select Board Recommends \$772,017

Advisory Board Recommends \$772,017

Motion and a second for recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 7

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety in the General Fund.

Ambulance \$99,250

Police \$576,026

Fire Department \$160,920

Animal Control \$6,435

Total Expenses \$842,631

Approved revenue from TIF (\$20,000)

Total Raised by Taxation \$822,631

Select Board Recommends \$822,631

Advisory Board Recommends \$822,631

Citizen question regarding when the town got rid of the cruisers and where the cruisers went and how much the town received for the cruisers. Another citizen questioned regarding whether the town knows the amount of calls the Sheriff's Office received last year. A motion and a second occurred for recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 8

To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Public Utilities account in the General Fund.

Street Lights \$60,000

Hydrants/Fire Protection \$245,000

Storm water \$75,000

Waste Disposal \$260,000

Total Expenses \$640,000

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Approved revenue from TIF (\$30,000)

Total Raised by Taxation \$610,000

Select Board Recommends \$610,000

Advisory Board Recommends \$610,000

A motion and a second for the recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 9

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Public Works account in the General Fund:

Public Works \$902,765

Approved Revenue from TIF (\$35,000)

Total Raised by Taxation \$867,765

Select Board Recommends \$867,765

Advisory Board Recommends \$867,765

Citizen had a question regarding why the budget increased over \$100,00 from previous years. Chair Veneziano answered these questions with additional comments from the Road Commissioner. Concerns were brought up include the increase in gravel and the budgeting to rent an excavator and trailer.

A motion to amended to reduce the amount raise appropriated by \$10,000. The motion was seconded. A citizen expressed concern of reducing the proposed \$10,000 out of the budget because it may hinder the ability to be able to afford a contractor if the board decides to go in the direction with the ditching. Another citizen expressed concern regarding the road commissioner spending funding towards curbing on a state road. Vote did not pass for amended amount.

Vote passed for how the article was originally wrote.

Article 10

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Recreation account in the General Fund:

Select Board Recommends \$131,610

Advisory Board Recommends \$131,610

Motion and a second for the recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 11

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To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Community Services in the General Fund.

General Assistance \$24,500

Community Programs

Community Recycling \$5,000

US Naval Sea Cadets Corps \$1,000

Lake Association \$15,000

American Legion & VFW \$1,500

People Who Care Food Cupboard \$16,500

Recycling/Household Hazardous Waste \$1,000

Kennebec Behavioral Health \$500

Lakewood Theatre \$5,000

St. Sebastian Cemetery \$1,000

Madison Business Alliance \$7,500

The LifeFlight Foundation \$1,200

Maine Public Radio & TV \$100

Total Community Programs \$55,300

Service Organizations

KVCAP Trans \$2,500

Madison Anson Senior Citizens \$4,500

Spectrum Generations \$5,000

Somerset Humane Society \$10,000

Hospice Volunteers of Somerset County \$3,000

Literacy Volunteers \$150

Service Organizations \$25,150

Grand Total Community Services \$104,950

Approved revenue from TIF (\$5,000)

Select Board Recommends \$99,950

Advisory Board Recommends \$99,950

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Motion and second for recommended amount. Vote passed. Citizen asked the question of whether the funds to the Legion were put in every year and how to go about receiving the check. Chair Veneziano expressed he believed it was every year and the check could be received by putting in a request at the town office if the vote passed. Another citizen asked whether the recreation department could take over the the maintenance of protecting aquatic life. Chair Veneziano recommended keeping it the same and addressing it in the future.

Article 12

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Cemeteries in the General Fund.

Select Board Recommends \$49,250

Advisory Board Recommends \$49,250

A motion and a second for the recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 13

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Madison Public Library in the

General Fund.

Select Board Recommends \$147,350

Advisory Board Recommends \$147,350

A motion and a second for the recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 14

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Owned Property in the General Fund.

Select Board Recommends \$38,405

Advisory Board Recommends \$38,405

A motion and a second for the recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 15

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Highway Equipment Purchases.

Select Board Recommends \$125,999

Advisory Board Recommends \$125,999

A motion and a second for the recommended amount. Citizen asked the question about what is paving paved for \$91,000. Chair Veneziano, Town Manager, and Road

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Commissioner responded with street names including Bean and Preble, the renting of a trailer, and a mention that approximately \$107,000 of this amount will be put towards a new town truck that will be delivered in July or August. Another citizen asked whether renting a trailer had been concerned as the excavator will be rented as well and Chair Veneziano responded with that they could look into that option. Vote passed.

Article 16

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Road Surface Projects & Culverts.

Select Board Recommends \$99,000

Advisory Board Recommends \$99,000

Motion and a second for the recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 17

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Sidewalk Maintenance.

Select Board Recommends \$68,275

Advisory Board Recommends \$68,275

Motion and a second for the recommended amount. A citizen asked a question regarding the amount. Road commissioner answered explaining the curbing at Madison Avenue. The town manager responded with the streets that will have sidewalk repair. The road commissioner responded saying highway will be preparing the sidewalks. Vote passed.

Article 18

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fire Department Building Repairs.

Select Board Recommends \$75,000

Advisory Board Recommends \$75,000

Motion and second for recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 19

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fire Department Equipment Purchases.

Select Board Recommends \$50,000

Advisory Board Recommends \$50,000

Motion and second for recommended amount. Vote passed.

Article 20

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To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry forward \$208,320 in previously designated ARPA funds.

Select Board Recommends YES

Advisory Board Recommends YES

Motion and second. Vote passed.

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry forward \$107,250 in previously designated unspent capital funds for the purchase of Highway Equipment.

Select Board Recommends YES

Advisory Board Recommends YES

Motion and second. Vote passed.

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry forward \$50,000 in previously designated unspent capital funds for the purchase of Fire Equipment.

Select Board Recommends YES

Advisory Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Town Manager commented that the funds are being set aside for next firetruck purchase. Vote passed.

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to carry forward \$25,000 in previously designated unspent capital funds for repairs to the Forest Hill Cemetery.

Select Board Recommends YES

Advisory Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Motion and second for amended article vote to amend the article to include all Madison cemeteries. Citizens questions included where the funds are being spent, whether it includes headstones, and how the funds will be kept track of if spread out. The questions were answered by the town manager stating that the funds are currently spent on Forest Hills cemetery, will include headstones, and the allocation of the funds would be by Select Board. Vote passed for amended article.

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to use \$500,000 from undesignated fund balance to offset taxes.

Select Board Recommends YES

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Advisory Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 25

To see if the Town will vote to allocate the balance of the snowmobile excise tax refund to the Abnaki Snow Riders Snowmobile Club.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and second. Citizen asked a question regarding the amount of this tax refund. Tim Curtis responded it is approximately \$2,000. Vote passed.

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the year 2025-2026 not yet due or assessed.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and second. Vote passed.

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote the date of September 15, 2024 or 30 days after commitment, whichever is later, as the date when the first one-half of taxes assessed for the current year shall become due and payable, and the date of March 15, 2025, when the second one-half of taxes assessed for the current year shall become due and payable, with taxes unpaid after said dates to bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8.00%) per annum from said dates.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with residential taxpayers establishing a “tax club” payment plan for property taxes, whereby: (1) the taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the town based on his/her estimated and actual tax obligation for the current year property taxes; (2) the town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement; (3) the town authorizes the collector to accept tax club payments for current taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes; (4) the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due dates and interest dates and rates as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club; (5) only taxpayers who do not have any outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club

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program; and (6) taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter into an agreement with the town by a publicly-advertised deadline determined by the Tax Collector.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 29

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to advertise and sell Town-owned personal property at public sale.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town-owned property, not tax-acquired, in any manner that the Selectmen deem to be in the best interest of the Town.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 31

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of tax acquired property as they deem in the best interests of the Town, except that they shall first use the sale process in 36 M.R.S.A. § 943-C if they choose to sell the property to anyone other than the former owner. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S.A. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 32

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to approve all wages and salaries for the coming year, except for those already provided for.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 33

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Manager, under the direction of the Select Board, to apply for grant monies and to expend monies received for the stated grant purposes.

Select Board Recommends YES

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Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 34

To see if the Town, in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 506-A, will vote to fix the rate of four percent (4.00%) interest to be paid on overpaid or abated taxes.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 35

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept any money or property, real or personal, from any Donor and such money or property shall be utilized as specified by the Donor.

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 36

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to swap a portion of a parcel of land on South Maple Street behind Reny's Department Store, currently being utilized as municipal parking (Map 019 Lot 83), with the parcel of land upon which the American Legion Post # 39 building currently exists (Map 019 Lot 82). The intent of the American Legion is to build a new facility, tear down the existing structure, remove the debris, and pave the area for replacement municipal parking. See handout "American Legion"

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 37

To see if the Town will vote to allow ATV access on the streets of the Town of Madison Village area for residents to gain access to the Kennebec Valley Trail (railbed) and the proposed MDOT Access Route. See handout "ATV"

Select Board Recommends YES

Motion and a second. Vote passed.

Article 38

To see if the Town, in accordance with 22 M.R.S.A. §2423-A, will vote to amend Town Ordinance Chapter 180 Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia by expressly allowing the retail sales of medical marijuana/cannabis products.

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A “yes” vote will allow the existing medical cannabis retail stores to continue to operate and allow the Planning Board to review the existing ordinance language and bring the amended ordinance back for approval at the next Town Meeting.

A “no” vote will cause the Office of Cannabis Policy to shut down the existing medical cannabis retail shops authorized after 12/13/2018 and prohibit the authorization of any new medical cannabis retail shops in Madison.

This vote will be by secret ballot*

Select Board Recommends YES

This vote passed by secret ballot*

142 YES Votes

67 NO Votes

Article 39

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Moratorium Ordinance regarding controlled substance facilities located with Safe Zone.

[Moratorium Ordinance Definitions](#)

This vote will be by secret ballot*

This vote passed by secret ballot*

179 YES Votes

9 NO Votes