



Thomas S. Scarpati
First Selectman

TOWN OF MADISON CONNECTICUT
06443-2563
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William Gladstone
Noreen Kokoruda
Kathi Traugh
Charles F. Walz

MEETING DATE: **Monday, January 9, 2006**

MEETING PLACE: **Madison Room (Room A), Town Campus**

A. OPENING:

Selectman Scarpati called the regular session of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:02 a.m. Present were Selectmen Scarpati, Gladstone, Kokoruda, Walz and Traugh.

Selectman Scarpati began the meeting by moving agenda item 11 up to the beginning of the meeting.

11. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for the purchase of a new cab and service body for Madison Hose Company #1. Selectman Scarpati recognized Fire Chief, Bob Gerard.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve awarding of the bid to Hammonasset Ford for the purchase of a new cab and service body for Madison Hose Company #1 at the purchase price of \$34,408. This item was unanimously approved

Comments: Mr. Gerard said that four bids received for a new utility truck were reviewed by Hose Company #1's Replacement Committee and they include the following:

- Interstate Trucks, Hartford – 2006 Ford F350 @ \$33,380
- Hammonasset Ford, Madison – 2006 F350 @ \$34,408
- McDermott Chevrolet, East Haven – 2006 Chevy Silverado @ \$34,449
- Mannix Chevrolet, Guilford @ \$35,451.

Mr. Gerard said that the Chevrolets were eight-foot bodies and the Fords were nine-foot and the fire department prefers the nine-foot. So between the two Ford bids the Replacement Committee recommended accepting Hammonasset Ford over the Interstate Trucks because Hammonasset Ford is located in Madison and the bid difference was only \$548.

Mr. Gerard added that in the past when trucks were replaced they were sold in a bid process and the money from the sale went into the department's Replacement Account and they would like to do the same thing for this transaction.

1. Approval of minutes – December 7, 2005 and December 19, 2005

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2005 meeting. The motion passed 3-0-2 (Gladstone, Traugh abstaining).

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2005 meeting as amended below. This item was approved unanimously.

Comments: Selectman Gladstone said that on page 56 (top of the page) the minutes should be corrected by changing the first name of Gary Dicker to "Barry". Selectman Kokoruda said that on page 59, second paragraph from the bottom the word competence should be changed to "confidence".

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Susannah Graedel.

Comment: Selectman Scarpati presented Susannah Graedel with a Certificate of Appreciation for her ten years of service in developing the Bauer Park. Ms. Graedel remarked that over the last ten years in developing education activities at Bauer Park for children that the challenge now is to develop activities to get the adult to come out to Bauer Park. She said that starting now and running through March there are many adult programs and activities planned.

4. Discuss and take action on hiring Justin Longeran as Full Time Dispatcher (replaces Darrow Loucks F/T who left in November). Effective 12/20/05. Starting rate \$15.19/hour. NAGE Dispatchers, Clerks and Secretaries Union.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the hiring of Justin Longeran as Full Time Dispatcher, effective 12/20/05. Starting rate \$15.19/hour. This was unanimously approved.

5. Discuss and take action on setting the mileage reimbursement rate from 48.5 cents per mile to 44.5 cents per mile for all business miles driven per 2006 Standard Mileage Rates Set by IRS.

Comments: Finance Director Dottie Bavin said the 48.5 cents per mile was a temporary increase after the hurricane.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve setting the mileage reimbursement rate from 48.5 cents per mile to 44.5 cents per mile for all business miles driven per 2006 Standard Mileage Rates Set by IRS effective January 1, 2006. This item was unanimously approved.

6. Discuss and take action on formation of a Conservation Commission in the Town of Madison.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to create a Conservation Commission in the Town of Madison consisting of seven members. This item was unanimously approved.

Comments: Selectman Walz stated he preferred postponing the “Charges” part of the resolution to a later meeting and only establishing a commission at this meeting.

Selectman Kokoruda read the beginning of the Conservation Commission Formation Resolution as follows: Be It Hereby Resolved that: in accordance with the Charter of the Town of Madison § 7.1.1 and § 7-131a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town of Madison Board of Selectmen resolve to appoint a Conservation Commission (“the Commission”) consisting of seven (7) members.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Bill Bach said that he would recommend that the town political parties have more time to recommend candidates for the commission.

Selectman Scarpati said that the February 27th meeting will be when the appointments are made and the “Charges” discussed.

Selectman Traugh noted that since the voters have already approved the formation of a commission, in concept – then this issue does not have to return to a Town Meeting.

7. Discuss and take action on authorizing the Police Department to apply for a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant in the amount of \$2,400. The grant does not require a matching commitment from the Town of Madison and will be utilized to purchase “ASP” Expandable Batons.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to authorize the Police Department to apply for a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant in the amount of \$2,400. The grant does not require a matching commitment from the Town of Madison and will be utilized to purchase “ASP” Expandable Batons. This was unanimously approved

Comments: Selectman Scarpati recognized Lieutenant Robert Stimpson. Lieutenant Stimpson said the expandable batons have two features: they are collapsible and they are less lethal.

8. Discuss and take action on acceptance of a \$43,612 Grant from the Erwin C. Bauer Charitable Trust Fund to the Beach & Recreation Dept. for the following projects:

- Habitat Exploration at Bauer Park and Rockland Preserve 2006 - \$7,912
- Farm House Renovations to Museum-Phase One - \$7,700
- Farmers Market Pavilion-Phase One - \$18,000
- Handicap Trail-Rockland Preserve – Initial Phase - \$10,000

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the acceptance of a \$43,612 Grant from the Erwin C. Bauer Charitable Trust Fund to the Beach & Recreation Dept. for the following projects: Habitat Exploration at Bauer Park

and Rockland Preserve 2006 at \$7,912; Farm House Renovations to Museum-Phase One at \$7,700; Farmers Market Pavilion - Phase One at \$18,000; and Handicap Trail-Rockland Preserve – Initial Phase at \$10,000. This item was unanimously approved.

Comments: Selectman Scarpati recognized Beach & Recreation Director Scot Erskine. Mr. Erskine gave the following project details: with the Habitat Exploration at both Bauer and Rockland – these were environmental education programs and there is a minimal fee charged to recover some of the costs.

With the Farm House to Museum item – this money is only for developing architectural and engineering designs to get costs of converting the building. In the event the conversion goes ahead some monies would be needed by the Town combined with monies from the Trust to replace the heating system that no longer works with an HVAC system.

The Farmers Market item: Two-years ago the Trust approved an open air farmers market and garden to be built north of the Barn and this money is for the foundation and slab for the open air pavilion. Mr. Erskine added that some time in the future an ice skating pond would be developed close by.

Finally, the handicap trail development at Rockland Preserve, Mr. Erskine stated that it would be located at the end of Renee’s Way and will lead to the outdoor environmental center.

Selectman Kokoruda said she is thrilled to see Rockland being included and she asked Mr. Erskine what the total cost might be for the Pavilion. Mr. Erskine said \$38,000.

9. Discuss and take action on authorizing the Town of Madison Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education, and to accept a grant for reimbursement for the completed Island Avenue School modular classroom addition.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to authorize the Town of Madison Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education, and to accept a grant for reimbursement for the completed Island Avenue School modular classroom addition. This item was unanimously approved.

Comments: Selectman Scarpati recognized Board of Education member Becky Coffey. Mrs. Coffey said the lease payments for the modular additions are almost

completed and now the Board of Education can apply for a reimbursement grant for previous costs incurred.

Selectman Walz questioned why the Board of Selectmen had to do anything with this item beyond the Board of Education. Finance Director Dottie Bavin said this was simply a formality that the State requires.

10. Discuss and take action on establishing the Planning Committee of the Board of Education as the Building Committee for the purpose of seeking State of Connecticut Department of Education reimbursement for the completed Island Avenue School modular classroom addition.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to establish a Planning Committee of the Board of Education as the Building Committee for the purpose of seeking State of Connecticut Department of Education reimbursement for the completed Island Avenue School modular classroom addition. This was unanimously approved.

12. Discuss and take action on special appropriation request of \$163,061 from Madison Public Schools for project funding required for aggregate electricity charges for all cost centers based on expected trends for the rate increase effective January 2006.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the special appropriation request of \$163,061 from Madison Public Schools for project funding required for aggregate electricity charges for all cost centers based on expected trends for the rate increase effective January 2006. this item was unanimously approved.

Comments: Selectman Scarpati recognized Becky Coffey again. Mrs. Coffey said that the Board of Education could not anticipate the rate increases for electricity and for natural gas and that last year the excess not expended in the special appropriation given for mid-term utilities' anticipated shortfall was returned to the town at the closure of the fiscal year. She said this year any excess would also be returned.

Selectman Scarpati reminded the Board that by State Regulation the Board of Education cannot have a deficit in their budget and that's why this adjustment process has to be conducted this way.

Mrs. Coffey added that the Board of Education tries not to anticipate something that's a projected increase until it happens.

Selectman Scarpati acknowledged that and said that he would like the Board of Education to furnish him with some revised, tentative numbers as a side exhibit so he could see what kind of utility perspective the Board of Education might be considering.

Selectman Walz said that going forward, while aberrations in utility costs are understood he would like to see what planning and strategy the Board of Education proposes to improve the productivity of personnel-student ratios, class sizes, and the like. He said this information would serve to enhance the marketing for this and future school budgets.

13. Discuss and take action on special appropriation request of \$82,670 from Madison Public Schools for project funding required for aggregate natural gas charges for all cost centers based on expected trends for the rate increase effective January 2006.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the special appropriation request of \$82,670 from Madison Public Schools for project funding required for aggregate natural gas charges for all cost centers based on expected trends for the rate increase effective January 2006. This was unanimously approved.

Comments: Bill McMinn informed the Board that the automatic front door at the high school would be modified to a push-button operated door.

14. Liaison Reports

Board of Education – Selectman Traugh said that at the December meeting the preliminary budget was distributed; there was a recognition ceremony for student athletes; a report from the student liaison about student fundraisers done in tandem with Madison's Department of Social Services; there was a discussion about building a new fitness center at Polson Middle School that will charge user fees.

Mrs. Coffey added that the fitness center would not be building new space but rather incorporating an adjacent storage room.

Library Board– Selectman Traugh said there was a budget discussion and discussion about expansion of space and services.

Zoning Board of Appeals– Selectman Kokoruda said two longtime members were leaving.

Planning & Zoning – Selectman Kokoruda said Bill Bilcheck was leaving after serving sixteen years. She said that the Commission rejected an approval for a stonewall that was erected without prior approval.

Senior Citizen’s Commission – Selectman Kokoruda said they discussed their long-term strategic plan; and they are requesting more hours for their clerk; and they will be looking for other locations in town for some of their programs.

Water Pollution Control Authority – Selectman Kokoruda said they discussed a Reserve Plan for Downtown.

Beach & Recreation – Selectman Walz said they discussed the plans we heard tonight; and they are going to be making an ice skating area on the Town Campus tennis courts in the next week or two.

Pension Committees – Selectman Walz said the Town and Library Pension Committees met and will be sending out a Request for Proposal for a financial advisor. He said that he will be part of the first review and then he will step off after that since his company will be a RFP candidate. He added that same process took place last year with the Police Pension.

15. Tax Abatements/Refunds

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve refunds totaling \$2,592.48. This was unanimously approved.

REFUNDS

Ford Motor Credit Company	\$ 426.75
GMAC	\$ 958.49
Land Rover	\$ 62.94
Mazda American Credit	\$ 153.16
Volvo Finance NA Inc.	\$ 991.14
<u>TOTAL REFUNDS</u>	<u>\$ 2,592.48</u>

16. Selectmen Comments

Selectman Scarpati said that the reason why the Board of Education's special appropriation requests are not built into the budget as a series of contingencies is because that would inflate the mil rate up front as part of the total budget. He said that the process of the Board of Selectmen – to Board of Finance – to a Town Meeting provides visibility to these specific issues and three occasions for public discussions.

Selectman Scarpati stated that the 06/07 budget will be a test to the Town's Long Range Financial Plan in that the implications of the 06/07 budget, while trying to limit budget growth – some of the capital projects desired for now and the future may have to be deferred.

Selectman Scarpati said that tomorrow is the first meeting of the Governor's Commission on Education Cost Sharing (ECS) and he will be attending as one of 23 members.

17. Adjourn to Executive Session

Update on Police Union Negotiations

C. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn to executive session to discuss Personnel and include Board of Finance Chairman Fillmore McPherson and Human Resources Director Katherine Christopher. The regular meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail White

Recording Secretary

Pro Tem