



Alfred Goldberg
First Selectman

TOWN OF MADISON CONNECTICUT 06443-2563
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William Gladstone
Noreen Kokoruda
Thomas Scarpati
Kathi Traugh

MEETING DATE:

Monday, October 22, 2007

MEETING PLACE:

Madison Room (Room A), Town Campus

First Selectman Scarpati called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Selectmen Scarpati, Gladstone, Kokoruda, and Walz. (Selectman Traugh was absent.)

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to enter into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the following item:

1. Personnel – Director of Human Resources shared position

Also in attendance was Helen Burland, Assistant for Administration.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

(Enters Selectman Traugh at 7:20 p.m.)

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to exit Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

First Selectman Scarpati called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:42 p.m. Present were Selectmen Scarpati, Walz, Gladstone, Kokoruda, and Traugh.

2. Approval of minutes – October 9, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the **minutes of the meeting** of October 9, 2007 as written.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments.

Elizabeth Booth, Northwood Road, commented she is frustrated that there is no time for 'Citizen Comments' during Planning and Zoning Commission meetings where citizens can bring up a comment or ask a question. She stated recently there was no opportunity for citizens to comment on the issue of the trailer/camper underneath the bridge between Madison and Guilford where wetlands were disrupted. It is important that the Planning and Zoning Commission find time to open their agenda to listen to public comments. Selectman Kokoruda will speak with the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Joe MacDougald, to find out why there is not a 'Citizen Comments' item on the agenda.

Thomas Burrill, 89 Deepwood Drive, presented two concerns. (1) He wanted to discuss a situation with a neighbor at 96 Deepwood Drive where the owners have constructed a dirt bike track with jumps for their children. At certain times there are five motor or off-road cycles running around the property; there is a noise factor, dirt issue, and safety issue. Neighbors have been forced to close their windows. The property is less than two acres in size and the track runs alongside the road. He presented a copy of a newspaper article to the Board of Selectmen entitled "*Seymour to revamp ATV noise ordinance.*" (2) He also stated this neighbor has been running a backhoe around the yard moving dirt and boulders for two years; it is very disturbing. The Board of Selectmen agreed to talk with the zoning enforcement officer.

Fillmore McPherson, Chairman of the Board of Finance, stated at the recent public hearing regarding senior tax relief, a citizen stated that under the tax deferral program, he could not purchase a car if a lien was placed on his property. Mr. McPherson checked with two auto dealers in Madison and learned there is no reason the annotation of a resident being on a tax deferral program would deter someone from buying a car. Ms. Booth countered from the audience that she disagreed with Mr. McPherson.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Update on cell tower at bulky waste site.

DISCUSSION: Assistant for Administration Helen Burland read the following into the record:

The Planning and Zoning Commission issued its 8-24 review on the application of a Cell Tower on town-owned property at the Bulky Waste Site on Ridge Road. In reviewing the application, the commission recommended a tower height of 180 feet instead of the 150 foot tower that was included in the application. The commission felt that a taller tower might lessen the need for additional towers in the area under consideration.

At our request, Crown Castle has offered to re-run the “balloon test” at the increased height to address any potential concerns expressed by the neighbors. Results of this test will be available during the Siting Council review should the town agree to move forward.

With this in mind, we are recommending the following timetable:

November 13	Board of Selectmen Meeting – approve lease and call Town Meeting for approval
November 21	Legal Notice appears in The Source
December 4	Town Meeting to approve lease

Lease approval will release Crown Castle to proceed with the application to the Siting Council.

The lease is in its final stages and is being reviewed by Town Counsel. It will be ready for Board of Selectmen approval at their November 13, 2007 meeting. First Selectman Scarpati restated the construction of a cell tower is being done to improve public safety and communications, along with increased revenue – it could be \$50,000 per year. If we get three towers, this would equal \$150,000 per year which is very helpful with the Grand List. We have to take these little steps to protect the Town’s \$30M estimated annual grand list growth or there will be more pressure on less spending and higher taxes. If we don’t put up these cell towers, someone else will and the Town will lose the revenue. Selectman Gladstone stated there will be cell towers; the question is whether we want to get revenue from them. Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated we have taken into account the issue of public safety access, (2) included the ability to add a microwave communication capability in the future, and (3) included at the request of the chairman of the conservation commission consideration for the national migratory bird standard. We have been responsive to public feedback. Selectman Traugh asked that if there are concerns from residents, that the information is shared with the Board of Selectmen and how we have responded to it.

5. Update on Senior Tax Relief.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Scarpati stated at the beginning of the month we received the results of the senior tax committee’s research on the senior tax relief program, we had the Public Hearing, many of the seniors expressed the desire that we more seriously

consider the tax freeze program because they did not like the deferral program. First Selectman Scarpati visited the Town of Guilford to ask specific questions about their program. He put together an analysis worksheet which is ‘a lot of numbers.’ Basically, he took the full population of the current abatement program (the \$300, \$500, \$700 program) (344 residents), the median income of this population is \$32,681, the median property value (not assessment) is \$253,500, and the current benefit with the existing program is \$178K. The \$178K goes against a cap of \$291,000 (2008 tax year); we are still almost \$100,000 below the cap. Taking that population, freezing those taxes to the 2007 value, then increasing taxes at a rate of 4-1/2% in the Long Range Plan and almost 6% for expenditures; it would reach and cross over the cap nominally in the year 2012 (in five years). If we go with the commissions’ recommendation of a 1% cap; then it will go out to year 2017 to reach that 1% cap. Guilford reached their cap; the higher income people absorbed the overage—thus a partial freeze for them. There are a lot of variables in the population. Bottom line – a freeze program is feasible and should be considered and cannot be done by one person. I suggest that after the election we congregate the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, and the Senior Tax Relief Committee, meet in public session to go over all of the numbers and decide in that forum what more can be done. Elizabeth Booth, Northwood Road, thanked the Board of Selectmen for looking at the alternatives.

MOTION to open the agenda to comment on the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Police Commissioners by Selectman Kokoruda, seconded by Selectman Gladstone.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

5A. Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Police Commissioners.

First Selectman Scarpati stated the Board of Selectmen had a special joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Police Commissioners last Thursday, October 18, 2007. As a group of Selectmen, they felt it would be important to make a statement. Selectman Traugh read the following into the record:

Statement of Support from the Madison Board of Selectmen
October 22, 2007

The Madison Board of Selectmen strongly and unanimously supports the Madison Police Commission and Madison Police Department in their recent actions to investigate and, when warranted, initiate proceedings against Madison police officers alleged to have committed improper or criminal behavior. These measures have been undertaken by the Police Commission to assure that members of the Madison Police Department meet the highest standards of professional behavior.

We have full confidence in the Police Commission's commitment to due process and to representing the interest of the community throughout this process. The Board of Selectmen wishes to publicly reaffirm our respect for Madison's police officers as the Department addresses these difficult issues and takes any needed corrective actions.

Independent of these events, the Police Commission has informed us of their concerns regarding current staffing levels due to health, disability and attrition issues. The Commission will be developing a staffing plan for our consideration. We will carefully consider all requests for additional personnel in light of our obligation to maintain staffing levels sufficient to support high quality safety services to the citizens of Madison.

We ask the community to join with us to support our Police Commission, Police Department, and the individual officers that provide the safety services to the citizens of Madison. We look forward to improvements in Madison's public safety services.

First Selectman Scarpati added that on the next day, Friday, October 19, 2007, the Police Commission Hearing took place on the 'employment' of the police officers accused of certain administrative issues. The hearing was open to the public at the request of the officer who was the subject of the hearing and will be showed on Public TV. I ask that you view that tape, listen to the process that is employed, and the process of the officers of this investigation.

6. Discuss and take action on bid waiver request from Department of Police Services.

DISCUSSION: Chief of Police Paul Jakubson stated they looked at and interviewed several vendors who each gave a demonstration of their product and individual features in an effort to replace their aging/non-functional mobile video equipment installed in all patrol vehicles. The \$25,000 request will cover the software, part of the cost of the server, plus three units for this fiscal year. Director of Technology, Art Sickle, is in concurrence with the research done by the Police Department. The Board of Selectmen decided that the Police Department should go out to bid even though they desire a specification for proprietary storage. First Selectman Scarpati asked that they get the Police Commission's concurrence on the bid waiver or their suggestion to go out to bid understanding that with specifications to meet the department's need, the Town may only get one bid.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve the request for a bid waiver as presented by the Madison Police Department.

VOTE: The motion to approve failed by a vote of 0 in favor and 5 against.

COMMENT: Chief of Police Paul Jakubson thanked the Board of Selectmen for their recent statement of support; it is greatly appreciated. Selectman Walz commented that it is important the citizens know we have a group of very good officers that need to be respected by the community.

7. Discuss and take action on hiring John DeLaura as Assistant Zoning Enforcement Official – effective October 23, 2007 - \$20.00 per hour, P/T 20 hours per week.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to **hire John DeLaura as Assistant Zoning Enforcement Official** – effective October 23, 2007 - \$20.00 per hour, P/T 20 hours per week.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

8. Discuss and take action on hiring John Sieviec, Restaurant Food Service Inspector, P/T, \$23.00 per hour on an as-needed basis.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to **hire John Sieviec, Restaurant Food Service Inspector, P/T, \$23.00 per hour on an as-needed basis.**

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discuss and take action on accepting resignation of Tina Alfano, Part-time Bus Driver – Senior Center – effective 10/1/2007.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the **resignation of Tina Alfano, Part-time Bus Driver** – Senior Center – effective 10/1/2007 – with our thanks!

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

COMMENT: Selectman Kokoruda asked if this was going to have an impact of services at the Senior Center. Director of Human Resources, Katherine Christopher,

indicated that Ms. Alfano is still working as a per diem driver to maintain service to the seniors.

10. Discuss and take action on Special Appropriation request of \$163,228 to establish a Reserve Fund for the 2008-2009 Town of Madison budget. The Reserve Fund will be automatically applied against the 2008-2009 budget expenditures to reduce the amount to be raised by property taxes.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve a **Special Appropriation request of \$163,228 to establish a Reserve Fund** for the 2008-2009 Town of Madison budget. The Reserve Fund will be automatically applied against the 2008-2009 budget expenditures to reduce the amount to be raised by property taxes. Fillmore McPherson, Chairman of the Board of Finance, explained that this is the other half of the increased state aid received as a result of the efforts to improve the ECS formula for towns. The Board of Finance has already approved this pending Board of Selectmen approval.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action on line item transfer request from Public Works for \$10,000 from Salary Administration to Professional/Technical Services.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve a **line item transfer request from Public Works for \$10,000** from Salary Administration to Professional/Technical Services.

DISCUSSION: Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated this is for this year only; these dollars will find their way back into the salary line item in the next fiscal year. We need to purchase services that were provided by a staff person who has left the employ of the town.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

12. Tax Abatements/Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the following requests for abatements or refund of property taxes.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

**REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT OR REFUND
OR PROPERTY TAXES**

ARI Fleet LT	\$ 677.85
Chase Manhattan Auto Finance Corp	\$ 396.93
Ann K. Crossen	\$ 28.35
Nichole S. Dauria	\$ 24.63
Honda Lease Trust	\$ 20.71
Kristen L. Keenan	\$ 127.14
Toyota Motor Credit Corp	\$ 1,713.28
Adam C. Ballantine	\$ 12.22
Helen M. Sneider	\$ 84.06
William R. Leonard	\$ 77.06
Frederick W. Hartung	\$ 53.71

TOTAL REFUNDS \$3,215.94

13. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Traugh stated that although she was unable to attend the Board of Education meeting, she received enrollment projection numbers from Applied Data Services dated October 2, 2007. She asked that the report be copied and given to the other Selectmen. Both the Board of Education and the Library Board learned there are major demographic changes on the horizon, the school population is declining more rapidly in the suburbs. The Library Board learned that over the next 25 years, the school-age population will decline statewide 80,000 and the cities will see a growth in the school-age population. They are projecting a huge growth in the elderly population. She attended a Policy Committee meeting of the Board of Education where they reviewed the ethics policy; the Board of Selectmen will hear back from the Board of Education in mid November with their comments on the draft ethics policy. As the Board of Selectmen, we will not meet again until after the election, she encouraged everyone to learn about the candidates and to get out and vote. There will be a Forum sponsored by high school students tomorrow evening at Daniel Hand High School. Reminder--District 1 will vote at the Surf Club Building this year.

Selectman Kokoruda stated that Jennifer Tung, a member of the Board of Finance, mentioned there are 67 less students than projected schoolwide in Madison this year. More students are going to private and magnet schools. Planning and Zoning met Thursday evening--a very short meeting. The Ad-Hoc Energy Committee had a good showing at their recent meeting; they want more families to sign up for the Clean Energy Initiative. There is a link from the Madison Town website to the new Ad-Hoc Energy Committee's website. The Bauer Harvest Fall Festival went well. The Pension Committee work is moving forward; thank you Helen Burland. Reminder – get out and vote; let's have a good showing. Reminder – new polling site for District 1.

Selectman Walz commented that the Town of Madison has some very good police officers; they need our respect and courtesy at this time.

Selectman Gladstone attended the Economic Development Commission meeting. A survey is going out soon to downtown businesses to refine the Bradley Road Vision Study and to help develop/control plans for the future of our downtown. There has been more discussion on active adult communities. He reiterated – he urges everyone to learn how to save energy, find the link between the Madison website and their website. See everyone at the polling places.

Selectman Kokoruda has asked Selectman Walz to check into the reason the beach pass revenue is down this year. Chairman of the Board of Finance Fillmore McPherson commented the Director of Beach and Recreation, Scot Erskine, will attend a Board of Finance meeting shortly.

First Selectman Scarpati stated for the last several years the Town has been under a lawsuit by a group of Town's builders because the building fees were raised; the Town is being represented by our insurance company, CIRMA, who hires the attorneys. Our cost is limited to the deductible of \$10,000. The plaintiffs have filed for a class action suit and the judge certified the class. The Town plans to appeal it; it will take up to a year; the merits of the case will not be argued until the appeal on the class certification is settled; this will become a highly visible case. We are offsetting costs; we are not generating revenue. In the end he feels the Town will be vindicated on this policy. Regarding the police matter, we should be proud of the majority of the police force; when one or two come along and do something inappropriate, we are embarrassed; but we will go after the situation as quickly

and fully as possible. The second Public Hearing on revaluation will take place Thursday evening, October 25, 2007, when the administration will tell the residents what we anticipate the Mill Rate under a new revaluation number will be for the average property owner. It is important when these cards come out that residents understand that the new assessment will need to be multiplied by the new Mill Rate. The last Public Hearing revolved around assessment discussions; this Public Hearing will center around the tax implications. Selectman Scarpati repeated that the District 1 voting location will not be here at the Town Campus; it will be at the Surf Club. This will be the last meeting of my third term – it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of Madison.

14. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:29 p.m. This was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary