



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:

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

MEETING PLACE:

Madison Room (Room A), Town Campus

First Selectman Scarpati called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:00 a.m. Present were Selectmen Scarpati, Gladstone, Kokoruda, and Traugh. (Selectman Walz was absent)

1. Approval of minutes – September 24, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the **minutes of the meeting** of September 24, 2007 as written.

VOTE: 3-0-1 approved; Selectman Kokoruda abstained.

Approval of minutes – Special Meeting – September 21, 2007

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to accept the **minutes of the special meeting** on September 21, 2007 as written.

VOTE: 4-0 approved.

2. Citizen Comments.

Elizabeth Booth, Northwood Road, commented on the need for active adult communities. Hill Farm in Westbrook, a 21-home community, is completely sold out. She asked why Economic Development is not looking at developing an active adult community – the New Road site is ideal; it is a tax positive program; there is a need in the Town of Madison.

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to open the agenda and add Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to close the agenda.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

3. Discuss and take action on proclaiming October 2007 as “Meet the Blind Month” and “October 15th as White Cane Safety Day” in the Town of Madison.

Enters Selectman Walz at 8:07 a.m.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to proclaim October 2007 as “**Meet the Blind Month**” and “**October 15th as White Cane Safety Day**” in the Town of Madison.

Selectman Kokoruda read the following:

PROCLAMATION NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND MEET THE BLIND MONTH OCTOBER 2007

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) was founded in 1940 to end discrimination against the blind and to secure first-class citizenship for all blind persons; and

WHEREAS, today the Federation, representing more than fifty thousand members across the country, continues to work to secure equal rights and opportunities for the blind; and

WHEREAS, the NFB works to change attitudes about blindness by providing information about blindness to parents, teachers, school administrators, and business, political, social, and civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, since blind people and blindness are still frequently misunderstood, the National Federation of the Blind has developed a public education campaign, Meet the Blind Month, to create opportunities for the people of Connecticut to learn firsthand that blind people are basically like everyone else; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, now in its thirty-sixth year, invites neighbors, coworkers, and classmates to join them at various Meet the Blind events throughout the month of October to learn how blind people lead full and active lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas S. Scarpati, First Selectman of the Town of Madison, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2007 as “**National Federation of the Blind MEET THE BLIND MONTH**” and urge all the citizens of Madison and surrounding areas to accept

this invitation to meet members of the National Federation of the Blind, the voice of the nation's blind.

Dated at Madison, Connecticut, this 9th day of October, 2007

Selectman Gladstone read the following:

**PROCLAMATION
WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY
OCTOBER 15, 2007**

WHEREAS, the white cane and the dog guide have come to symbolize every blind person's right to pursue and achieve a full and independent life, and the use of the white cane or the dog guide allows blind persons to travel safely and effectively and undertake gainful employment and otherwise fully participate in society; and,

WHEREAS, Connecticut State law secures the right of blind persons to carry and use a white cane or be accompanied by a dog guide, whether on the streets and highways, traveling on public transportation, utilizing public accommodations, locating housing or working on the job, and Connecticut law also requires motorists to exercise appropriate caution when approaching a blind person using a white cane or dog guide; and,

WHEREAS, Connecticut law further encourages employers, both in private and public sectors, to explore and utilize the skills and potentials for productivity of the blind citizens of Connecticut, to recognize their capabilities and respect their worth as individuals; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, with the assistance and cooperation of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut, can look forward to an ever-increasing awareness of the abilities of blind people and to a greater acceptance of blind person's in the competitive labor market;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas S. Scarpati, First Selectman of the Town of Madison, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2007, as **WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY** for the Town of Madison and call upon our schools, institutions and business leaders to take the lead in ensuring full acceptance and equal opportunities for the blind of Connecticut, and I also urge all citizens to recognize and respect the white cane and the dog guide as representing safety, dignity and self-help for the blind of Connecticut.

Dated at Madison, Connecticut, this 9th day of October 2007

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action on agenda for October 30th Public Hearing on Capital Projects.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to accept the following as the **agenda for the October 30, 2007 Public Hearing on Capital Projects.**

1. The Ambulance Project

- The existing Ambulance Center is inadequate
- There appears to be support for a new Ambulance Center located on Route 79, recognizing that this would require a relocation of the current Senior Center

- There appears to be support for the new Ambulance Center's size, configuration and \$1.61M cost
2. The Senior Center Project
 - There appears to be recognition that the existing Senior Center is unacceptable
 - There appears to be support for a move to another location to make way for the Ambulance Center
 - Comments on options for the location of the new Senior Center were focused on the Bradley Road/Academy Road combined sites or at the Island Avenue School if it is no longer required by the Board of Education (current BOE position is that Island Avenue is not available for use other than a school)
 - A discussion regarding facility options, that is, original proposal of 13,000 square feet versus a smaller, revised facility, for instance, 10,000 square feet would be beneficial
 3. The Library Project
 - The Library Board has a well-planned and professionally-developed expansion plan that they believe is ready to be taken to the voters
 - There appears to be mixed support for the Library's \$13.3M expansion plan – many people in favor of it; some people questioning it
 - There appears to be some questions regarding the size of the project
 4. The Academy School Project
 - The Board of Education's official plan for elementary education includes both Island Avenue and Academy Street School
 - The Board of Education's plan requires Academy to be updated and its capacity increased to 350 students at a projected gross cost of \$12M
 - There appears to be some citizen disagreement with the Board of Education four-school plan (Ryerson, Jeffrey, Island and Academy) based upon current and projected elementary school enrollment, leading to the recommendation to defer any capital decisions on Academy until more enrollment data is available
 - Despite the fact that the Facilities Review Committee rejected other uses, some citizens still question the feasibility of other uses for the building
 - Discussion around alternative uses for Academy School should occur with a review of the conclusions by the Facilities Review Committee. Presentation by Jim Satterwhite, Chairman of FRC and members of committee
 - There is a position that the Academy decision is independent of enrollment projections; that Academy should be the centerpiece of the elementary school plan because of its history, character and location

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Scarpati stated he wants this Public Hearing to focus on the channeling of ideas from the first two hearings. The only formal presentation will be from Jim Satterwhite who will give summary conclusions of the Facilities Review Committee pertaining to the use of Academy School if it is not a school. Selectman Kokoruda feels that the Board of Selectmen are going out of their way to listen and are trying not to give an opinion; they need to find out what the majority wants. Selectman Kokoruda stated there are still a lot of citizens questioning the need for Academy School as an

elementary school. Selectman Gladstone stated we cannot move on until we draw this out; it is good to get this out and get more feedback. Selectman Traugh commented it is a good idea to have something concise to distribute. We need to give citizens a perspective on where this is going. First Selectman Scarpati stated the Ambulance Garage and the Senior Center proposals have benefits from this round of discussions. People have a better understanding of the need. The Library Board is ready for a decision; but they recognize that until Academy Elementary School is reconciled, the Library project may not pass. First Selectman Scarpati stated the Academy School project at \$12M is being mixed in with (a) enrollment questions and (b) all-day kindergarten. The fundamental issue is whether the Town wants to continue with Academy School as an elementary school (a critical piece of the Town's property). Do we want to preserve this key asset at this price? It is an emotional question.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

5. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for the purchase of a new Hybrid SUV.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to **award bid for the purchase of a new Hybrid SUV** to Interstate Truck Center for \$22,955.00 (\$24,474.00 less trade-in-value \$1,519.00).

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for the purchase of a new Hybrid Sedan.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to **award bid for the purchase of a new Hybrid Sedan** to Manchester Honda for \$20,930.00 (\$22,330.00 less trade-in-value \$1,400.00).

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

7. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for the purchase of a new Cab-Chassis.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to **award bid for the purchase of a new Cab-Chassis** to Gabrielli Truck Sales of Milford for \$41,623.00.

DISCUSSION: Mike Ott, Assistant Town Engineer, stated the following:

We would recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the contract for the provision of the cab and chassis be awarded to the low bidder, Gabrielli Truck Sales of Milford.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

8. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for the purchase of a new All-Season Body with Snow Fighting Equipment.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to **award bid for the purchase of a new All-Season Body with Snow Fighting Equipment** to the second lowest bidder, Tenco Southern New England, for \$47,942.00.

DISCUSSION: Mike Ott, Assistant Town Engineer, stated the following:

We would also recommend that the contract for provision of the all-season truck body and snow fighting equipment be awarded to the second low bidder, Tenco Southern New England. All of the department's dump trucks and snow fighting vehicles have been fitted with bodies and snow fighting equipment provided by Tenco Southern New England for many years. Having one truck body standard allows the department to interchange parts readily and simplifies repairs to the body and equipment.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discuss and take action on road acceptance of the portion of Wildcat Springs Drive in the Kelsey Springs subdivision as a Town road.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the portion of **Wildcat Springs Drive in the Kelsey Springs subdivision** as a Town road.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss and take action on the retirement of Mrs. Betsey Rochford, Deputy Assessor, effective September 1, 2007. Mrs. Rochford was employed by the Town of Madison since February 9, 1984.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the request on the **retirement of Mrs. Betsey Rochford**, Deputy Assessor, and effective September 1, 2007. Mrs. Rochford was employed by the Town of Madison since February 9, 1984. We accept her resignation with regrets and thank you.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action on the resignation of Mr. Marc Bartek, Engineering Technician, effective September 18, 2007. Mr. Bartek was employed by the Town of Madison since April 27, 2001.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the **resignation of Mr. Marc Bartek**, Engineering Technician, effective September 18, 2007. We accept his resignation with regrets.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

12. Discuss and take action on the promotion of Mrs. Orietta Nucolo to the position of Assistant Assessor effective September 24, 2007. Mrs. Nucolo has been employed by the Town since March 13, 2005. She moves from the position of Clerk to Assistant Assessor. N-6, Step 3, \$15.20 full-time.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the **promotion of Mrs. Orietta Nucolo** to the position of Assistant Assessor effective September 24, 2007.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

13. Tax Abatements/Refunds

None.

14. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Traugh stated she attended the recent Board of Education meeting and explained there will be a new accounting mechanism to track money coming in and out of student activity field trips and sports events accounts (pass-through account). Regarding the search for a new superintendent, there has been considerable comment that the public should have more participation in the search process. The Board of Education has decided that once a candidate is selected, there will be a series of forums at which time citizens can make comments. The Board of Education is following the recommendation of the consultant related to this process. Selectman Kokoruda stated she is disappointed with the process that the Board of Education will be choosing the finalist, especially since three Board of Education members will not be on the Board next year. Selectman Traugh stated at the

Selectmen's Council on Youth Substance Abuse there was a lengthy discussion on the governance structure for the Council. She also commented that when citizens write letters to the First Selectman, they should also write to the entire board if it is their expectation that the entire Board will see the correspondence.

Selectman Gladstone stated the revaluation public hearings are coming up on October 16 and October 25 at Polson Middle School at 7:30 p.m. He encourages everyone to attend these information sessions; they will be invaluable.

Selectman Walz stated the Bauer Farm Fall Festival will be held this Saturday, October 13, 2007, and he also urges citizens to attend the public hearings on revaluation.

First Selectman Scarpati stated the October 16th public hearing relative to revaluation will include people from Appraisal Resource. They will explain the process they go through and some of the town-wide results. At or around the end of October 2007 the revaluation cards will go out from the Assessor's Office. That will launch a series of informal discussions between people who want clarification of what is on their cards and a group of people from Appraisal Resources. Those discussions will not change any numbers on the cards. Those meetings will be held in November and December. The process will continue for anyone who believes their revaluation is wrong and who desires an appeal before the Board of Assessment Appeals (February 22, 2008 is last date – a State Statute-driven date). Regarding the senior tax relief question, he will follow-up on the citizen's requests to look at a tax freeze. We have started putting together a 10-year model of what a tax freeze would look like for the Town of Madison as compared to an approved abatement program. He will present it to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance as an analysis. We will call a special meeting on that topic (during the daytime).

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to enter into Executive Session at 9:02 a.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Also present were: Helen Burland, Assistant for Administration, and Fillmore McPherson, Chairman of the Board of Finance.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

15. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:46 a.m. This was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary