

MEETING DATE:

Monday, December 17, 2007

MEETING PLACE:

Madison Room (Room A), Town Campus

First Selectman Goldberg called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Scarpati, Gladstone, Kokoruda, and Traugh.

1. Approval of minutes – December 3, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the minutes of December 3, 2007 as amended:

Page 116: Item #7, DISCUSSION first sentence should read:

DISCUSSION: Chairman of the Police Commission Emile Geisenheimer urged the Board of Selectmen to consider the reappointment of Tom Cartledge and Gary Gyenizs to the Police Commission.

Page 118, Item #4, DISCUSSION first sentence should read:

DISCUSSION: Due to a power outage, no one was able to attend the meeting from the Board of Education to present this agreement.

2. Citizen Comments.

Keith Ainsworth, Green Springs Drive, stated he was attending the meeting and was representing a group of neighbors. He stated the cell tower issue should not go to Town Meeting until the Planning and Zoning Commission has all the data. He feels the Town has made a decision to place a cell tower on Ridge Road; however, we still do not have a balloon test or coverage maps or scientific data. He is concerned that the Town has set up the dynamics that pits two neighborhoods against each other. The Town is not competent to make this decision. He stated if there is no objective impact, then the Ridge Road project can go forward; but we don't have that information yet.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Present "Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition – Share the Wind Sailing School Staff – Madison Beach and Recreation Department."

Recreation Director Scot Erskine stated that in 1997 Joe Maganello, a local resident, came before the Beach and Recreation Department to discuss his ideas about resurrecting

the summer sailing program. In 1997 the “Share the Wind” Sailing Program began and since its inception well over 200 students are being reached each summer. In the summer of 2007 Joe passed away; however, this staff took extraordinary efforts in the face of adversity to continue this program. We would like to recognize the following this evening:

Jackie Siedlecki, Amy Siedlecki, Peter Giuliano, John Giuliano, Ann Stegina,
Kathleen Horton, Tommy Presti, Jamie Cook, Liam Muszenmaier, Alex McKissick,
Eric McKissick, John Harmuth, C.J. Tomasevich, Ryan Epprecht, David Schulte,
Connor Liska, Kalyn Liska, Barbie Line, and Abbey Stackpole

Adults with eyes on the water for us:
Synthia Liska

Adults on the shore for us:
Nancy and Philip Presti, John and Denise Epprecht, Gay Tomasevich, Pam Cooke,
John and Joy Giuliano

On Saturday, May 17 and 18, 2008 the Beach and Recreation Department and the Sailing Staff are planning the First Annual Joe Manganello Memorial Hobie Cat Sailing Regatta at the Surf Club.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Discuss and take action on recommendations from the Madison Republican Town Committee (**Tabled 12/3/07**).

DISCUSSION: Item #3 was combined with Item #4.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discuss and take action on appointments to the following vacancies on Town Boards and Commissions.

Conservation Commission – 3 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Economic Development Commission – 3 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Employee Retirement Board – 2 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Flood and Erosion Control – 2 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012 and 1 vacancy – term to expire 1/1/2010
Inland Wetlands Commission – 3 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Inland Wetlands Alternate – 1 position – term to expire 1/1/2012; 1 vacancy - term to expire 1/1/2011
Planning and Zoning Commission – 2 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Planning and Zoning Alternate – 1 position – term to expire 1/1/2012
Police Commission – 2 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Rockland Preserve Alternate – 2 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2011 and 1/1/2012
Senior Citizen Commission – 3 vacancies – terms to expire 1/1/2011 (2); 1/1/2010 (1)
Solid Waste Disposal – 2 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Town Landscape Committee – 6 positions – 2 vacancies – terms to expire 1/1/2012

Water Pollution Control Authority – 2 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012
Youth Services Board – 4 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012 and 1 vacancy – term to expire 1/1/2010

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to approve the following **slate of members to Boards and Commissions.**

Conservation Commission –

3 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Richard Gedney	R
Reappoint	Kealoha Freidenberg	D
Appoint	Joan O'Neill	D

Economic Development Commission –

3 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Ryan Duques	R
Reappoint	James Ball	D
Appoint	Peggy Lyons	D

Employee Retirement Board –

2 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Richard Zeranski	R
Reappoint	Robert Newman	R

Flood & Erosion Control –

3 positions in total

2 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Chris Stemen	R
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* one seat held in abeyance

1 vacancy – term to expire 1/1/2010

Appoint	William Gashlin	R
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Inland Wetlands Commission –

3 positions – terms to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Rodney Bascom	R
Reappoint	Lee Schumacher	D
Appoint	Barbara Yeager	U

Inland Wetlands Alternate -

1 position – term to expire 1/1/2012;

Reappoint	William Freeman	R
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1 vacancy – term to expire 1/1/2010

Appoint	Theodore Aub	D
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Planning & Zoning Commission –

2 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Ilisa Ring	R
Reappoint	Terry Macy	D

Planning & Zoning Alternate –

1 position – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Francine Larson	D
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Police Commission* – 2 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint	Gary Gyenizs	D
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* One seat held in abeyance

Rockland Preserve Alternate -

2 positions –

term to expire 1/1/2012

Heather Crawford D

term to expire 1/1/2011

Deborah Bunnell R

Senior Citizen Commission –

3 vacancies –

term to expire 1/1/2011;

Appoint

Maureen Lopes D

Appoint

Wendy Oberg U

term to expire 1/1/2010:

Appoint

Marcy Sanders U

Solid Waste Disposal –

2 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint

William Gashlin R

*one seat held in abeyance

Town landscape Committee -

6 positions – 2 vacancies – term to expire 1/1/2012

Appoint

Sandra Hennen

Water Pollution Control Authority –

2 positions – term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint

Alfred Halliwell D

Reappoint

John Diglio D

Youth Services Board – 5 positions in total–

4 term to expire 1/1/2012

Reappoint

Lynn Hagen R

Reappoint

Carolyn J Gladstone D

Appoint

Robin Klaskin D

Appoint

Mary Pat Lamberti D

1 vacancy – term to expire 1/1/2010

Appoint

Elizabeth Burzenski R

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Goldberg began by stating the Town of Madison has 23 appointed boards which are staffed by nearly 200 volunteer citizens. The members of the Board of Selectmen reviewed the proposed list of appointments and reappointments. First Selectman Goldberg stated that since the Police Commission is in the middle of dealing with several issues, Town Counsel Bill Clendenen is in the process of reviewing possibly extending one reappointment for 45 days.

Selectman Scarpati stated it is not likely these disciplinary hearings will end in 45 days. Would it not be simpler to leave this board in tact for two more years? It took some very dedicated people to make this happen; it took five years to put this board together. I recognize that the new Board has the right to make changes; it is the natural evolution. We

have asked the volunteers to take on enormous burden. Due process could take a lot longer than 45 days.

Selectman Gladstone commented that this deserves further discussion; we should wait to hear back from Town Counsel. Selectman Traugh agreed. Selectman Kokoruda agreed, she is willing to wait until Friday; but stated we don't want to put this Town in jeopardy beyond January 1st. Selectman Scarpati stated everything this commission does may involve an appeal. This opens the question to membership on the commission. The Board agreed to get back together once Town Attorney has completed his research.

Selectman Kokoruda thanked the residents for coming out; the culture of this Town supports our volunteers regardless of party affiliation. She stated presently there are 13 Democrats, 14 Republicans, and 1 Unaffiliated and with this new slate we will have 16 Democrats, 13 Republicans, and 3 Unaffiliated. Selectman Kokoruda endorsed the slate. Selectman Traugh stated each candidate was looked at individually. Selectman Gladstone stated the Democrats interviewed approximately 50 candidates; we do not have a lack of interest. He thanked the volunteers who came out; we have more people than we have slots.

VOTE: 4-1 (Selectman Scarpati voted 'no' with the comment that he objected to holding in abeyance the one seat on the Police Commission. He was in support of the rest of the slate and made a point that he was voting 'no' only on that particular Police Commission seat.)

5. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for the purchase of an air compressor for S.C.B.A. for North Madison Volunteer Fire Company.

MOVED by Selectman Scarpati and seconded by Selectman Traugh to award a bid for the purchase of an **air compressor for S.C.B.A.** for North Madison Volunteer Fire Company.

DISCUSSION: Eric Alletzhauser stated that during the budget process, \$25,000 was approved for the replacement of an air compressor which provides breathing air for firefighters. The current compressor is 30 years old. There were two responses to the fire department's inquiry; however, only one company responded to the formal request for bid.

It is very specialized equipment. We recommend awarding the contract to Shipman's Fire Equipment based on compliance with our specifications and competitive pricing.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action on Special Appropriation request of \$13,500 from Tax Collector. Tax Collector has 25 requests from Leasing Companies to have motor vehicle bills from the 2005 Grand List adjusted due to the vehicles being sold or otherwise disposed of. The motor vehicle tax bills were all paid in full in July 2006, so the adjustments create overpayments that total \$3,467.71. There is also one appeal from the 2002 Grand List where a refund in the amount of \$9,228.40 needs to be made because the property is sold.

MOVED by Selectman Scarpati and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to approve a **Special Appropriation request of \$13,500** from Tax Collector.

DISCUSSION: Tax Collector Alma Carroll stated the leasing companies are aware of the December 31, 2007 deadline for the 2005 grand list which is why these 25 requests were received.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

7. Discuss and take action on Special Appropriation request of \$100,000 for Legal Services. There has been significant and unanticipated activity requiring legal services with the Police Department personnel issues.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve a **Special Appropriation request of \$100,000** for Legal Services for significant and unanticipated activity requiring legal services with the Police Department personnel issues.

DISCUSSION: Chairman of the Police Commission Emile Geisenheimer stated we are in the midst of several hearings on personnel issues; we are obligated to give due process. This \$100,000 special appropriation number does not seem unreasonable to me. Selectman Traugh asked if this request will take us through the fiscal year. Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated it will cover the current expense and is our best estimate to take us through the remainder of the fiscal year.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

14. Discuss the retirement of three Madison police officers, Sgt. Keith Ellery effective November 29, 2007, Patrol Officer Harry Anderson effective November 28, 2007, and the pending retirement of Patrol Officer Daniel Maxwell effective January 8, 2008.

DISCUSSION: Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners Emile Geisenheimer stated several budget cycles back the Police Commission recognized the profile of the department might lead to several retirements in this timeframe. The Police Commission at that time asked that the number of officers increase to 26. We have been recruiting in anticipation of attrition. The current situation is made worse by a series of disciplinary hearings. We are actively recruiting officers on an accelerated basis--both certified officers and academy officers--there are officers in the pipeline. The Police Commissioners are working very hard to refill the vacancies. Selectman Gladstone asked how many officers we currently have. Commissioner Geisenheimer responded that we have 18 officers right now (including chief and lieutenants). Selectman Traugh stated the residents of Madison are concerned about the staffing levels; there is a level of frustration.

8. Discuss and take action on amending the call for the Special Town Meeting to include Annual Town Meeting and to reschedule to Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

The legal voters of the Town of Madison are hereby warned and notified that the **Annual Town Meeting/Special Town Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Auditorium of the Walter C. Polson Middle School** for the following purpose:

1. State of the Town Report
2. Five-Year Capital Plan
3. To receive the Annual Report of the permanent Boards, Commissions, Agencies, Committees and the Town's Auditor Report in accordance with Article II, Section 2.1.4.1 of the Town Charter.
4. To consider and take action on authorizing the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease agreement with Crown Castle LLC to authorize the use of a portion of town-owned property at Ridge Road transfer station to construct a communications tower.
5. To consider 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.
6. To consider and take action on Special Appropriation request of \$84,227 required to fund Supplemental Finding and Award to Paul Jakubson in accordance with Connecticut General Statute Section 7-433C related to

permanent partial disability to the cardiovascular system due to his hypertensive cardiovascular disease deemed related to his employment as a police officer for the Town of Madison. (Pending Board of Finance approval on December 19, 2007)

7. To consider and take action on Special Appropriation request of \$100,000 for Legal Services. There has been a significant and unanticipated activity requiring legal services with the Police Department personnel issues. (Pending Board of Finance approval on December 19, 2007)

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to amend a **call for the Special Town Meeting to include Annual Town Meeting** and to reschedule to Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

DISCUSSION: There was an extensive discussion regarding the status of the action associated with the cell tower site. Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated the balloon test has been rescheduled for next Friday, December 28, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the test will be run on Saturday, December 29, 2007. Photo simulations will be provided afterwards. The proposed Summer Hill Road site is independent of the Town because it is on private property. First Selectman Goldberg stated we have six weeks, it would be premature to take it off the January 30, 2008 Town Meeting agenda at this time. It can always be withdrawn. Selectman Scarpati commented that some Town residents will always be annoyed; we cannot let that affect us. We are able to restrict the height to 150-foot tower through the lease if it turns out to be appropriate. Selectman Traugh stated she feels we have gotten ahead of ourselves, it is already an item on a Town Meeting agenda, but we don't have all the information. First Selectman Goldberg stated that since Ridge Road is Town-owned land, we need to follow key steps. There is more work to be done; we need all the information. We need to understand what Planning and Zoning is doing. This item should go back on the agenda at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Selectman Kokoruda stated we want to work with the neighbors; we have six weeks before the Town Meeting, but we can always pull this item from the agenda if we do not feel we are ready. The Selectmen reiterated that if the Board does not feel it has all of the information it needs to make a final decision, they will pull it from the call of the Special Town Meeting.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discuss next steps regarding modifications to Senior Tax Relief Program in Madison.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Traugh discussed a “Draft Process for Policy Research on Senior and Disabled Tax Relief.” In summary, (1) discuss this process and the creation of a new ad hoc committee, (2) have staff develop a policy history summary, (3) share reports with Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Senior Commission for their review, and (4) hold a workshop session with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Senior Commission, and Ad-Hoc Committee in early January.

Selectman Scarpati stated the work the committee did was very comprehensive; the only disagreement was eliminating the tax freeze. He handed out a “Summary Comparison of Senior Tax Relief Options” sheet. He felt that the financial analysis has been completed. First Selectman Goldberg indicated that at the next Board of Selectmen meeting, we can finalize the next steps. *Tax relief delayed, is tax relief denied.* First Selectman Goldberg said he will put together a working group to finalize the next steps and plan of action.

10. Discuss and take action on the selection of John Daviau as the Grant Writer for the Joint Task Force – not to exceed \$9,000.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Scarpati to approve **John Daviau as the Grant Writer for the Joint Task Force** – not to exceed \$9,000.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action on the termination during probationary period of Maureen Ahern, Municipal Agent for the Elderly, effective November 30, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to terminate **Maureen Ahern, Municipal Agent for the Elderly** effective November 30, 2007.

DISCUSSION: Director of Human Resources Katherine Christopher indicated that it was mutually agreed that Maureen would not continue with the Town. This occurred during the probationary period.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

12. Discuss and take action on the appointment of Heather Castrilli from Senior Services to act as Interim Municipal Agent for the Elderly with a temporary increase in pay to \$16.99 per hour effective December 3, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to appoint **Heather Castrilli from Senior Services to act as Interim Municipal Agent for the Elderly** with a temporary increase in pay to \$16.99 per hour effective December 3, 2007.

DISCUSSION: Director of Human Resources Katherine Christopher explained that this is a temporary appointment to allow for some discussion on the needs of the department and the best approach to move forward.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

13. Discuss and take action on the appointment of Gina Millan from Senior Bus Driver to provide temporary work as Administrative Assistant on a part-time basis at the rate of \$15.20 per hour.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to appoint **Gina Millan** from Senior Bus Driver to provide **temporary work as Administrative Assistant** on a part-time basis at the rate of \$15.20 per hour.

DISCUSSION: Director of Human Resources Katherine Christopher explained that this is a domino effect. Gina Millan has accepted some additional work that might have been taken on by Heather Castrilli, but she will continue to do her bus driving.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

15. Discuss and take action on reappointment of the following through December 31, 2009: Donald Oslander, Comptroller; Arthur Williams, Assistant Comptroller; and Heather Castrilli, Interim Municipal Agent for the Elderly. The Assistant Comptroller shall serve as the trustee for the Coe Park Fund and the Dowd Fund.

MOVED by Selectman Scarpati and seconded by Selectman Traugh to reappoint the following through December 31, 2009: **Donald Oslander, Comptroller; Arthur Williams, Assistant Comptroller; and Heather Castrilli, Interim Municipal Agent for the Elderly.** The Assistant Comptroller shall serve as the trustee for the Coe Park Fund and the Dowd Fund.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Oslander serves as our Comptroller. He comes in and reviews our accounts payable, then the checks are reviewed by Selectman Gladstone. The First Selectman authorizes any expenditure over \$1,000 on the computer. It is a good system, it is redundant.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

16. Discuss and take action on reappointment of Robert Kuchta as Tree Warden for the Town of Madison for a term to expire 12/31/2008.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to appoint **Robert Kuchta as Tree Warden** for the Town of Madison for a term to expire 12/31/2008.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

17. Tax Abatements/Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve requests for tax abatements/refunds in the amount of \$1,263.61:

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

Matthew F. Decapua	\$ 50.32
Honda Lease Trust	\$347.14
Nissan Infiniti LT.	\$170.93
Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	\$202.68
WV Credit Leasing LTD.	\$492.54

TOTAL REFUNDS: \$1,263.61

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

18. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Scarpati was unable to attend the Police Commission meeting due to weather conditions. In a recent newspaper there was a Letter-to-the-Editor with comments that imply that the project at the airport is dead. That is a dangerous conversation. The Board of Selectmen has no authority on that process. The Planning and Zoning process is independent and should not have pressure from this Board. It has also passed the Town

approval process. What happens now is in the hands of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We need to stay out of this process or we open ourselves up to liability by the developer. There is no decision that the Board of Selectmen can make; it has no authority – now or before.

Selectman Gladstone attended his first Beach and Recreation meeting. They are preparing for their First Annual Joe Manganello Memorial Hobie Cat Sailing Regatta at the Surf Club on May 17 and 18, 2008. The level of volunteer effort is excellent.

Selectman Kokoruda attended the LoCap meeting--what do we do with the small capital projects, there will be more discussion. The Ad Hoc Energy Committee has concerns about DPUC rates going up and deterring people from joining the Clean Energy Program. David Klein is our new Superintendent; the Board of Education did a fine job with the selection process. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Selectman Traugh attended the recent Hands-on-Stage production, the students did a wonderful job. She attended the Board of Education meeting on December 4, 2007 which included a presentation on the Program of Studies at Hand High; it was quite extensive, the presentation was tied into the strategic plan. The Code of Conduct will be worked on to comply with new state legislation. I wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and New Year.

First Selectman Goldberg thanked his colleagues for their hard work, wished everyone Happy Holidays, and entertained an adjournment.

19. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary