



Alfred Goldberg
First Selectman

TOWN OF MADISON CONNECTICUT
06443-2563
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William Gladstone
Noreen Kokoruda
Thomas Scarpati
Kathi Traugh

MEETING DATE:

Monday, December 3, 2007

MEETING PLACE:

Madison Room (Room A), Town Campus

First Selectman Goldberg called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:05 a.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Scarpati, Gladstone, Kokoruda, and Traugh.

1. Approval of Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes – November 26, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to accept the Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes of November 26, 2007 as amended.

DISCUSSION: Item #5, sentence #2, delete the following:

and to move the Lincoln's Birthday day off closest to the Christmas Day holiday.

VOTE: This motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Special Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes – November 26, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Scarpati and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to accept the Special Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes of November 26, 2007 as written.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 4-1 approved; Selectman Traugh abstained.

2. Citizen Comments.

None.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discuss and take action on Liaison Assignments to Boards/Commissions.

MOVED by Selectman Scarpati and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve the **Liaison Assignments to Boards/Commissions** as outlined by Assistant for Administration Helen Burland.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Goldberg commented the Town Charter calls for Board of Selectmen members to serve as liaisons on Town boards and commissions. We have a tentative list of assignments based on member preferences. After some discussion, Mrs. Burland read the following:

Selectman Gladstone:	Acting First Selectman Economic Development Beach and Recreation Long Term Capital Maintenance Projects (LoCap) Town Pension Committee Energy Committee Inland Wetlands Commission
Selectman Kokoruda:	Senior Citizens Commission Madison Center Project Long Term Capital Maintenance Projects (LoCap) Energy Committee Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Historic Commission Firemen and Police Pension Committees Youth and Family Services Board Planning and Zoning Commission
Selectman Traugh:	Library Board Board of Education Selectmen's Council on Youth Substance Abuse Task Force for the Prevention of Youth Substance Abuse Zoning Board of Appeals
Selectman Scarpati:	Connecticut Council of Municipalities Police Commission
First Selectman Goldberg:	Board of Finance Council of Governments (COG)

VOTE: This motion was unanimously approved.

4. Discuss Collective Bargaining Agreement of the Madison Board of Education and the Madison Education Association (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011).

DISCUSSION: It was agreed to move this item to the end of the agenda.

5. Update on 2002 revaluation – impact of court-ordered and other adjustments.

DISCUSSION: Alma Carroll, Tax Collector, stated that of the 140 cases from the 2002 Grand List that were filed in court; there are five (5) remaining. There were seven cases filed in 2003, none in 2004, none in 2005, and one is still open for 2006. These total about \$15M. Mrs. Carroll stated that appeals going to court are very costly to the Town and that each ruling holds until the next revaluation. Selectman Scarpati commented that in order to make this less of an overall cost to administer, residents who go before the Board of Assessment Appeals (BOA) must be prepared to present paperwork as to why their assessment number is inappropriate. They also need to feel that they received a full and in-depth hearing by at least a quorum of the BOA and will walk out of the meeting with a decision and an explanation; they need to feel that their elected peers listened to them and discussed with them what had happened. The process currently in place does not provide that; they cannot listen to 160 appeals in two months given they are a volunteer board of five members. Going in front of a judge is not beneficial for anyone; especially the Town because we become the defendant. We should invite the Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, Terry Abbott, to a future Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss the process. First Selectman Goldberg indicated that he has met with Terry Abbott who indicated that he is amenable to changes that will make the process better for the citizens. In the near future we will invite Mr. Abbott to a Board of Selectmen meeting for a discussion.

6. Discuss and take action on the status change of Michael Standish from part-time dispatcher to full-time dispatcher effective 11/20/2007. Original date of hire – 6/12/2007 as a part-time dispatcher.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to change the status of **Michael Standish from part-time dispatcher to full-time dispatcher** effective 11/20/2007. Original date of hire – 6/12/2007 as a part-time dispatcher.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: This motion was unanimously approved.

7. Discuss and take action on recommendation from the **Madison Republican Town Committee to appoint-reappoint** the following:

Appointments:

Elizabeth Burzenski – **Youth Services Board** – term to expire January 1, 2010
William Gashlin – **Flood and Erosion Control Control** – to fill vacancy for a term to expire January 1, 2010
Suzanne Buckley Martin – **Senior Citizens Commission** – to fill vacancy for a term to expire January 1, 2011

Reappointments:

Richard Gedney – **Conservation Commission** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Ryan Duques – **Economic Development Commission** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Richard Zeranski – **Employee Retirement Board** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Robert Newman – **Employee Retirement Board** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Michael McKinnon – **Advisor Employee Retirement Board**
Christopher Stemen – **Flood and Erosion Control** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Rodney Bascom – **Inland Wetlands** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Kenneth Munroe – **Inland Wetlands** – term to expire January 1, 2012
William Freeman – **Inland Wetlands Alternate** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Illisa Ring – **Planning and Zoning Commission** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Thomas Cartledge – **Police Commission** – term to expire January 1, 2012
William Gashlin – **Solid Waste Disposal** – term to expire January 1, 2012
Lynn Hagen – **Youth Services Board** – term to expire January 1, 2012

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to table/defer action on these appointments and reappointments until the Democratic Town Committee nominees are received.

DISCUSSION: Chairman of the Police Commission Emile Geisenheimer urged the Board of Selectmen to consider the reappointment of Tom Cartledge to the Police Commission. He stated we are in the midst of a number of very serious matters and for the sake of continuity asked to reappoint him and the other board member whose term will also expire in December. He feels this would be in the best interest of the citizens of Madison. Selectman Kokoruda stated the reappointments should move today. Selectman Scarpati stated he endorses Mr. Geisenheimer's request; continuity is of utmost importance. Peter Thomas, current member of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), also asked that the board reappoint Ryan Duques. He felt that the EDC is moving forward on a number of positive initiatives and he was concerned about losing momentum. He offered his seat if needed to seat another qualified candidate later on.

VOTE: 3-2 tabled motion; Selectman Scarpati and Selectman Kokoruda opposed.

8. Discussion: What further information is required regarding plan for **Senior Center**?

DISCUSSION: Selectman Scarpati prefaced there are \$32M worth of major issues on the table that need to be dealt with. They don't need to be passed or funded; but they are issues the Towns people want considered--Library, Academy School, Senior Center, and Ambulance Garage. Until we deal with these items, we cannot consider other items such as funds for the purchase of land, or the septic system on Bradley Road, or parking on Bradley Road, and a whole litany of questions that follow this discussion. We need to revisit what was done at the end of the last administration; specifically the Senior Center and the Ambulance Garage which are independent decisions from the Library and Academy School—it confuses the issue to combine them. The question of the school needs to be handled on its own. The Senior Center/Ambulance Garage was not accepted as presented; although the idea was supported. The Bradley Road site cannot handle more than what is drawn up; which leads to the question that continues to be brought up by a group of people who believe Island Avenue School should be a community/senior center. We are talking about giving up a school; not building another one. Why give up a structure that is acceptable as an elementary school in order to save \$3-4M on a dedicated Senior Center. The seniors do not want to be mixed in with a community center. The question is how many schools and which schools should remain needs a lot of discussion on its own. We should move forward on the Senior Center/Ambulance Garage plan and let the Board of Education decide in its time what the new numbers mean.

Selectman Gladstone stated he agreed largely with what Selectman Scarpati said. I don't think we should hold these projects hostage. We need to break the log jam and move them ahead so they don't all pile up at a later date. The needs are clear for the Senior Center and Ambulance Garage; they should be independent of the school question, the Board of Education needs time to work it out. If the community center is a consideration; then let's talk about it.

Selectman Kokoruda stated I agree with what has been said. I came from a Town that knocked down a school, and then had to rebuild another school ten years later. We have created a sort of community center here at the Town Campus. We have a nice gym, it is not connected to a school, and therefore the priority is not school sports. We have a youth center, meeting spaces, skating park, three playing fields, tennis courts, and a gym here. If we want to create something more, maybe we can add on to the gym and move the

Beach and Recreation Department over to the gym. If this evolves as a community center, I would like to see the idea put to the voters. The Senior Commission is on board to move towards a Senior Center/Ambulance Garage; it should go to a vote.

Selectman Traugh stated the Senior Center and Ambulance Garage are a number one priority because of health and safety issues and the Library project is ready to go to referendum. If we believe we should not give up an elementary school, then we need to say that. We need to make sure we are planning comprehensively and begin to move these projects along; we should not delay.

First Selectman Goldberg stated he is glad to hear the members of the Board of Selectmen are ready for action. He is impressed as to how much work has been done already in the past. He plans to announce in early January 2008 the structural process on how to move each of these projects along. Some are linked, some are not. Each project needs its own process for any further investigation, any further disseminating of information, developing public interest, commentary and dialogue, and eventually moving each of these projects to referendum. At the first Board of Selectmen's meeting in January, I will come back with a process or timetable as to how we will push each of these projects along. I will spend the rest of this month to develop a plan as to how to do it. We will revisit this at the first meeting in January.

Selectman Scarpati stated it is great to put a plan together. Before the May referendum there is a lot that needs to happen--approvals, discuss and take action, finance, Town Meetings—these take months. We should be prepared to take action at our first meeting in January 2008.

9. Tax Abatements/Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the requests for tax abatements/refunds in the amount of \$23,076.40:

REFUNDS

David D. Dube and Joyce M. Swidzinski	\$20,109.62
Dominique & Gail Clavel	\$ 2,966.78

TOTAL REFUNDS: \$ 23,076.40

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discuss Collective Bargaining Agreement of the Madison Board of Education and the Madison Education Association (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011).

DISCUSSION: No one attended the meeting from the Board of Education to present this agreement. Michael Kiefer, MEA representative and Grade 7 English teacher at Polson Middle School, stated there are some changes in the contract; he identified the major issues:

- (1) personal planning time for elementary school teachers,
- (2) extra course at high school – assigned/not volunteered,
- (3) coordinators wanted to be treated as teachers first,
- (4) homebound instruction,
- (5) pay for teachers for covering a class,
- (6) health insurance - copays and premium cost share movement, and
- (7) 457 savings plan.

This year's negotiations using interest-based bargaining provided a good dialogue on both sides. The following people worked on the negotiations: Ed Valla, Betsy Grant, David Buller, Judy Sullivan, M.E. Babik, Gloria Paduzi, John Dean, Bob Hale, Dr. Griffin, David Youngerman, and Becky Coffey. The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Kiefer for his comments and his efforts.

10. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Traugh stated she attended Dr. Griffin's retirement party last Thursday – it was a celebration and a roast, it was a wonderful send off, our best to her as she starts this new period in her life. Daniel Hand High School is proud of their fall sports accomplishments; they have a great sports program. She has been in touch with the Freedom of Information Commission representative to see if they would offer some training. They are willing and it will be available at no cost to the town. Assistant for Administration Helen Burland confirmed that a workshop has been set up for January 24, 2008 for people who serve in elected and appointed positions.

Selectman Kokoruda agreed the retirement party was well attended. We wish her well. The Town's holiday season kicked off yesterday with a parade, tree lighting ceremony, and Santa Claus.

Selectman Gladstone stated he appreciates the budget schedule, but is concerned about rushing the individual departments--maybe we can provide a little additional time if needed.

First Selectman Goldberg informed the public that on December 3, 2007 the Madison Police Department issued a Press Release regarding the arrests of former and current Madison Police Officers. We should applaud the efforts of those current members of the Police Department; nevertheless, Madison residents are troubled, distressed, and outraged at the continuing saga of deplorable behavior by some members of the Police Department. This behavior is unacceptable. He stated he has met with the Chairman of the Police Commission, Emile Geisenheimer, and he has agreed that the Commission will develop a plan to restore confidence and raise excellence in the Police Department.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Scarpati to enter into **Executive Session** at 9:30 a.m. to discuss Pending Litigation.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Pending Litigation.

Also in attendance were:

Bill Clendenen, Town Attorney
Kathy Rossini, Chairman, Board of Finance
Helen Burland, Assistant for Administration

(Departs Ms. Rossini at 10:10 a.m.)

(Returns Ms. Rossini at 10:30 a.m.)

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Scarpati to adjourn **Executive Session** at 11:00 a.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Selectman Gladstone asked if the Police Department is moving forward with any activity to address their staffing needs. Assistant for Administration Helen Burland reported that she understood that they had conducted two rounds of interviews aimed at hiring new staff.

12. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn the **Regular Meeting** at 11:02 a.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary