



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, February 13, 2007

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

Selectman Kokoruda called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:04 a.m. Present were Selectmen Walz, Gladstone, Kokoruda, and Traugh. First Selectman Scarpati was absent. Selectman Kokoruda explained First Selectman Scarpati was attending a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Legislative Session in Cromwell where educational funding for towns was being discussed.

1. Approval of minutes – January 22, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the minutes of January 22, 2007 as amended:

Page 399, line 10, should read:

.....1995 (presented in 1996). This study is limited to the patrol division (19 officers);.....

Page 400, lines 8-11, should read:

.....two days off. When the Crockett Report was written 10 years ago, when the population was smaller; we had 30 officers. Whatever else this report says, it is a frank acknowledgement that the drastic reduction of 29 to 24 in one year, 3 years ago, was precipitous, unwise, and has been costly, and now we are limping back to 29.

Page 401, line 9, should read:

Police Commissioner Geisenheimer commented the commissioners spent a lot of.....

Page 402, line 14, should read:

Selectman Walz recused himself from this discussion because he submitted the.....

Page 405, line 26, should read:

= \$8,572 in 2013/2014

Page 406, line 10, should read:

.....commented this plan shows that we can do more than most of us think. Selectman Walz.....

2. Citizen Comments.

None.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discuss and take action on accepting the resignation of Frances Donnelly as Town Historian effective January 1, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to accept the resignation of Frances Donnelly as Town Historian with regrets. This was unanimously approved.

4. Certificate of Appreciation presented to Frances Donnelly for her “Dedication and Service as Town Historian to the Town of Madison.” Selectman Kokoruda read:

This Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to Frances Donnelly for her dedication and service as Town Historian to the Town of Madison, April 1994 through January 2007.

This certificate was presented to Warner Lord, on behalf of Frances Donnelly, expressing thanks for her many years of service.

5. Discuss and take action on the appointment of Warner Lord as Town Historian for the Town of Madison.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to appointment Warner Lord as Town Historian for the Town of Madison. Selectman Walz stated it is a privilege to have Warner serving the Town. Thank you very much. This was unanimously approved.

6. Discuss and take action on the resignation of Pamela McKinnon from the Economic Development Commission.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to accept with regrets the resignation of Pamela McKinnon from the Economic Development Commission. He commented she had a lot of insight and knowledge in this subject and will be missed. Selectman Kokoruda stated she knows that Mike and Pamela will stay involved with the Town.

7. Discuss and take action on the appointment of Thomas Mahoney as part-time Deputy Fire Marshal.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Traugh to appoint Thomas Mahoney as a part-time Deputy Fire Marshal. Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan commented this is a replacement for an employee who was acting as Fire Inspector 20 hours per week on a part-time basis; he no longer can do this. The position has been vacant two to three months, it is \$18.00 per hour, no benefits, 10 hours per week. A job description will be written up for a Fire Inspector. This was unanimously approved.

8. Presentation by Emergency Communications Strategic Planning Committee.

John Bowers, Director of Emergency Management, presented an overview of the Emergency Communications Strategic Planning Committee's activities to provide integrated, effective, and efficient communications capabilities to Madison's emergency response agencies in a cost-efficient manner. Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated the immediate need is to bring the fire communications up to speed and then breakout the ambulance from the police frequency. Selectman Traugh cited the recent structure fires with loss of life in small Connecticut towns and stated this needs to be accelerated—a number one priority. Selectman Gladstone asked if there has been any discussion of relocating the dispatch when the ambulance center moves? Bowers stated

there has not been any discussion of moving it at this time. Selectman Kokoruda thanked them for coming together and working on this project. A copy of Bower's presentation is attached to these minutes.

9. Discuss Senior Center Feasibility Study results.

Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan and Assistant for Administration Helen Burland presented the findings of the Senior Center Feasibility Study and submitted a "Feasibility Study – Madison Senior Center prepared by East Wharf Architects, Inc. dated February 9, 2007." The summary presented the option of locating a senior Center off Bradley Road and relocating the ambulance garage to the depot site. Ms. Burland indicated that the study is complete and Selectmen should now consider the next steps. Discussion followed. A copy of the study is available for review in the Madison Town Clerk's Office and the Madison First Selectman's Office.

10. Discuss and take action on accepting Lantern Hill in the Terrace at West Wharf Subdivision as a town road. Selectman Walz recused himself from the discussion and voting.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to accept Lantern Hill in the Terrace at West Wharf Subdivision as a town road. This was unanimously approved.

11. Discuss and take action on moving forward on the purchase of two new senior busses to replace existing units.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to consolidate the bus reserve account with the equipment reserve account similar to the other Town vehicles. Selectman Gladstone asked if the Town should look at a smaller vehicle.

Director of Human Services David Melillo commented that a lift is needed in the busses and vans do not have them. Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan commented there is not a big cost difference between the size of the busses/vans. This was unanimously approved.

12. Discuss and take action on line item transfer request from Communications/Dispatch for \$16,000 from Professional and Technical to Communications Equipment.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve a line item transfer request from Communications/Dispatch for \$16,000 from Professional and Technical to Communications Equipment. This was unanimously approved.

13. Discuss and take action on line item transfer request from Probate Court for \$1,000 from Telephone to Office Supplies.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve a line item transfer from Probate Court for \$1,000 from Telephone to Office Supplies. Director of Finance Dotty Bavin commented there is a line item in Madison's budget for Probate Court to cover supplies. The Town must also provide space. Staff is not funded by the Town. This was unanimously approved.

14. Discuss and take action on line item transfer request from Building Department for \$4,000 from Salary/Department Head to Professional/Technical Services.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Walz to approve a line item transfer request from the Building Department for \$4,000 from Salary/Department Head to Professional/Technical Services. This was unanimously approved.

15. Discuss and take action on special appropriation request for \$35,000 from Health Department to cover a misunderstanding on the timing of expenditures from a State Department of Public Health Grant.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the special appropriation request for \$35,000 from the Health Department. Director of Health John Bowers stated there was a misunderstanding regarding the federal fiscal funding cycle and the money will be replaced. This was unanimously approved.

16. Tax Abatements/Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve the requests for tax abatements/refunds in the amount of \$3,788.53:

REFUNDS

Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Service, LLC	\$ 3,601.56
Robert Ferrigno	\$ 96.70
Paul W. Finnegan	\$ 7.01
Toyota Motor Credit Corporation	\$ 83.26

TOTAL REFUNDS: \$ 3,788.53

This was unanimously approved.

17. Agenda.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to open the agenda. Assistant for Administration Helen Burland asked to add:

“To accept the resignation of Justin Rossetti as Building Official. He was appointed at the January 22, 2007 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.”

Director of Human Resources Katherine Christopher stated the hiring process has been lengthy. Justin Rossetti had signed a letter of acceptance for the job; then two days later he rescinded his letter. He has agreed to help us out until the end of February. This was

unanimously approved. All of the Town's building official obligations are current. This was unanimously approved.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to close the agenda. This was unanimously approved.

18. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Traugh attended the Board of Education budget workshop hearing. Superintendent of Schools H. Kaye Griffin presented a budget overview looking at the budget from the macro level and how the new budget is constructed relative to the strategic plan. The case is made for the 7.92% increase. This information is also on the Madison website.

Selectman Traugh expressed frustration regarding the election solution that was presented by the First Selectman. She felt the plan in itself may be sound; but there was no process for public input—she hopes there is some way to correct this.

Selectman Gladstone commented that we will see more of the “Clean Energy Campaign.” With regards to the State of the Town address, he stated we have a fiscal plan, but the challenge to reconcile it with the needs of the Town and the Board of Education will be great. He feels uncomfortable with the way the budget calendar has been pushed back; it does not allow enough time and he is concerned we will not be able to give it enough discussion that is warranted. Board of Finance Chairman Fillmore McPherson stated the process last year stretched forever. The same number of meetings are scheduled; the joint meetings will occur with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

Selectman Walz complimented the Police Commission for a very good meeting this month. They are focusing on the staffing needs of the department; they are doing an extraordinary job.

Selectman Walz read the following letter from Casimir G. Gorski, 382 Green Hill Road:

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. Walz,

I frequently watch the televised council meetings, and fall readily into the category of those whose future in Madison will be threatened by financially unrestrained and regular significant tax increases. From a number of your comments, I suspect that you have a business related background and perhaps are still active in that arena. My wife and I moved here five years ago after retirement from General Motors and the automotive industry.

You know, as I watch the development of the financial plans and the proposals for additional funds by a number of special interest groups, I find a great number of similarities to what happened to General Motors in my own experience.

GM had long taken the financial route of experience basing the budget on last year's figures, adding in new costs, throwing in a profit figure, and then setting the price for the customer saying "here it is—just what you asked for."

Toyota came along and taught a new lesson—that of defining non-value added activities as "waste" and setting up a crusade to eliminate it. And what is waste? Absolutely everything that is done that does not directly make the product more valuable to the customer—such things as paperwork, just-in-case buffers, storage costs, inventory costs, repair costs, computer costs, and a multitude of other examples.

In all the budget and financial discussions I see televised, I do not see any emphasis on the aspect of identifying and eliminating "waste" currently in the system. I see an assumption that what Madison has been doing is the best way to do it or else we would have done it differently to begin with. That same assumption led to the decline of the American Auto Industry and can lead Madison into becoming a town of no diversity.

As an example of applying value added concepts to a public situation—I read today about NYC analyzing and reducing school bus costs to the tune of millions of dollars in savings. I wonder—has such a study been done in Madison? Perhaps—but I live on Green Hill Road and the busses I see passing by all seem to have a lot of empty seats coming and going. Is there not a way to provide only for the capacity that is used?

I am only writing to discourage any assumption that whenever an unavoidable cost is incurred, the budget must increase because current spending cannot be reduced. I would like to stay in Madison a bit longer.

Thank you,
Casimir G. Gorski

Selectman Walz expressed concern as we approach the budget cycle to make sure that we keep the sentiments of this letter in mind.

19. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 a.m. This was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary