



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:

Monday, April 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 8:02 a.m. There was no Executive Session. Present were Selectmen Scarpati, Kokoruda, Traugh, Gladstone, and Walz.

1. Approval of minutes – March 26, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to accept the minutes of March 26, 2007 as presented.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Kokoruda commented that the meetings are getting longer and longer; the preparation of meeting minutes takes a considerable amount of time that is being taken away from an employee's workday. She questioned if there is a middle-of-the-road approach since the meeting is videotaped. First Selectman Scarpati stated the detail of our minutes far exceeds what is required; Selectman Traugh commented that capturing the 'history of discussions' is important. She further stated the tape could not be used in a court of law.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

2. Citizen Comments.

Greg Dworak, 729 Summer Hill Road, stated (1) he would like to comment and be a part of the discussion of Old Business, Agenda Item #3—Discuss and take action on forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to review energy-related issues. He further commented (2) he was expecting a telephone call back and written reply from Selectman Traugh. Selectman Traugh stated she will get back to Mr. Dworak within a month.

Chris Scranton, 100 Boston Post Road, asked about the progress, or lack thereof, at the bus depot on Nathans Lane. He stated the project is not complete; the bus company is operating out of the depot, but a Certificate of Occupancy has not been issued. Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan stated as far as he knew, everything that is operating legally and there is a temporary Certificate of Occupancy. Mr. Scranton stated the installation of fencing is not done, the wetlands have not been replanted with vegetation, the fuel tank is not there, the outlets to plug the busses into to avoid idling a long time have not been installed, and contaminated soil has sat there for 1-1/2 years. Mr. MacMillan stated the plantings will take place over the next several months; the gas tank will not be installed because it is not needed; the contaminated soil will be disposed of this year (we are working with our environmental consultants). Selectman Kokoruda questioned the 'idling issue;' Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan stated the bus company decided the outlets are not needed because they are complying with State idling codes. First Selectman Scarpati requested that Mr. MacMillan discuss the issues with Assistant Town Engineer Mike Ott and give the update back to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting with a schedule for completion of all remaining items.

Greg Dworak, 729 Summer Hill Road, asked that the Town consider purchasing the house on watershed property for \$1 from the Water Company. The house is located on Summer Hill on South Central Regional Water Authority (SCRWA) property. First Selectman Scarpati stated it would be another piece of property the Town would have to handle. First Selectman Scarpati charged Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan to take a look at the building, take pictures, and see if there is something for Madison in this. It will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Discuss and take action on forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to review energy-related issues (tabled 3/26/07).

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to discuss the tabled item.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Scarpati stated the Board of Selectmen would make a motion to form a committee, vote on it, draft a charge, discuss the charge, vote on

the charge, and then launch the ad-hoc committee. We can ask the political parties to submit recommendations for our approval, and then decide how many members we want. It will be an ad-hoc committee. All Board of Selectmen members agree that they would like to go forward with forming the committee. Selectman Traugh added the charge should include clean-water action, the 20 by 2010 initiative, and further ideas. Selectman Walz stated he wants the committee to look at the 20 x 2010 initiative and report back to the Board of Selectmen; he still has a lot of questions. First Selectman Scarpati stated for the next meeting he will charge Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan to formulate the resolution looking at energy consumption, the ways to reduce the consumption, and clean energy options. The ad-hoc committee can last a year, can look at all of our consumptions, and look at how we can reduce energy costs. Selectman Traugh stated we need to look at clean energy also.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to table this item for today.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated letters will be sent out to the Town political committees asking for their recommendations and the newspapers will direct unaffiliated residents to the First Selectman's office.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discuss and take action on proposed Board of Education Budget for 2007/08.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Walz to remove the work 'proposed.' Discuss and take action on Board of Education Budget for 2007/08.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

MOVED by First Selectman Scarpati and seconded by Selectman Walz to accept the Board of Education Budget increase of 7.92% for 2007/08.

DISCUSSION by Selectman Traugh indicated she felt this proposal should be forwarded to the voters to decide.

VOTE: (1-4) Selectmen Scarpati, Kokoruda, Walz, and Gladstone opposed. Selectman Traugh voted in favor of the motion. The motion fails.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to recommend a Board of Education Operating Budget for the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 of \$41,246,011 which is a 6.65% increase from the 2006-07 budget.

DISCUSSION:

Selectman Gladstone submitted the following comments:

We have two objectives:

- (1) to adhere to the Long Range Financial Plan and
- (2) to institute the Board of Education's Long Range Strategic Plan.

One suggests a Board of Education (BOE) budget increase of 5.75%; the other requires a BOE budget increase of 7.92%. The two cannot be reconciled, and neither meets our needs. The 5.75% target leaves us with 20th century schools, and the BOE's 7.92% request overburdens our taxpayers. Rather than pick one over the other, I have proposed a compromise.

Here is how I came to this number:

This proposed budget is based upon the current 06/07 BOE budget.

To that I have added the Cost of Doing Business increases and the priority budget items detailed by Dr. Griffin in her "Funding for Education" presentation of March 28th.

The \$41,246,011 budget represents a 6.65% increase from last year.

The proposed 6.65% increase includes \$348,000 more than the 5.75% guideline would provide, and cuts \$491,000 from the BOE request.

You will recall in our discussion over the town budget that I said, "I have a sense we are understaffed and under-funded in some areas; but that is only a sense, and I look forward to further work on the TOWN Strategic Plan to discern whether there is any truth to that feeling."

With the schools, it is more than a sense. We asked the BOE for a Strategic Plan, and the BOE delivered. We can now see what it will take to provide a 21st century education. We have a choice – we can provide the resources to implement the strategic plan, or we can shelve it. To ignore the plan and provide a 5.75% increase would be an insult to the BOE's efforts. Why did we ask for the plan if we're not going to implement it? A 5.75% increase says, "Thank you very much for the plan. We've cleared a big space on the shelf where it can gather dust."

Regrettably, the compromise budget I propose includes less than half of the funds requested to implement the strategic plan. \$491,000 is cut from the BOE request. Implementation would be delayed – the plan would stretch to perhaps seven years from five.

This proposed budget cuts funds for technology hardware and software, professional development, library books, and more. I do not pretend to educational expertise; and would not want to inject myself into the BOE's ultimate allocation of funds. My point is that these cuts are not just a number. They bring real losses in educational opportunity. Opportunity delayed is opportunity denied.

Do not think for a moment that the 5.75% target would mean we are keeping up. In fact, in recent years, by the measure of per student spending, we have been falling further behind. Our rank in per student funding has fallen further in recent years. Emily Eisenlohr's most recent analysis places us 158th of 166 districts in per student spending. (Someone corrected her, and said that by another measure we were 153rd in spending on instructional programs.) Well, whether it is 153 or 158 out of 166, we will slip further if we provide only a 5.75% 'Cost of Doing Business' increase. We cannot afford to under-fund our schools. And we cannot ask our school administration, faculty and staff to

continue to perform miracles. And we should not kid ourselves into believing we can have top tier schools at bottom tier funding.

While this 6.65% increase provides a first step in implementing the BOE Strategic Plan, it does NOT derail the town's Long Range Financial Plan. It is above the 5.75% target. When we can plug this number into the plan for this year we see an incremental increase in the tax rate of about .14 mill, or about \$40 for a property valued at \$400,000, and assessed at \$280,000, as described in The First Selectman's plan. 07/08 taxes of \$6514 would go up \$40, to \$6554, or 6/10 of 1%.

This level of spending does not throw the plan out of balance or undermine our ability to finance capital projects.

The burden – whether it is 5.75, or 6.65, or 7.92 – falls squarely on Madison taxpayers. We cannot expect outside funds to pay for our schools. We must take care of ourselves. If funding from Hartford or Washington increases, that would be welcome. Be we cannot wait for that.

The tax burden is a concern – not just for seniors – but for all of us; and for that reason, we cannot grant the BOE their full request.

Home values are also a concern. Our home values are supported by our schools. People choose Madison for many reasons: its small town living, its shoreline location. And the schools. People move here for the schools. Our schools support our home values. If *you* care only about your home value, *you* should support excellent schools, particularly in a down market.

And make no mistake about it: Supporting our schools at only a Cost of Doing Business level will not keep us competitive. We will slip. In an era when all schools are required by the Federal Government to make “adequate yearly progress” in improvement or lose federal funding, trading water is not adequate.

Furthermore, our townspeople did not put us here to make sure the schools were adequate. There is an expectation for excellence. I wish we could deliver to the BOE all that they have proposed, but I do not see support for a 7.92% increase. If we stick to the 5.75% guideline, then **we** have decided to make do with 20th century schools. **We** can do better than that.

Let's respect the work of the Board of Education and make a down payment on the resources required to move our schools into the 21st century. Let's not be left behind.

I propose this: A Board of Education Operating Budget for the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 of \$41,246,011.

Thank you.

Selectman Walz presented the following comments:

The student population in the town of Madison has been 3,845 students for the past two years. It is projected to be the same next year. When you look at the demographics of the country and the town of Madison, it may be a while before we see any growth in the student population.

The school board is requesting an increase of 3.2 million dollars. This brings our school budget to 44.8 million. The increase alone is larger than the entire police budget.

The Board of Education has sole control over how their budget is spent. The BOE and only the BOE says how many of their employees are teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, or support personnel. The school system currently employs 633 people, 1 employee for every 6 students. The Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the citizens of the town only control the total dollars available to the BOE.

The Board of Education has presented a marvelous five-year plan. They recognize the changing global landscape. They recognize the need to change the curriculum to meet new challenges. They want to expand the use of technology to enhance the learning experience. They want to implement new foreign languages, and advanced math and science programs at all the grade levels. The plans are well thought out. I applaud them for their work and their vision.

However, the school day and school year have stayed the same. There will be no new students. When students attend a new language, math, or science class they cannot attend a legacy class. When administrators work on the curriculum for the new course, they do not work on the legacy course. The legacy courses were resourced with dollars and people. Where are the funds and people now? The issue sounds to me like the BOE has a resource allocation, and changing skills issue, not a budget problem.

The BOE has asked for \$3.2 million. Where do we get \$3.2 million dollars? The only source is the Madison property taxpayers. There is no one else. Also, this is not a one-year event. It is a forever levy. Even worse it becomes the baseline for next year's budget.

Madison has a great school system. People have been moving into Madison for years and paying premium prices for their homes for one reason, the school system.

It takes a number of elements to shape and create a quality school system.

- dedicated teachers
- involved parents
- motivated students
 - strong leadership
- concerned citizenry
- reasonable funding

All of these elements have come together in Madison.
We have a great school system.

All of these elements will continue to be in Madison. We will maintain an excellent school system. But, this is not the way. This budget request just doesn't add up. It doesn't make sense.

As such my vote on this budget request is 'no.'

VOTE: (3-2) Selectmen Kokoruda, Gladstone, and Traugh vote in favor.

Selectmen Scarpati and Walz oppose. Motion passes.

5. Discuss and take action on proclaiming Saturday, April 21, 2007 Green-Up Clean-Up Day in the Town of Madison and urge all residents to participate in this worthwhile project.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to proclaim Saturday, April 21, 2007 Green-Up Clean-Up Day in the Town of Madison.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Kokoruda urged residents to go to the Memorial Town Hall on April 21, 2007, give 1-2 hours of their time, and get a bag and gloves. For further information, contact the Beach and Recreation Department.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discuss Statement of Mutual Understanding between E.C. Scranton Memorial Library and Town of Madison.

Selectman Traugh stated the committee members included Selectman Kokoruda (Board of Selectmen), Al Goldberg and Peter Pardo (Board of Finance), Ted Mallory and John James (Scranton Library Board), and herself. Helen Burland (Assistant for Administration) also attended the meetings. The purpose of the Statement of Mutual Understanding is to set forth the understandings and expectations between the E.C. Scranton Memorial Library and the Town of Madison towards one another. It is drawn in the spirit of mutual respect and is intended to serve as a basis of understanding to be relied upon by each party in its current and future relationships with each. President of the Scranton Memorial Library Board Member Ted Mallory commented the Statement of Mutual Understanding outlines the history of the library and its relationship with the Town and the relationship between the Town and the schools. Board of Finance Member Al Goldberg stated the entire workgroups talked to how the Town and the library can work together; it will also define the next 100 years. Selectman Kokoruda stated one big change is the library has been included under LOCAP. They also discussed the issue if the library ever ceased to exist as a library and disposition of the assets if the library ceased functioning. Chairman of the Board of Finance Fillmore McPherson stated the Board of Finance members would like to look at the document—it does not relate to new construction or a change of venue. First Selectman Scarpati requested that expansion be a part of the document. He asked that the committee continue to meet to address that issue.

7. Discuss and take action on adopting Emergency Action Plan for Town of Madison Employees.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept the Emergency Action Plan for the Town of Madison employees as written.

DISCUSSION: Director of Public Health John Bowers commented the Emergency Action Plan is required by the State's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for all public employees. It is a statement that employees who are exposed to job risks get out of buildings as quickly as possible. Department heads should train their

employees on 911, fire exists, signs in buildings leading to exits. When we adopt this Plan, we will be committing to a personnel policy and will follow through on implementation. Selectman Traugh commented that the emergency response roles and duties should be incorporated into job descriptions; Mr. Bowers agreed. Selectman Traugh encouraged the implementation and asked that the plan also address “white powder emergencies.”

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

8. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for Street Sweeping services for the Town of Madison.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to award the bid for Street Sweeping services for the Town of Madison to Wethersfield Sweeping Service of Wethersfield, Connecticut, for bid unit prices of \$504.00 per roadway mile and \$508.00 per roadway mile for calendar years 2007 and 2008 respectively.

DISCUSSION: Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan stated the Department of Public Works and Engineering received one bid that is approximately \$10-12 more per roadway mile than last year.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for Chip Sealing of various town roads for the Town of Madison.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to award the bid for Chip Sealing of various town roads for the Town of Madison to Comer Contracting, Inc. for a price of \$1.229/S.Y.

DISCUSSION: Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan commented the Department of Public Works and Engineering received three bids for the Town’s annual roadway chip sealing program.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss and take action on awarding bid for Improvements to the Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Facilities Manager Bill McMinn stated his department received several bids and has recommended Holzner Electric for a base bid amount of \$287,780.00 and Alternate #1 of \$7,700.00. \$220,000 will come from LOCAP; the remaining funds will come from Planned and Maintenance cycle.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to award the bid for Improvements to the Kathleen M. Ryerson Elementary School to Holzner Electric as stated above.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action on request from Thomas A. Stevens & Associates, Inc. to install a sleeved sewer lateral and an electrical conduit across Middle Beach Road as part of a sanitary design for 55 Middle Beach road.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the request from Thomas A. Stevens & Associates, Inc. to install a sleeved sewer lateral and an electrical conduit across Middle Beach Road as part of a sanitary design for 55 Middle Beach Road.

DISCUSSION: Tom Stevens stated the owner, Robert Shea, is interested in wintering the structure. John Bowers, Director of Health, indicated the plan has met with his approval. Stew MacMillan and Mike Ott, Public Works Director and Town Engineer/Public Works Assistant Director respectively, stated they have no objection to the plan.

VOTE: (4-1) Selectmen Scarpati, Kokoruda, Gladstone, and Traugh approved. Selectman Walz opposed.

12. Discussion on Town Ordinance – Streets and Sidewalks – Sec. 19-1. Sidewalk construction and maintenance.

Director of Public Works Stew MacMillan stated new sidewalks will be constructed along Railroad Avenue from Wellfleet Village to Scotland Avenue. The neighbors in the area do not want a sidewalk because they would be responsible for maintenance and snow removal (according to the Town's sidewalk ordinance in 1970); they would like the

responsibility moved to the Town. The Board of Selectman expressed no inclination to change the ordinance.

13. Discuss scheduling a public informational meeting regarding the Ambulance Facility/Senior Center Project. Proposed date: April 24, 2007 – 7 p.m. – Memorial Town Hall.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Walz to schedule a public informational meeting regarding the Ambulance Facility/Senior Center Project for April 24, 2007 – 7 p.m. – Memorial Town Hall.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

14. Discuss and take action on the following line item transfer requests from Assessor's Office:

- \$100 from Data Processing to Dues, Fees and Memberships
- \$1,700 from Data Processing to Office Staff

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the line item transfer requests from Assessor's Office as stated above.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

15. Discuss and take action on line item transfer request from Communications/Dispatch for \$60,000 from Sal-Tech to Classified OT-Replacement.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve the line item transfer request from Communications/Dispatch for \$60,000 from Sal-Tech to Classified OT-Replacement.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

16. Discuss and take action on the following line item transfer requests from Human Resources:

Selectman Kokoruda read:

\$7,265 from Town Clerk Office Staff to Town Clerk Sal Dept. Head (**\$420**) – Town Services Sal Dept. Head (**\$667**) – Assessors Office Staff (**\$1,066**) – Assessor Dept. Head (**\$667**) – Health Dept. Head (**\$715**) – Sanitation Salary Technical (**\$395**) – Senior Center coordinator Salary Admin (**\$1,880**) – Senior Dept. Head (**\$750**) and

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

20. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Kokoruda stated the Senior Citizen's meeting is today; the WPCA met and will be preparing comments regarding nitrogen discharge including the nitrogen people put on their lawns, and the Planning and Zoning Committee is aware of a petition going around town regarding the Hald property on New Road. She further stated Superintendent of Schools Kaye Griffin has made a noticeable difference in our school system; I wish her well; it is a big moment in Madison.

Selectman Traugh stated there was not a dry eye at the last Board of Education meeting with Superintendent of Schools Kaye Griffin read her resignation letter; people were deeply moved. The Selectman's Council on Substance Abuse task force is moving forward; they have a request for Board of Selectmen liaison to look at policy issues. First Selectman agreed to participate.

Selectman Walz stated he has been attending the budget meetings and therefore was unable to attend the Police Commission meeting.

Selectman Gladstone stated the compressed format for the budget meetings is not conducive for discussion. This morning is the first time the Board of Selectmen has been able to discuss the budget issue. He urges the Board of Finance to pass along to the voters the Board of Selectmen's budget as approved.

First Selectman Scarpati stated the Board of Selectmen represent the voters of Madison. He also updated the Board that the Police Commission will continue the hearing on disciplinary action on a police officer. The attorneys were currently coordinating dates to schedule the continued hearing.

21. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary