



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, September 24, 2007

MEETING PLACE:

Madison Room (Room A), Town Campus

1. Public Hearing.

First Selectman Scarpati called the Public Hearing to order at 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment, opposition and support for recommendations submitted by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Senior and Disabled Tax Relief under consideration by the Board of Selectmen. Present for the Public Hearing were First Selectman Scarpati, Selectman Gladstone, and Selectman Walz. Selectman Traugh was available via teleconference.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to close the Public Hearing at 8:08 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

First Selectman Scarpati called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:12 p.m. Present were Selectmen Scarpati, Walz, and Gladstone. Present via teleconference was Selectman Traugh. Selectmen Kokoruda was absent.

2. Approval of minutes – September 10, 2007.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to accept the minutes of September 10, 2007 as amended.

Item #10, last sentence in **DISCUSSION** should read:

First Selectman Scarpati suggested allowing Terra Holding to pick up these machines 90 days after the election; err on being cautious because of a presidential election in November 2008.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

3. Citizen Comments.

None.

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to reorder the agenda and substitute item #12 for item #4.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

4. Discuss and take action on request from Madison Youth and Family Services to accept \$6,250 in a Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grant.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to accept \$6,250 in a Youth Service Bureau Enhancement Grant.

DISCUSSION: David Melillo, Director of Human Services, explained that this increased amount is the result of three years of work to increase funding from the state. The State Youth Services grant has been flat for a number of years. The legislature finally supported an increase. It will be used to augment counseling services.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

5. Update on November election and demonstration from League of Women Voters on how to use new voting machines.

Tax Collector Alma Carroll explained that the Registrars have been working on a number of initiatives. We are set to relocate District 1 voting location to the Surf Club. Equipment will be moving to both the Surf Club and Brown School shortly. Facilities staff and Beach and Recreation staff have been very helpful in accommodating storage requirements. We have ordered storage carts that will be reimbursed from the state. There have been several demonstrations at Back-to-School nights by the League of Women Voters to familiarize voters with the new voting equipment. Bill Bunnell and Nancy Bassett, representing the League of Women Voters, are here tonight to demonstrate the new voting technology to show how easy it is to use.

Selectman Walz, Gladstone and Scarpati cast sample ballots to demonstrate.

Selectman Traugh thanked the League of Women Voters for the effort.

6. Discuss and take action on calling a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Level of the Memorial Town Hall for the following purpose:

1. To consider and take action on demolition of town-owned property (structure) located at 258 Ridge Road according to Town Charter.
2. To consider and take action on Special Appropriation requests totaling \$163,228 from Board of Education to allocate additional funds as a result of the increase in Education Cost Share Funding from the State of Connecticut.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to call a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Level of the Memorial Town Hall for the above purpose.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

7. Present Proclamation to Madison Hose Company #1 on its 100th Anniversary (September 23, 1907 – September 23, 2007).

First Selectman Scarpati presented the following proclamation to Bob Gerard, Chief of Madison Hose Company #1, with the Board's appreciation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Madison Hose Company No. 1 was organized on September 23, 1907 by a group of Madison residents under the direction of Walter E. Clark, its first Fire Chief, and

WHEREAS, Madison Hose Company No. 1 is an organization of dedicated volunteer firefighters whose commitment to protect the lives and property of their fellow townspeople has always been in the forefront of their lives; and

WHEREAS, after 100 years of exemplary service to the Town of Madison, Madison Hose Company No. 1 continues to exhibit the true spirit of volunteerism and professionalism to the resident's of the Town of Madison whenever they are called;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Madison, do hereby extend to Madison Hose Company No. 1 and its members, past and present, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for a century of selfless service to the Town of Madison.

Dated at Madison, Connecticut this 24th day of September 2007

For the Board of Selectmen
Thomas S. Scarpati
First Selectman

8. Discuss and take action on request from Madison Hose Company #1 for upgrades to ladder truck.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve a request from Madison Hose Company #1 for upgrades to ladder truck in the amount of \$19,801.

DISCUSSION: Chief Gerard notified the Board that the 2000 Pierce Truck has a problem that needs to be fixed. The computer system that recognizes the ladder is not operating properly. Since this truck was a prototype, upgrades have been developed since then and are available to resolve this issue. The Hose Company has negotiated with the

manufacturer to install the upgrades. It requires that the truck be transported out of state for three weeks. While it is unavailable, other hose companies will fill in.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

9. Discuss and take action on recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Energy Committee to authorize the town to purchase 3% of annual energy requirement, not to exceed \$2,000, from a renewable energy supplier. The committee recommends Community Energy as said supplier.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz for the Town to purchase 3% of annual energy requirement, not to exceed \$2,000, from a renewable energy supplier. The committee recommends Community Energy as said supplier.

DISCUSSION: Dean Plummer, Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Energy Committee, updated the Board of Selectmen that this is the next step to moving toward the goal of 20% of renewable energy by 2010. Selectman Walz asked if the committee would be examining all of the energy consumption and purchases for the town. Mr. Plummer indicated that the committee was working with Stew MacMillan to collect all of the data and contracts and will be reviewing this as soon as the information is available. Selectman Walz wants the committee to be able to answer the question of whether or not we are paying more for renewable energy. If yes, how much more? What choices are there in the purchase of renewable energy? Mr. Plummer answered that the state has already conducted a competition and selected two firms. We met with both of them. You purchase the energy through CL&P and they are obligated to purchase the clean energy in the amount that you specify. This 3% allows the Town to move forward toward the 20% goal.

Selectman Traugh supports this initiative.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

10. Discuss and take action on request from Director of Emergency Management to expend funds from Capital Projects Fund account.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to expend \$8,000 for the purchase of an additional mobile radio to complete the outfitting of all marked police patrol vehicles and to allow for the purchase of up to 10 digital scanners to be used by Madison Hose Company #1.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Gladstone asked if this meant that the police and ambulance were moving to digital. John Bowers explained that the two agencies were ready

to move to digital and that this was a compromise that was reached with the fire company that will allow the officers to continue to monitor activity even in the digital mode.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

11. Discuss and take action on approval of grant application to the Erwin Bauer Charitable Trust Fund.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve a grant application to the Erwin Bauer Charitable Trust Fund.

DISCUSSION: Scot Erskine, Director of Beach and Recreation, presented the proposal that is for three projects: (1) Habitat for Exploration – program support at both Bauer and Rockland; (2) Dog Exercise Park – east side of Copse Road and consistent with the Bauer Farm Master Plan; (3) Replace Hoop House with a Green House at Bauer Farm to support early cultivation at the community gardens. Total grant application is \$28,500.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

12. Discuss recommendations regarding Senior Tax Relief.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Gladstone began the discussion with the acknowledgment that we need to understand the financial impact of a tax freeze before we can consider it. We need to understand how it would fit into our budget and what the town's appetite for a tax freeze might be. Selectman Walz agreed. He indicated that the spread sheet that was submitted by Barbara Davis during the Public Hearing highlights the complexity of this program and the need for careful consideration before any recommendations could be made. It is his understanding that the freeze program's cost escalates quickly and is the reason he turned to the deferral program. He thought he understood the Guilford program, but apparently he doesn't. We need to figure out a way to make relief fair to all involved.

Selectman Traugh confirmed that the committee did have some discussions regarding the Guilford model. The complexity is coming up with the right model. There isn't a static number in the program so it is difficult to project the cost. Selectman Scarpati agreed that the challenge is to estimate the cost over time. We have been given some information from our citizens that I don't understand. We have an abatement program that the committee recommended expansion at the lower level; we have a deferral program with 12 people who are very happy so we don't want to take this option away; and there is a lot

of interest in the freeze program and we owe our citizens an analysis of a model that we all can understand.

Selectman Walz indicated that the citizens are concerned about the lien, but we can control the language of the lien. Selectman Gladstone remains skeptical that there is a way to make the lien program attractive without becoming financial advisors to the citizens. Selectman Traugh reminded the Board that many of the changes that the committee recommended were administrative – come without any cost. Most communities have a number of options for their seniors. We should look at developing a menu of choices.

Selectman Scarpati concurred with Selectman Gladstone. The greatest amount of relief is available through the deferral program. But if their home is their only asset, they are reluctant to place a lien on it for any purpose. It puts us in a position of having to guarantee their home appreciation – but we can not make that kind of statement to the people. That discussion needs to come from outside the town government. We should look seriously at the committee's recommendations. The Long Range Plan has room for ½% cap on the abatement program and ½% cap on the deferral program. There is room in the plan for both of these programs at this level. With your permission, I'd like to do some calculations on the freeze program and come back to the board with some numbers that we can understand.

Selectman Traugh agreed. We should look at tax relief comprehensively. I think you will be able to model this for us and recommend you talk with Guilford. Also suggest that you talk with Stratford. They also have a program that has been around for a while. Selectman Gladstone said that he feels that the abatement enhancements that were recommended by the committee are well founded. The recommendations for the deferral program warrant further consideration. We should do more work on the freeze program to allow us to target the greatest need. Selectman Scarpati agreed that the town should look at the feasibility of offering each of these so that the citizens would have a choice as to which program meets their need.

13. Tax Abatements/Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve the requests for tax abatements/refunds in the amount of **\$3,246.02.**

REFUNDS

BMW Financial Services	\$ 258.72
CAB East LLC	\$ 40.06
Denice D. Chandler	\$ 28.65
Saab Leasing Co.	\$ 826.98
Wheels LT	\$ 101.27
Jeffrey and Cynthia White	\$ 65.54
Honda Lease Trust	\$ 73.25
BMW Financial Services	\$ 308.68
DaimlerChrysler Financial Services	\$ 71.94
Farrell Financial Group LLC	\$ 64.56
Molly K. Fitch	\$ 71.69
Nissan Infiniti LT	\$ 235.19
DL Peterson Trust	\$ 566.12
VW Credit Leasing	\$ 411.27
Charles & Ethel Cotsalas	\$ 12.14
Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	\$ 109.96

TOTAL REFUNDS: \$3,246.02

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0-1).

14. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Gladstone reminded everyone that there will be two public hearings on October 16th and October 25th to inform the citizens about the revaluation process that is underway and encourage everyone to attend.

Selectman Walz joined in to encourage a good attendance at these meetings.

Selectman Traugh completed her participation by conference call.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to open Executive Session at 9:48 p.m. to discuss Real Estate:

- (a) Assignment of liens and
- (b) Town-owned property

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0).

Tax Collector Alma Carroll, Assistant for Administration Helen Burland, and Chairman of the Board of Finance Fillmore McPherson were present in addition to Selectmen Gladstone, Walz and Scarpati. Alma Carroll left at 10:00 pm. Assistant Town Engineer Michael Ott entered at 10:00 p.m.

MOVED by Selectman Walz and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to adjourn Executive Session at 10:15 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0).

15. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Walz to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:15 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved (3-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Burland
Recording Secretary