

MEETING DATE:

Monday, January 28, 2008

MEETING PLACE:

Madison Room (Room A), Town Campus

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

First Selectman Goldberg called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:33 p.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Scarpati, Gladstone, Kokoruda, and Traugh.

1. Approval of minutes – January 14, 2008.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to accept the minutes of January 14, 2008 as amended:

Page 146, 1st sentence of 1st full paragraph should read:

Selectmen Kokoruda stated the attendance of interested residents at this meeting on the cell tower issue shows we have citizens who are ready to help.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

2. Citizen Comments.

Herb Gram, 287 Boston Post Road, formally requested that the Board of Selectmen put on their next agenda to discuss the protection of Hammonasset River. Also ‘Citizens for a Clean Hammonasset River’ is co-hosting a talk by Johan Varekamp, Ph.D. entitled “The Changing Environments of Long Island Sound: Rising Tides and Starving for Air” which will be held at the Polson Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. He encouraged everyone to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discuss and take action on recommendation from Facilities Project Review Committee that the State reimbursement for the Modular Classroom at Island Avenue School, in the amount of **\$215,166**, be provided as a special appropriation to support the Planned and Cycled Maintenance Fund for the Town of Madison and Madison Public Schools.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve a recommendation from Facilities Project Review Committee that the State reimbursement

for the **Modular Classroom at Island Avenue School**, in the amount of **\$215,166**, be provided as a special appropriation to support the Planned and Cycled Maintenance Fund for the Town of Madison and Madison Public Schools.

DISCUSSION: Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated that the Facilities Project Review Committee is recommending to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance that the State reimbursement for the Modular Classroom at Island Avenue School be allocated through special appropriation to the Planned and Cycled Maintenance Reserve Fund. The funds will support the maintenance of our schools and town buildings. This will be the last reimbursement for modular classrooms across the Town.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

COMMENT: Selectman Scarpati suggested that the Town still allow for the annual infusion of dollars into the Planned and Cycled Maintenance Fund.

4. Discuss and take action on line item transfer request from Facilities Project Review Committee for **\$40,000** from Island Avenue/HVAC-Modulars to Island Avenue/Asbestos Removal/Boiler.

MOVED by Selectman Traugh and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to approve a **line item transfer request from Facilities Project Review Committee for \$40,000** from Island Avenue/HVAC-Modulars to Island Avenue/Asbestos Removal/Boiler.

DISCUSSION: Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated that at the January 10, 2008 Facilities Project Review Committee they approved to reallocate residual funding from the Island Avenue School HVAC Modular Project to provide funding for asbestos removal related to the boiler replacement project at Island Avenue. This is the beginning of work to be done to replace the boilers over this summer. If approved, this could be accomplished during school vacation.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

5. The following line item transfers are designated as routine and appropriate for approval as a single action by the Board of Selectmen, if so desired. A Board member may request removal of any line transfer item from the consent agenda for review and discussion.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to **approve line transfers totaling \$5,997.00.**

DISCUSSION: Selectman Kokoruda read the following:

Human Resources Department: From Dues, Fees and Memberships to Office Supplies - \$700.00 for additional funds needed for file cabinet for Human Resources Office.

Town Administration: From Unbudgeted Expenses to Office Furniture - \$3,397.00 and from Professional and Technical Services to Office Furniture - \$500.00 for furniture needs created by the relocation of Registrar's Office and the changes in the Town Clerk's Office.

Public Works Department: From Sal. Admin to Disposal/Recycling - \$1,400.00 for trash removal for downtown cans. Increase is needed due to recent increase in costs.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

6. Administrative Update

- Recap on November Election
Update on any changes for the February 5th Primary
Public Comment Welcome

Director of Town Services, Alma Carroll provided an overview of the changes that were put in place for the November election and some subsequent adjustments. She commented that the new voting machines were used for the first time in the November 2007 election – it went very well. Brown Middle School has enough space, great parking, and the school will be closed for the Presidential Election Day. The Surf Club, the new voting location for District 1, will have modifications to include using the east entrance, putting checkers in the former pre-school area, putting a ramp to the front door, putting scanners closer to the exit door, and using the driveway for handicapped drop-off and pickup only. Public Works will be ready should there be a need for snow removal. The field lights will be on. Unaffiliated voters have until Monday, February 4, 2008 at 12:00 noon to register for a particular party and vote in the February 5, 2008 primary. The deadline to switch from one party to another party has passed—there is a 90-day rule. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office, applications are available on the Madison website.

- Discussion on Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated there have been concerns with this being a part-time position which has limited the application pool. It would be advantageous to move this to a full-time position. She hopes to come before the Board of

Selectmen in a couple of weeks with a recommendation for an appointment. Selectman Kokoruda stated this is the fourth municipal agent; it is a critical position/service; it needs to be filled – Medicaid, taxes, fuel assistance, tax relief assistance – it should be a highly professional person.

- Update on decertification of IBPO for Uniform Police Officers

Assistant for Administration Helen Burland stated there will be an election tomorrow at the Police Department of the membership of the IBPO to vote to determine if they want to decertify from their present union and go with another union.

- Discuss and take action on moving Per Diem Bus Driver Mike Rand to regular 21 hours per week part-time Bus Driver position (vacated by Tina Alfano) at the Madison Senior Center effective Tuesday, January 29, 2008. No change in rate.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to move Per Diem Bus Driver Mike Rand to regular 21 hours per week part-time Bus Driver position at the Madison Senior Center effective Tuesday, January 29, 2008. No change in rate.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

7. Tax Abatements/Refunds

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve the requests for tax abatements/refunds in the amount of **\$1,210.08**:

BMW Financial Services	\$228.43
GMAC	\$189.25
Saab Leasing Company	\$168.52
Toyota Motor Credit Corporation	\$474.75
VW Credit Leasing	\$149.13

TOTAL \$1,210.08

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

8. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman Scarpati stated at the last Police Commission meeting they discussed a grievance regarding the interpretation of language on vacation in the new contract.

Regarding the personnel issues within the Police Department; it is unfortunate that the Town has to go through this painful process. He recently attended a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Board of Directors meeting; there was a speech given by one of our legislatures. There is no proposed change with the Connecticut sales tax or income tax. The Towns will pick up the increases as they come along. As far as aid to education, the second step of the Governor's plan has not been funded; 4% appears to be the best we can hope for. Municipalities cannot continue to raise taxes at 4-5-6%. Universal healthcare is still being discussed; but not going to happen in the short term. He commented that the hearings that were held at the end of his term indicated people felt the ambulance situation was compelling. I support that the bigger projects, the Library and Academy Street School are worthy of further discussion. He hopes this Board will work to move the Senior Center and the Ambulance projects forward.

Selectman Gladstone agreed with Tom. We need to move forward with the Senior Center and Ambulance Garage, hopefully for a vote this spring. There is a need; the solution is suitable. The budget process is moving along. A Freedom of Information Workshop was held on January 24, 2008; it was helpful. The Ad-Hoc Energy Committee will hold another Open House, February 6, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. here at the Town Campus.

Selectman Kokoruda stated the attendance at the January 15, 2008 Open House of the Ad-Hoc Energy Committee showed a lot of interest and expertise in the Town. The Planning and Zoning Commission met and has approved a permit for Essex Savings Bank to come to Madison. There was a presentation by Mr. Dowler regarding an open space subdivision on Route 80 – 30 homes. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2008, 7:30 p.m. at Town Campus in the Hammonasset Room to look at R-2 zoning changes in regulations. The Senior Citizen Commission met; number one on their agenda is the senior center; they want to move forward. The Shoreline Lifelong Learning Institute will be running wonderful courses at the Senior Center. The Firemen's Pension Committee has been discussing benefit plans.

Selectman Traugh stated the Board of Education is working to finalize their budget. They are looking at a 6.3% increase mostly in insurance and special education costs. A 5.96% increase is under discussion. ACES will be using our Madison Town Campus for one more year. The future of the building and its services is being reviewed. No Child Left

Behind (NCLB) data indicates that Madison had adequately met yearly progress; we have highly qualified teachers in all areas. The Board of Education is presently implementing a freeze on some of their accounts and moving ahead on security upgrades. The Library and the Board of Education will be partnering the annual book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The library wants to increase their operating hours and they want to move forward with their plan for expansion. They will once again come before the Board of Selectman with their expansion plans. The Task Force for Youth Substance Abuse is moving ahead on an application for a Drug Free Community grant - \$125K for five years, Madison is well-positioned because of their recent survey.

First Selectman Goldberg commented the budget development cycle has commenced; the timetable is on our website. Budget presentations by departments and commissions to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance were just completed. The next major step is more detailed budget hearings; the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen will meet individually. On Wednesday, January 30, 2008, the Annual Town Meeting will be held. The agenda will include the (a) State of the Town Report, (b) Five-Year Capital Plan, (c) Annual Report, plus (d) four additional items to be voted on. It is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium of the Polson Middle School. We will discuss the capital projects in two weeks at the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting. We will identify where these items are on the flow chart and whether or not the Board of Selectmen want to proceed.

9. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Scarpati to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary