

MEETING DATE:

Monday, November 3, 2008

MEETING PLACE:

Madison Room - Town Campus

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

First Selectman Goldberg called the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:15 a.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Gladstone, Kokoruda, Traugh, and MacDougald. Also in attendance were Town Attorney Bill Clendenen, Vice Chairman of the Police Commission Dave Smith, and Lawrence Moon.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 a.m. to discuss the following.

1. Personnel/Police

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman MacDougald to exit Executive Session at 8:14 a.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

First Selectman Goldberg called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:18 a.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Gladstone, Kokoruda, Traugh, and MacDougald.

2. Approval of minutes - October 27, 2008.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman MacDougald to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2008 as amended.

Item 9.A. paragraphs 1 and 2, comments in parenthesis should read as follows:

(Contingent upon successful completion of a complete background investigation and a post-offer drug test.)

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments.

None.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Discuss and take action on proposed settlement agreement with Officer Heiden.

MOVED by Selectman MacDougald and seconded by Selectman Traugh to **not approve the proposed settlement agreement with Officer Timothy Heiden** as the proposed settlement agreement is inconsistent with the Police pension plan.

VOTE: The motion to deny was approved unanimously.

5. Update from the Conservation Commission.

UPDATE: Chairman of the Conservation Commission George McManus updated the Board of Selectmen on their needs and projects.

6. Discuss proposed changes to the Senior Tax Relief Program.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Goldberg stated this morning's discussion will focus on information requests from the Board of Selectmen; it will focus on discussions as to how to apportion the abatement amount. Former First Selectman Gus Horvath stated someone with a lower income should get a higher percentage of tax relief (a graduated benefit) and the cap should increase across all recipients.

Tax Collector Alma Carroll explained a three-tier plan as proposed as an alternate plan by the 2008 Ad Hoc Committee in response to suggestions made by the Board of Selectmen:

- (1) taxpayers who have paid real property taxes for one to four (1-4) years prior to application would receive a \$100 benefit;
- (2) taxpayers who have paid real property taxes in Madison for more than five (5) years with an income over \$43,500 would receive a set amount of \$500 per year;
- (3) taxpayers who have paid real property taxes in Madison for more than five (5) years with an income under \$43,500 would receive a prorated amount of the total abatement allocation.

The total allocation amount available is equal to one-half percent of the operating budget.

Director of Human Services David Melillo stated those people who are in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 income range have difficulty paying their bills.

Municipal Agent for the Elderly Heather Castrilli presented the Board of Selectmen with a "Monthly Adjustable Expenses" spreadsheet which shows the rates by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control.

First Selectman Goldberg stated the Board of Selectmen will seek to finalize the revised ordinance at their next meeting; then it will be referred to the Board of Finance.

7. Initial discussion of 2009/2010 budget development cycle.

DISCUSSION: It was discussed to move the Referendum Date to early May 2009. First Selectman Goldberg will consult with the Board of Finance and the Board of Education and bring a proposed calendar to the next meeting for review.

The Board of Selectman would like the department heads to hold the line on expenses this coming fiscal year, prepare a 'business as usual' budget, and itemize additional request items separately.

8. Discussion Ethics Workshop - next steps.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Traugh commented that last week the Board of Selectmen sponsored a presentation from individuals of the State Office of Ethics and the Town of Wilton regarding ethics

policies in municipalities. Selectman Traugh suggested that a draft charge be prepared for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting, along with suggestions to make up a seven (7) member committee to make recommendations regarding further evolvement of Madison's policy and practices.

9. Tax Abatements/Refunds.

REFUND

Timothy W. and Alice D. Carroll \$ 251.61

TOTAL REFUND \$251.61

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve **refunds in the amount of \$251.61.**

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

10. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Selectman MacDougald commented that on Thursday, November 6, 2008 the Planning and Zoning Commission will consider requests for proposals for the 2010 Plan of Conservation Development.

Selectman Kokoruda commented on the recent presentations on democracy delivered at Robert H. Brown Middle School by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz. She also stated that November 17, 2008 starts the process of reviewing the qualifications of vendors to be chosen for our facility reviews.

11. Adjournment.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary