

MEETING DATE:
MEETING PLACE:

Monday, January 26, 2009
Madison Room - Town Campus

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

First Selectman Goldberg called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Selectmen Goldberg, Kokoruda, Traugh, and Gladstone. Selectmen MacDougald was absent.

1. Approval of minutes -

* January 12, 2009

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2009 as written.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

* January 21, 2009 - Budget Workshop minutes

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop of January 21, 2009 as amended.

Human Services, add the following presenters: Robyn Klaskin and Judi Stigle

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

2. Citizen Comments.

None.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Discuss and take action on hiring professional service as recommended by the Joint Facilities Review Committee for the Town of Madison facilities study (tabled 1/12/09).

DISCUSSION: This item will remain tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Update from the Youth and Family Services Board.

UPDATE: David Melillo, Director of Youth and Family Services, summarized some of the department's programs which are aimed at encouraging positive youth development, making strong kids stronger, helping kids learn new skills, increasing positives and decreasing negatives, and working on bullying issues. Members of the Youth Services Board present were C.J. Gladstone, Connie Richer-Fanelli, and Lynn Hagen.

5. Discuss and take action on amendment to Ordinance - Chapter 20 - Taxation - Section 20-10, Property Tax Relief; Owner's Tax Relief Program for Certain Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve an amendment to Ordinance - Chapter 20 - Taxation - Section 20-10, Property Tax Relief; Owner's Tax Relief Program for Certain Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners.

DISCUSSION: Director of Town Services Alma Carroll stated that the Board of Finance voted on making two changes to the proposed amendment.

Section (3), paragraph d., now reads:

Possible exclusion of certain medical expenses from income. If a taxpayer has incurred income due to the need to pay medical expenses in an amount that equals or exceeds the amount of medical expenses that have been deducted as medical expenses on Schedule A of Internal Revenue Form 1040 that causes the participant's income to exceed the participant's income for each of three prior years by at least 10%, and that income would otherwise disqualify the participant from continued participation in the program, then upon satisfactory proof to the Assessor that the same income was exclusively due to the need to pay medical expenses, the Assessor shall deduct from the most recent annual income the amount of such medical expenses in calculating income. In determining whether the income of the taxpayer under subsection 3(a) was due to the need to pay medical expenses, the Assessor shall require the participant to submit the participant's federal tax returns for the three years preceding the year for which the elderly tax benefit is being sought so that the Assessor may compare the participant's income and medical expenses for the current year with the participant's income and expenses for the three prior years.

Section (4), paragraph a.2., the tax relief tiers were increased as follows:

Tax Relief \$950	Income \$30,000 and under
Tax Relief \$700	Income \$30,001 - \$40,000
Tax Relief \$450	Income \$40,001 - \$50,000

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action on calling a Public Hearing on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., prior to the Board of Selectmen's Meeting in Room A - Town Campus, for the purpose of receiving public comment, opposition and support for amendment to ordinance: Chapter 20 - Taxation - Section 20-10. Property Tax Relief; Owner's Tax Relief Program for Certain Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners.

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to call a Public Hearing on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., prior to the Board of Selectmen's Meeting in Room A - Town Campus, for the purpose of receiving public comment, opposition and support for amendment to ordinance: Chapter 20 - Taxation - Section 20-10. Property Tax Relief; Owner's Tax Relief Program for Certain Elderly and/or Disabled Homeowners.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

7. Discuss and take action on accepting \$250,000 Urban Action Grant.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept \$250,000 Urban Action Grant.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Goldberg stated this grant is for the downtown Madison Center Project. Selectman Kokoruda expressed support for the project, but indicated she was disappointed

with the priorities being set by our representatives at the State Capitol in Hartford during these difficult economic times.

VOTE: This motion was approved 3-1.

8. Discuss merit of developing a policy regarding Town appointments to governing boards of certain organizations receiving Town funding.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Goldberg noted that the Madison Ambulance Association may find it advantageous to ask the Board of Selectmen to appoint one or more members to their governing board. It was decided that two members of the Board of Selectmen will sit down with two members of the Madison Ambulance Association to provide input and allow feedback.

9. Discuss and take action on resignation of Michael Docker as an Alternate Member on the Shellfish Commission.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to accept resignation of Michael Docker as an Alternate Member on the Shellfish Commission - with our thanks!

DISCUSSION: Selectman Traugh suggested that since Michael Docker is a teacher at the high school, he should continue to serve as an Academic Liaison to the Shellfish Commission.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

10. The following line 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 item transfer from the consent agenda for review and discussion.

MOTION: To approve Line Item Transfers totaling \$28,082.47.

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve line item transfers in the amount of \$28,082.47 (copy of 'Summary of Line Transfers' (undated) attached to these minutes).

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Tax Abatements/Refunds

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Gladstone to approve refunds in the amount of \$3,111.01.

Refunds

John E. Lee (interest only)	\$ 2,786.73
GMAC	\$ 324.28

Total Refunds \$ 3,111.01

MOVED by Selectman Kokoruda and seconded by Selectman Traugh to approve refunds totaling \$3,111.01.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

12. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments

Selectman Gladstone thanked Alma Carroll for all her efforts on the Senior Tax Relief ordinance. He appreciates the fact that the Town departments, boards, and commissions are taking into account the economic conditions while working on their proposed budgets.

Selectman Kokoruda stated Pat Melady is the new Chairman of the Senior Citizen Board; Barry Miller is the Vice Chair. The board is actively giving presentations to civic groups regarding the proposed new Senior Center and Ambulance Center.

Selectman Traugh stated the Board of Education was presented the school administration's fiscal year 2009-2010 budget. The operational budget has an increase of 3.91% which represents increases in contractual obligations, such as teachers, transportation and custodial contracts only. When the jointly managed accounts with the Town are included, such as health insurance and debt, the increase is 4.17%. There are no new programs or positions, with one caveat. Madison Public Schools will administer the pre-Kindergarten program next year. We had been contracting with ACES, but the contract will end this year and Madison will take over the program. ACES was not able to get their business model to work. Madison will be able to provide the program at the same cost. This will result in a shift in funding from Special Education outplacements to the new pre-Kindergarten program. And once again, Madison still ranks in the top in student achievement while having one of the lowest per pupil spending in the State. Superintendent of Schools David Klein stressed that the proposed budget maintains the high quality program that we expect from Madison Public Schools.

First Selectman Goldberg discussed the Town budget. The first draft is a modest budget, no new programs, no new staff, and a 2.79% increase over the previous year. The Town Referendum is May 19, 2009. Tomorrow evening, January 27, 2009, is the Annual Town Meeting at Memorial Town Hall, 7:30 p.m., and will include:

- (1) the State of the Town Report,
- (2) the Five-Year Capital Plan,
- (3) to receive the Annual Report of the permanent Boards, Commissions, Agencies, Committees and the Town's Auditor Report in accordance with Article II, Section 2.1.4.1 of the Town Charter, and
- (4) to consider and take action on line-item transfer request from Facilities for \$500,000 from Garage Equipment Storage Bay to Island Avenue Roof Replacement (pending Board of Finance approval on 12/17/08).

13. Adjournment

MOVED by Selectman Gladstone and seconded by Selectman Kokoruda to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Palmer
Recording Secretary