Board of Selectmen  
Monday, January 22, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.  
Town Campus, Room A and Remote via Zoom  
Meeting Minutes

7:00 p.m. - Regular Session

1. Call to Order
First Selectwoman Lyons called the Regular Session of Monday, January 22, 2024 to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Selectman Goldberg, Selectwoman Gordon, Selectman Murphy and Selectman Wilson. Others present: Austin Hall (Dir. Beach and Rec.), John Ienacco (Dir. Public Works/Town Engineer), Sam DeBurra (Fire Marshall/Dir. of Emer. Services), Carol Snow (Chair PNZ), Michael Doheny (SLR), Kristen Brown (WasteZero), Pam Roach (SCRCOG), Ethan Van Ness (DEEP), members of the Garden Club of Madison

2. Pledge of Allegiance
First Selectwoman Lyons led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. First Selectwoman’s Updates
The First Selectwoman will be participating in a SCRCOG tour of affordable housing options in our region. Mentions Madison’s Wellington development broke ground in December. Encourages residents to sign up for Madison Alerts to keep abreast of storm happenings such as flooding and road closures.

4. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments
Selectman Murphy attended the Scranton Library’s Leonardo DaVinci exhibit and encourages all to check it out.

5. Citizen comments
None.

Business

6. Consent Agenda:
   a. Tax Refunds
   b. Approval of minutes from January 9, 2024

First Selectwoman Lyons requests a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.  
**MOTION by** Selectman Murphy, **seconded by** Selectwoman Gordon  
**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approve a Proclamation for the 100th Anniversary of the Garden Club of Madison.

First Selectwoman Lyons welcomes members of the Garden Club of Madison and congratulates them on their 100th anniversary.
**MOTION by** First Selectwoman Lyons **seconded by** Selectman Murphy to approve the Proclamation.
The Proclamation was then read and presented to members of the Garden Club of Madison.
**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Discuss and take action to accept a donation from the Garden Club of Madison in an amount to cover the cost of fabrication and installation of one welcome sign; pending Board of Finance approval.**
   Tabled.

9. **Update from Planning and Zoning Commission on Plan of Conservation and Development.**
   Carol Snow, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission presented a power point presentation on the town’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The PnZ commission has taken ownership of the POCD rather than outsourcing to a consultant. The consultant will be used to put the finishing touches on the POCD and make sure it complies with all State and regional requirements. Influenced by Town’s Strategic Plan. There are two themes: the built environment and the natural environment and they are very interrelated and interconnected. POCD has now been distilled into seven (7) policies and thirty (30) action items. POCD required to be revamped every ten (10) years. Policies all carry equal weight and are numbered just for ease of reference. Discussion of PnZ commission reliance on town staff. Working closely with Affordable Housing Committee. There will be a public information session once the POCD is in a more finalized state. Once finalized the POCD will be a living document. PnZ will come back in a month or two with further POCD updates.

10. **Receive an update from WasteZero on Madison's Food Scrap Program.**
    First Selectwoman Lyons states that the pilot food scrap recycling program, funded through DEEP, was started last May and the thought process behind it. Waste disposal is becoming a crisis and not just in CT. Complicated by the fact that Madison does not have a municipal trash service. Kristen Brown and Pam Roach who have been running the pilot program for the Town are introduced. Fifteen other cities and towns participated in the pilot program. A power point on the crisis facing waste management was shared. CT only has 4 incinerators and the majority of CT trash is shipped to PA or OH and those states are becoming disinclined to accepting out-of-state refuse. Landfill capacity in New England will be near zero capacity by 2040. Studies show that 75% of what we throw in our trash cans could be diverted somewhere else (yard waste, textiles, food scraps, recyclables). Food scraps make up about 20% of the waste stream (by weight) but are responsible for nearly 60% of all emissions and adversely affects climate change. The cost of trash disposal was discussed and unit-based pricing was explained. Stonington, CT uses unit-based pricing and has seen a dramatic drop in the amount of garbage people throw out (386 lbs/per person/year). There are approximately 550 communities in the northeast that use unit-based pricing. Brattleboro, VT has reduced its waste per person/year to 225 lbs using both unit-based pricing and having curbside food waste collection. A brief overview of the pros and cons of the current
collection system in town was had and next steps discussed. Kristen Brown suggests that the town’s Solid Waste commission should be tasked with finding pathways forward.

11. **Receive an update from SLR on the Garvan Point Improvements Project.**
   First Selectwoman Lyons reports that the town received additional feedback from the State (DEEP) that impacted the previous design. Michael Doheny from SLR presents updated design that accommodates DEEP coastal jurisdiction provisions but still keeps the original intent of the plan. There is discussion about how the built-in seating area could be used. First Selectwoman Lyons requests that when the budget put together that the seating and stairs be broken out into two separate line items. A public information session will be scheduled.

12. **Discuss Town Communication Facilities.**
    Sam DeBurra presents a power point on the location of the six (6) cell towers in Madison. 5G has a radius of 1-3 miles and 4G has a range of 2-4 miles; variances in range depend on topography. Sam DeBurra and Chief Drumm have met with representatives from American Tower and toured sites around town to assess the viability of building new towers. One site was at the Public Works garage and one was down at the upper lot by Exchange Field; both those sites would be easy to build on. American Tower could do a “tree” tower at beach that would cost more. Ryerson school was another site; American Tower prefers to stay away from schools but was more comfortable with the site once they learned that Ryerson will be decommissioned in a few years. The final site visited was up in Rockland Preserve; it is more complex to put a tower up there. The tower at the Public Works garage would replace the tower on Old Route 79; a lease has not been agreed upon by the landlord, and the town will lose revenue from that specific tower in 2025. At all the proposed sites the public safety radio equipment could be installed on the tops which would enhance that system. Sam DeBurra proposes putting an RFP out after July 1 for a consultant to do a cell tower/emergency radio feasibility study. The communication fund in CIP could be used for the study. First Selectwoman Lyons notes that improving the public infrastructure is part of the Strategic Plan. The town could also look to see if there is any funding in SCRCOG.

13. **Discuss and take action to approve calling a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Polson Middle School, 302 Green Hill Road for the purpose of a budget presentation by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education conducted by the Board of Finance in accordance with the Town Charter (10.4.A).**

    **MOTION** by Selectman Goldberg **seconded by** Selectman Murphy
    **VOTE:** this motion was passed unanimously.

14. Citizen comments
    None.

15. Adjournment
    There being no objection the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,