

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019
7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: TOWN CAMPUS ROOM A

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES

7:00 p.m. Regular Session

First Selectman Banisch called the Special Session of Monday, January 28, 2019 to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were First Selectman Banisch, Selectwoman Ferris, Selectman Goldberg, Selectman Murphy and Selectman Wilson.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
First Selectman Banisch led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of Minutes.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** the minutes of January 14, 2019.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Comments.

Reserved for the end of the meeting.

New Business

5. Academy School survey results presentation from Great Blue Research.

DISCUSSION: Dan Quatrocelli from Great Blue Research provided an overview of the survey findings from the Academy School poll. Mr. Quatrocelli presented a PowerPoint report which is available on the website as well. Overall, of the seven options, survey respondents only supported the option for a Community Center with 59.1% in favor of, and 40.9% opposed to, this option. Of the other options, four involved the sale of the building, one proposal would make the building the Town Hall, and one would involve the demolition of the building for open park space. Also, there was opposition to the sale of the land surrounding the building.

Selectman Wilson thanked Mr. Quatrocelli for the presentation of the survey results; he asked if the results indicated that the community in whole was in favor a Community Center model. Mr. Quatrocelli stated that the survey results would indicate that the Town

was in favor of the Community Center, especially when considering the spread of the results. Selectman Wilson stated that with this option, those who were in support and those who were in opposition were strongly in favor or strongly opposed to this option and he asked if this figured into the approval of this option. He confirmed that if the results were combined in aggregate for options to sell versus options to retain the building, the average would indicate only a 45% approval of retaining the building for Town use.

First Selectman Banisch questioned if the advertisements surrounding this issue had impacted the survey results and Mr. Quatrocelli stated that the groundswell of support was also indicative of what the survey results yielded. He stated that any advertisements, etc. surrounding the survey would also be seen around a referendum vote and that these types of notifications did not skew the data.

Selectman Wilson asked Mr. Quatrocelli to confirm that the results were an accurate read of the feelings of the Town. Mr. Quatrocelli responded that the phone survey was done using a random sample and since the results of the phone survey were in line with the online survey, it would indicate that there wasn't much bias of the online data.

Selectman Murphy asked Mr. Quatrocelli to confirm how the 400 phone calls were conducted and Mr. Quatrocelli stated that 400 results were compiled, but that more phone calls were made to ensure that the sampling included respondents of both genders and of respondents of all age groups.

4. Public Comment:

Kathryn Hunter of the Ad-Hoc Academy Guidance Committee stated that there is such closeness and consistency between the phone results and the online survey results, and therefore no qualitative difference between the two polls. Ms. Hunter also stated that the question regarding the sale of the land included the ball park and fields.

Vince Dussich of White Birch asked if the results were broken down by age and if the survey indicates that the seniors in Town support the Community Center. Mr. Quatrocelli stated that the results were not broken down in this way; and Mr. Dussich stated that it might be helpful to present the data in how different age groups voted for the proposals.

Tom Lee of Bradley Road stated that he felt the Town could move forward with a Community Center and questioned when the construction could begin.

Catherine Ferrante of Copse Road stated that, in response to the comments regarding breaking down the results by age; the phone poll demographics were designed to match the demographics of the Town.

Terry Vandendolder of Bartlett Drive stated that the Ad-Hoc Academy School Committee discussed that 85% of the respondents felt that there should be no development of the land or building.

Cathy Marsh of Sylvan Road stated that the results of this survey seemed to match other surveys conducted in Town; he added that she supported the Community Center proposal.

Katherine Donovan of Conestoga Drive stated that the discussions regarding the future of the land started one year ago and that the results and conversations indicate that the Town does not want to develop the land. She added that it would be unfair to break down the results by age and to give more value to the responses of any one age group.

Joan Walker of Steppingstone Lane stated that there were respondents who were strongly opposed to the Community Center, however, respondents were more strongly opposed to the other options in the survey.

Kathryn Hunter stated that the final question which asked which option respondents would bring to referendum might be the best question to consider for guidance.

Jamie Dietz stated that she was in support of the Community Center.

Art Symonds of Bartlett Drive stated that the results were clear, however, he would like to know from the supporters of this proposal, since the schools will be asking for a significant amount of money, how they felt the Town would pay for the Community Center option.

Susan Glantz of Green Hill Road stated that from the data that she has seen, the debt in Town will be starting to decline and she stated that the tax debt would be \$100-\$150 per year to each household which may not be a burden to most taxpayers.

Catherine Ferrante stated that this \$100-\$140 per household estimate is for a 20-year bond and does not consider any other funding sources such as grants, etc. She added that this was a worthy investment and that she would be happy to pay this increase in taxes to support a Community Center.

Terry Vanderdolder added that it was her understanding that the fourth-grade playground that was sought by the BOE has been funded for \$200,000 and now requires an additional \$800,000 to complete. She stated that she hoped this funding request would not be approved by the BOS and BOF.

Jamie Dietz stated that she has been to three town meetings lately and she felt that nothing had moved forward and that initiatives have been stifled; she didn't want to see this process stalled.

Dennis Crow of Twilight Drive stated that it had been mentioned that there might be a lengthy process to get to the start of construction and during that time, the building would continue to deteriorate. Also, the Town's expenses would be increasing for projects such as the Library and the State's funding may be decreasing over this time as well. He added that when the actual project, with pricing, is brought forward, the taxpayers will already have increased tax bills for these items. He also thanked the Board for conducting the survey and bringing this item in front of the Town.

Denice McGregor of Scotland Avenue stated that she supported the Community Center as it would enrich all residents of Town, regardless of age.

Dick Passero of Legend Hill stated that it is estimated that the renovation will cost \$13 million and on the bond for this amount, the cost will be \$85 per year for the average household. Additionally, there would be increased costs to maintain and operate the building of about \$60 per year per household (and this makes up the \$140/ year / household figure).

Jenny Lee of Bradley Road stated that the Community Center will have a positive impact on the entire downtown area, including for merchants

6. Receive update and recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Academy School Guidance Committee.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Henry Griggs stated that the Ad-Hoc Academy School Guidance Committee supported the results of the survey. He stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee would present a written statement to the Board, but that the statement summarized that the Committee felt the residents supported the Community Center proposal and that the Town should not sell the surrounding land. The full statement is as follows:

On April 12, 2018 the Board of Selectman (BOS) unanimously approved a motion to establish an ad hoc committee to determine Madison residents' preferred path for the future of Academy School. On June 26, 2018 the Ad Hoc Academy Building Guidance Committee (AGC or Committee) was commissioned. Per the Charge established by the BOS, the Committee was tasked to examine private and public options, gather cost estimates and select feasible options to bring to public poll utilizing a polling firm selected by the BOS.

The BOS selected GreatBlue Research (GreatBlue) to conduct a phone poll of a representative sampling of Madison residents and taxpayers and accompanying voluntary online survey based on a questionnaire formulated by GreatBlue and the Committee. The questionnaire was designed to provide direction/guidance to the BOS in determining a community option or private development proposal most likely to be supported by Madison voters at referendum.

The phone poll commenced November 26, 2018 and was concluded on or about November 30, 2018 (with a total of 403 completed calls). The online survey opened December 3, 2018 and reached the contracted 2,000 submission limit on or about December 15, 2018. On December 19, 2018 GreatBlue issued a report of findings with the results of the data from the phone poll and online survey. The results set forth in the GreatBlue report show that a majority of those polled and surveyed support the Town's continued ownership of Academy School, restoration of the building as a community center, and strong opposition to the sale or development of the surrounding ballfields and parkland.

The Committee supports the findings of the GreatBlue report and recommends that the BOS be guided by these findings in presenting a plan to Madison residents for vote at referendum.

Respectfully,
Henry Griggs
Chair, Academy Building Guidance Committee

7. Discuss and take action to end the Charge of the Ad-Hoc Academy School Guidance Committee.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Wilson stated that the process was a path to awaken the voice of the community and the Committee was charged with an intimidating request. The Committee has done a fabulous job and he stated that he was grateful for the work done by the Committee. First Selectman Banisch added that he also thanked the Committee on behalf of the Town and the Board. Selectman Goldberg stated that as the liaison to this Committee he watched the process unfold. He stated that the committee members were respectful of one another, even when they did not necessarily agree.

Selectman Murphy questioned what the next steps for the process should be and if the Committee really needed to be disbanded. He questioned if the next step was a Design/Development Committee. First Selectman Banisch and Selectman Wilson stated, and the board agreed, that the Board's work was just beginning but that this Committee had fulfilled its Charge and should be disbanded.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectwoman Ferris to **APPROVE** ending the Charge of the Ad-Hoc Academy School Guidance Committee.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation from the Beach & Recreation Commission of the proposed Parking Lot Management System.

DISCUSSION: Jason Kaczmarkiewicz from Complus Data provided an overview of a Parking Management system for town parks and beaches. The Beach & Rec Commission would return to the Board at their February morning meeting to have the Board take action.

Mr. Kaczmarkiewicz stated that the permit system would run online and residents could purchase their permits online. Residents would receive a letter in the mail with their account number to use to logon and then purchase whichever type of permit online and register their vehicles' information. Online payments can be made via credit card or paypal. Once the permit is paid, the system will indicate that the vehicle is registered through the permitting system. The patrol officers will then use their handheld scanner to scan license plates at Town beaches and the scanner will alert the patrol officer as to whether a permit had been purchased. Also, the scanner will indicate if the license plate has other fines associated with it from not purchasing a permit. If the license plate does not have a permit associated with it, the patrol officer can issue a violation and fine on-the-spot. Anyone who

receives a violation can pay or appeal the associated fine online as well. If residents did not pay their fines, the Town could use Mr. Kaczmarkiewicz's service to send out mailings and potentially prevent violators from being able to renew their vehicle registration through the DMV. Mr. Kaczmarkiewicz also presented an example of the online portal which Town employees would access.

Selectman Wilson stated that summer staffing requests had been decreased based on the implementation of this system. First Selectman Banisch stated that with this system, the Town can extend the beach season, or extend the "day" by requiring passes later into the evening. He stated that there are a lot of confrontations at the gates that made seasonal employees uncomfortable working at the beaches. Also, the Town would not be looking into this system if it were more expensive for residents.

Shane Kokoruda of the Beach & Rec Commission stated that in addition to these positive points, there will be shorter lines to enter the beach parking areas as well. Vince Dussich of the Beach & Rec Commission added that the system would be leased to the Town so the Town would not need to purchase the equipment.

Selectman Murphy stated that this was a good avenue to research and he only cautioned that the Town needed to make sure that the residents and public would be made aware of the change to beach permits. He also questioned if there were a way to build the service fee into the permit price.

Kathy Marsh questioned if the young people in Town would still have employment opportunities in Town and First Selectman Banisch stated that there would still be summer employment opportunities.

9. Discuss and take action to approve a Donation from the Strong Center Board for the lacrosse memorial rock at Strong Field.

DISCUSSION: Shane Kokoruda of the Beach & Rec Commission stated that there is a lot of support at the Strong Center and that the Commission would like to have a plaque at the Center honoring the lacrosse greats from Madison. The Board also reviewed that this is an additional feature of the Center.

MOVED by First Selectman Banisch and seconded by Selectwoman Ferris to **APPROVE** a Donation of over \$5,000 from the Strong Center Board for the lacrosse memorial rock at Strong Field.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to modify the language of Chapter 9 - Flood Plain Management Ordinance.

DISCUSSION: Dave Anderson stated that the recommended actions were in line with the plan of coastal resiliency and that these recommendations involved changes to the Flood Plain Management Ordinance. Specifically, the recommendations were to modify language

to require two feet of freeboard and to expand the definition of substantial improvement to include cumulative improvements over a period of five years. Mr. Anderson stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission felt that the Board should consider these changes to the Ordinance and hold the appropriate Public Hearings. First Selectman Banisch added that Madison is behind the curve on these modifications.

Selectman Goldberg stated that before the Board takes action on these changes, the First Selectman and he had already discussed holding a Public Hearing with experts on coastal resiliency.

Selectman Murphy questioned if there were a timeline for these changes, and First Selectman Banisch stated that there was no timeline or sense of urgency. Mr. Anderson confirmed that there was no sense of urgency.

11. Discuss and take action to approve accepting a Community Connectivity Grant in the amount of \$400,000 and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the same.

DISCUSSION: Dave Anderson stated that the grant application was submitted about 18 months ago, but the state was not able to fund the grant in their first round. This project encompasses sidewalk construction at Woodland Road, Route 79 and Bradley Road. Also, this will work in conjunction with the work being done by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. This grant should cover 100% of the construction of this sidewalk project.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** accepting a Community Connectivity Grant in the amount of \$400,000 and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the same.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

12. Discuss and take action to approve a Line Item Transfer request from the Facilities Department in the amount of **\$6,874.56**.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectwoman Ferris to **APPROVE** a Line Item Transfer request from the Facilities Department in the amount of **\$6,874.56**.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

13. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation Request from the Risk Manager in the amount of **\$25,000** to fund insurance increases due to separate coverage for the Rockland Preserve Bike Trail.

DISCUSSION: Risk Manager, Lauren Rhines stated that with separate policy coverage was required for the Rockland Bike Trail and this resulted in an increase in overall premiums for the current fiscal year. The coverage is budgeted correctly for the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** a Special Appropriation Request from the Risk Manager in the amount of **\$25,000** to fund insurance increases due to separate coverage for the Rockland Preserve Bike Trail.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

14. Discuss and take action to approve a funding request from the Facilities Department for the Police Department Future Planning Project to fund the preliminary design phase; the total amount requested is **\$6,550.00** from the Planning Reserve Fund.

DISCUSSION: Captain Race stated that he had been working with Bill McMinn to create a plan for expansion to present through the CIP process for funding; this request would fund the initial planning phase.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** a funding request from the Facilities Department for the Police Department Future Planning Project to fund the preliminary design phase; the total amount requested is **\$6,550.00** from the Planning Reserve Fund.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

15. Discuss and take action to approve the appointment of Tony West as an Alternate to the Ad-Hoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Selectman Goldberg and seconded by Selectwoman Ferris to **APPROVE** the appointment of Tony West as an Alternate to the Ad-Hoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

16. Discuss and take action to approve the appointment of Toni Davis as an Alternate to the Ad-Hoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** the appointment of Toni Davis as an Alternate to the Ad-Hoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

17. Discuss Bill Passed To Establish a Tax Deferral Program for Federal Shutdown Affected Employees.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** tabling this item since the Federal Government has reopened.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

18. Update on the Strategic Planning Process.

Al Goldberg stated that he felt the Board needed to create an overall Plan for the Town which included the Strategic Plan as well as all of the many plans throughout Town into one place. Selectman Murphy also stated that a timeline was important for the overall plans.

Project Manager, Lauren Rhines, gave an overview of the current state of the process and she stated that the Strategic Plan, as presented and contracted through Management Partners, incorporated the services and programs that the Town should offer under a “perfect” state. This Strategic Plan did not include other planning or facilities items. The Board reviewed that they needed a Working Session to review the draft and bring a comprehensive plan to the public; and that this would be one portion of a much larger overall comprehensive Town Plan.

19. Citizens comments.

John-Michael Parker of Wall Street stated that the Selectmen should consider the motive behind the survey results for the Academy School; he stated that the Board should consider similar polling for other plans in Town, including the School Facilities Plan.

Tracy Juengst of the Energy and Efficiency Committee stated that the Town should also plan for the energy services needed in construction/rehab of buildings in Town.

Gus Horvath of Aylesbury Circle stated that he suggested that the Board begin the next steps for the Academy School by using funds from the Planning Reserve to conduct an architectural/engineering study of the state of the building. Also, regarding Coastal Resiliency and the Flood Plain Management Ordinance, Mr. Horvath stated that there should be someone in charge of overseeing Coastal Resiliency and that the Flood and Erosion Control Committee should be reactivated. He also offered his services in serving on this commission overseeing these next steps.

Kathryn Hunter of Scotland Avenue stated that she felt that the Town has lost time on the future of the Academy School and that the Board should already know the next steps for the future of the School. She stated that the Board should use the survey results to bring a question to referendum. Regarding the Ad-Hoc Academy Guidance Committee, she suggested that the Board should not have sunsetted the committee, but should have expanded the Charge to continue the momentum of the process. Ms. Hunter stated that the Committee could resurrect the Centerbrook Architects survey from 2016 and also research some funding sources that might offset the cost to taxpayers. She added that there may be several sources which need to be explored to assist in the rehabilitation of the building. Also the Town should consider what steps need to be taken immediately to make sure that the building doesn't deteriorate further (including a new roof and window improvements) while the Town decides what to do with the building.

Dick Passero questioned what the next steps would be; and First Selectman Banisch stated that the next steps should be to bring cost facts to the public in conjunction with a referendum vote.

Roz Fahey of Bishop Lane stated that she was a little concerned that the Committee was dissolved. She stated that the Board should be able to tell the Town exactly what the future of the process would be.

Catherine Ferrante stated that she was in favor of reaching out to Centerbrook Architects and having them revise their study on the building.

Terry Vandendolder stated that the Board should stick to the original funding request from the BOE for the fourth-grade playground (\$200,000) and not approve the \$800,000 request and \$600,000 would be available to fund the next steps for the Academy School.

20. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Bruce Wilson	Ambulance
Scott Murphy	Library

21. Adjournment.

There being no objections, First Selectman Banisch adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Executive Assistant