

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020
6:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: TOWN CAMPUS, ROOM A

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

6:00 p.m. Regular Session

First Selectwoman Lyons called the Regular Session of Monday, February 24, 2020 to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
First Selectwoman Lyons led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of minutes

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** the minutes of February 10, 2020 and the Special Minutes of February 10, 2020.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

3. First Selectwoman's Updates

First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons gave an overview of ongoing projects and progress reports on the work of the First Selectwoman's Office; the overview is attached to the end of these minutes.

Regarding the School Facilities Study Referendum, Selectwoman Lyons stated that she felt that the plan was well-thought out, and a responsible plan for the Town. She stated that the process for this referendum should be moved forward and that the Board of Education Superintendent would be giving an overview of the plan later on the Agenda.

4. Liaison Reports / Selectmen Comments

Scott Murphy	Library Board of Directors,
Al Goldberg	Ad-Hoc Government Study Committee

5. Citizen comments

Bill Stableford, Ad Hoc ACCD Committee stated that the Committee would like to recommend that the Board move forward with managing the referendum including by establishing a date for the referendum. He stated that the Committee felt that a stand-alone referendum for this and the BOE Facilities Referendum was appropriate. He stated

that the October referendum date provided the Committee with enough time to educate the public on their recommended project. If a referendum is scheduled with a local or national election it is inevitable that the process will be muddled due to distractions and confusion.

Katie Stein, BOE Chairwoman stated that the Board should vote to set a referendum date to bring the projects forward to the public. She overviewed the process that the BOE has undergone to bring a responsible Facilities Plan to the public. She stated that it was important to bring the item forward to the public; she also stated that the timing was important. A May referendum would not allow for enough time for the public to be educated on the size and scope of the matter. Also, the public expects a fall referendum due to publicity put forth in the newspaper in recent months. She added that the referendum should not be part of the November election; it should have its own time so as not to be lost in the furor of a Federal election. She stated that the referendum mirrors with the Academy Referendum as the projects are similar in scope and importance.

A resident stated that she will not have children who are able to enjoy the new school buildings; she was speaking on behalf of the other children in Madison when she urged the Board to set the referendum date for the BOE Facilities plan. She stated that the referendum should be a stand-alone event; not part of the November election. She overviewed thoughts on the process that has brought the project to a recommended referendum. This resident made comment on the State of the Youth presented last week by the Youth & Family services Board which indicated that only 20% of youth at DHHS felt that they were supported by older generations in Town.

Art Symonds of Bartlet Drive questioned what the position of the Chairwoman of the Board of Finance was for the referendum date for these two items. Because this is the largest expenditure of Madison's history, he felt that the BOE Facilities referendum should be held separately from the Academy School and that this BOE Facilities referendum should be held in conjunction with the Federal Election.

Max Calfo of Opening Hill Road urged the Board to approve one referendum of both items with the November election to ensure the greatest voter turnout. He added that this is also a past practice as the Library project was voted on with the November 2008 election. He also stated that the costs of a separate referendum were unwarranted.

Justin Murphy of Windybrook Lane stated that he agreed with moving both items to one referendum and that common sense would indicate that the items should be brought forward on the November ballot. The last three National Elections brought out roughly 80% of voters and voter turnout was important for these items.

Kirk Barneby of the Board of Education, stated that he had spoken with the Chairwoman of the Board of Finance at length about this matter and he believed that her preference was to have one referendum on both items and that she was okay with either an October or November date. Mr. Barneby echoed that sentiment and he added that there were tax payers who were not registered voters in the Town and that these people may not stay in town long enough to vote for a November item if they cannot vote on the election matters. He stated that given this information, and also consider the "quiet periods" required under both timelines, he supported an October referendum.

Catherine Donovan of Conestoga Drive stated that the Academy School had been “batted around” for 11 years and needed to be brought forward. She stated that the November Election was ripe for other contentious items and that people would not take the time to research these referendum items to make an informed vote.

Dennis Crowe of Twilight Drive stated that he understood the challenges of the quiet periods however, the Town already has 4 election events this year and attending these four events is already a burden to some residents. The people who live in town and who have children going to the schools are probably “more important” to the vote than non-residents. He stated that getting a higher percentage of voters, in November, would be a better goal for the Board to work towards.

Superintendent Scarice stated that in December 2018 a Tri Board meeting was held where a request was made that these Capital Projects be brought to one referendum, with separate questions on one ballot.

Susan Glantz stated that she wanted to voice here objection to moving the Board meetings to 6:00 p.m. start times permanently. She stated that the Board should consider what was best for all residents.

Noreen Kokoruda asked if the Secretary of State’s Office was consulted on the appropriateness of adding these items to the November Election.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **AMEND** the Agenda to move Item 11 after Item 5.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action to approve a Proclamation honoring the League of Women Voters.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Wilson read aloud the Proclamation. Elise Lowe, the President of the East Shore League of Women Voters provided an overview of the history of this Chapter as well as the services that the League of Women Voters provides for the Town of Madison. Selectwoman Lyons thanked the League for their work in the debate held in the Town last fall.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** a Proclamation honoring the League of Women Voters.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

MOVED by Selectman Goldberg and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **OPEN** the Agenda for Item 6b. to Discuss and take action to establish a referendum process and timeline for the Academy School and BOE Facilities Capital Projects.

Selectwoman Duques stated that she felt it that time was needed to digest the information presented during public comment and that a decision of this magnitude should be publicly noticed on an Agenda in advance.

VOTE: the motion was approved with three votes in favor and two votes opposed by Selectman Wilson and Selectwoman Duques.

MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN

OLD BUSINESS

6. Update on the Board of Education Facilities Plan from Superintendent Thomas Scarice.

DISCUSSION: Superintendent Scarice stated that the entire process really started twenty years ago. He provided a PowerPoint overview (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). Mr. Scarice stated that the process in 2012 when he started employment in the Town, suggested closing a school, and at first the Town Campus Learning Center was considered for closure. After research and review the TCLC was deemed necessary for special needs students to allow them to receive services in their hometown during pre-school years. Instead the promise in 2012 was that when enrollment decline affected the middle school population a plan to close a school would be brought to the public for a vote. A referendum was therefore brought in 2017 which failed at referendum. The BOE therefore voted in October 2017 to contract to five schools by closing the Island Avenue School. The BOE and Town together concluded that Island Avenue School was appropriate for closure over other schools in Town.

In 2018, the BOE worked to establish the Tri-Board Facilities Committee with representation from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education. This Committee reviewed the 10-year Maintenance Plan, and also alternatives for the future of the school facilities. The Committee met once per week to work collaboratively across the three boards to address the aging school facilities and the maintenance projects. The Committee worked to ensure community engagement via three public forums, and other meetings with interested stakeholders.

In 2019, final options were determined and were brought to the BOE Facilities Committee to make a final recommendation to the full Board of Education. The final recommended project was approved by the full BOE on September 24, 2019 and forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

Superintendent Scarice overviewed the full recommendation as part of the PowerPoint presentation attached. He also provided an overview of the costs and potential offsets to cost for moving forward this recommended plan.

Selectman Wilson stated that the plan also optimizes transitions for children from one school to another which he described as a hidden elegance. Superintendent Scarice agreed with this statement and added that having K-6 schools (one North, one South) would be beneficial for the students and parents.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that this referendum plan addressed all of the schools versus only the elementary school level. She added that incorporating air conditioning to all schools was beneficial for the students, for the staff and also for the Town when the buildings were used outside of the school day for Town business. She thanked the Board of Education, the Superintendent and the Tri-Board Facilities Committee for their thoughtful work on bringing a plan forward.

Ms. Stein, stated that given this information the BOE is grappling with bringing this educational information to the public as soon as possible prior to the referendum, especially when considering the “quiet period”.

Susan Glantz asked for clarification on the contrast between the cost to move the project forward versus the cost of not moving the project forward. Superintendent Scarice stated that the 10-year maintenance plan would still include several maintenance projects (e.g. new roof at Jeffrey). The \$100-million 10-year plan will not “go away” it can be modified, but the work will still be needed to the existing facilities. Several other thoughts were brought out, but First Selectwoman Lyons clarified that the public would have ample time to provide public input on the project prior to the referendum vote.

Noreen Kokoruda stated that the environmental plan would also greatly impact the school facilities.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to **OPEN** the Agenda for Item 6b. to Discuss and take action to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen are considering the procedures necessary for the approval of appropriations and bond authorizations for improvements to school facilities of the Town and for renovations to the Academy building for the use as a community center (the “Projects”).

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the Board of Selectmen’s intent to take all actions necessary to present the Projects to the voters of the Town at a referendum, anticipated to be held during the first full week of October, 2020.

Selectman Wilson strongly objected to opening the Agenda for this motion and action as he felt that the full Board was not allowed ample time to review the information from Bond Council.

VOTE: the motion was approved with three votes in favor and two votes opposed by Selectman Wilson and Selectwoman Duques.

6b. Discuss and take action to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen are considering the procedures necessary for the approval of appropriations and bond authorizations for improvements to school facilities of the Town and for renovations to the Academy building for the use as a community center (the “Projects”).

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the Board of Selectmen's intent to take all actions necessary to present the Projects to the voters of the Town at a referendum, anticipated to be held during the first full week of October, 2020.

DISCUSSION: First Selectwoman Lyons gave an overview of the process to-date, stating that this was a well discussed item on two previous Board of Selectmen Agendas and the subject of two public articles. She stated that this resolution came up this afternoon because of conversations at Elected Board levels and within the public arena. This Agenda, however, was required to be posted by the prior Friday. She added that it was time to bring clarity to the public on the future of the referendum(s). This item allows for certainty in a timeline that the two capital projects will be brought forward to the public on one referendum at either a standalone referendum in October or during the November 2020 election.

Selectwoman Duques stated that the Town cannot choose when to be transparent. This item could have been shared with the Board in advance of the meeting and noticed in advance of the meeting. From a process perspective, she felt opening the Agenda for an item of this magnitude was wrong.

Selectman Wilson stated that the Board was proceeding before this action in a nonpartisan manner however, this action seemed to bring a partisan factor into the decision making. He stated that including these items on the November election ballot had valid benefits as it brings the greatest voter turnout. He added that he had faith in the voters in Madison that they were able to differentiate their politics from the capital projects.

Selectman Murphy stated that he respectfully disagreed with those comments and added that elections should be focused on candidates for public office. A stand-alone referendum allowed for the event to be solely focused on the capital project issues at hand. He added that the competition of these capital projects with the election matters would impact the outcome of the referendums.

First Selectwoman Lyons added that the advocacy period was also very important; the October referendum allows for educational outreach at the beginning of the school year versus the November election cycle which prohibited this outreach. She added that the backlog at the polls in November could be great and cause disruption to the efficiency of the election. Over the last 20 years, the Town has had 15 referendums with 9 being approved. Of these referendums, there has only been one held on a Presidential Election ballot and it did not pass. Of the others, some were held in conjunction with other Town actions, some were held as stand-alone actions. None of these types of referendum seemed to guarantee passing of the referendum item; most bonding referendums have been held as stand-alone events. She added that the two bonding proposals we are facing here are huge complex issues that would likely be drowned out on a Presidential Ballot.

Selectman Goldberg stated that when the Board sets a referendum, a lot of discussion is brought forward from the community regarding the timing of a referendum. He stated that he felt an October date was the better path forward. A Presidential or Congressional Ballot would result in information overload and that these Capital Projects deserve their own process event. Although it sounds backward, the quiet period imposed by a

November election occurs at an unfortunate time and would limit the amount of time that the public has to information. He stated that he respected that there was a difference of opinion, however, he still supported October.

Selectman Wilson stated that it was always appropriate for groups to disseminate factual information about the projects; this is not impacted by the quiet period. There is nothing to stop the school district, the ACCD Committee, the Town, etc. from beginning advocacy plans today through the end of August when the information disseminated has to turn over to facts only. The advocacy is only limited to the Board of Education and the Town so outside organizations can continue to advocate for their agenda during the quiet time. He stated that he could not advocate for a time when less turnout leads to a better vote. He added that his timeline preference had been for May, but that decisions were made prior to his rejoining the Board to move the process to the fall of 2020.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that the average had been closer to 30% voter turnout for projects which is closer to municipal election turnout – the type of voter engagement that the Town should be seeking. In terms of the advocacy piece, Superintendent Scarice stated that the restrictions for the quiet period have been tightened and that the Board of Education was in receipt of an 8-page legal opinion on the matter which they would share with the Board of Education. She stated that this vote tonight was for a timeline that had been discussed for 6 weeks leading up to this meeting.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen are considering the procedures necessary for the approval of appropriations and bond authorizations for improvements to school facilities of the Town and for renovations to the Academy building for the use as a community center (the “Projects”).

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the Board of Selectmen’s intent to take all actions necessary to present the Projects to the voters of the Town at a referendum, anticipated to be held during the first full week of October, 2020.

VOTE: the motion was approved with three votes in favor, one vote opposed (Wilson) and one abstention (Duques).

7. Discuss and take action to approve moving the Regular meetings of the Board of Selectmen permanently to 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION: First Selectwoman Lyons provided an overview of the process that brought the change forward. Selectman Wilson stated that in the past, when meetings were held earlier than normal, there was significant push back from residents. He was cautious based on these past comments from residents. He stated that the 8:00 a.m. start time seemed to provide a great opportunity for residents.

Selectman Murphy stated that there were benefits to the evening meetings starting at 6:00 p.m. as it allows residents to come straight from work and still be home in time to put their kids to bed, etc.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to **APPROVE** moving the Regular meetings of the Board of Selectmen permanently to 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Discuss and take action to call a Public Information Session on March 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Polson Middle School to review the 2020 Beach Pass System updates.

DISCUSSION: First Selectwoman Lyons gave an overview of what this meeting would accomplish.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to **APPROVE** calling a Public Information Session on March 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Polson Middle School to review the 2020 Beach Pass System updates.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request in the amount of \$65,000 from the Board of Education to fund the Public Schools / External Placements for Special Education Reserve Fund.

DISCUSSION: Stacy Nobitz gave an overview of the request as well as the history of the process of moving Board of Education unspent funds from the prior Fiscal Year into this reserve fund. Selectman Wilson stated that this is a fabulous planning tool that the Town has at its use.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** a Special Appropriation request in the amount of \$65,000 from the Board of Education to fund the Public Schools / External Placements for Special Education Reserve Fund.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss and take action to approve the North Madison Fire Department disposition of a 1999 S&S Tanker Truck by sale to New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus for \$40,000.

DISCUSSION: First Selectwoman Lyons stated that this is a truck that has already been replaced and now the obsolete vehicle needs to be disposed of.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** the North Madison Fire Department disposition of a 1999 S&S Tanker Truck by sale to New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus for \$40,000 and to recommend to the Board of Finance that the funding is moved into the North Madison Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Fund.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **OPEN** the Agenda for Item 10b. to Discuss and take action to approve calling a Special Town Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Campus Room A to:

1. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request in the amount of \$65,000 from the Board of Education to fund the Public Schools / External Placements for Special Education Reserve Fund.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

10b. Discuss and take action to approve calling a Special Town Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Campus Room A to:

1. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request in the amount of \$65,000 from the Board of Education to fund the Public Schools / External Placements for Special Education Reserve Fund.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** calling a Special Town Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Campus Room A for the action noted above, and pending Board of Finance approval.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action to approve a Proclamation establishing the 2020 Green-Up Clean-Up Day and the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.

DISCUSSION: First Selectwoman Lyons read aloud the Proclamation and invited Fran Brady of BYO Madison to present an overview of the plans for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. The Board thanked Mr. Brady for his presentation.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by First Selectwoman Lyons to **APPROVE** establishing the 2020 Green-Up Clean-Up Day and the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

12. Discuss and take action to call a Public Hearing on March 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the 2018 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant.

DISCUSSION: Town Services Coordinator, Lauren Rhines, stated that this is a requirement from the State of Connecticut as part of the grant program and that the public comment will allow residents an opportunity to make remarks on the work completed as part of the 2018 grant year.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** calling a Public Hearing on March 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the 2018 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

13. Tax Abatements / Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** Tax abatements / refunds in the amount of \$1,142.83.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

14. Citizen Comments.

A resident gave comment to Mr. Brady about a companion Earth Day event.

Max Calfo stated that the Library 2008 referendum ballot held with the November election was well attended and well informed and he felt that this would be the case with this current referendum.

Mr. Brady stated that there were many logical points to moving the referendum forward in either October or November and he was in favor of November event until he heard that there might be chaos with having two types of ballots at the polls.

Justin Murphy stated that it should be acknowledged that Brown, Polson and Jeffrey would have upgrades under either the referendum plan or the 10-year maintenance plan.

Joan Walker of Stepping Stone Lane stated that there was still a lot of work that would be moved forward though the maintenance plan under the CIP, however, the facilities plan brought forward greater projects including a new school.

15. Executive Session

- a. Lease Negotiations – Island Avenue School.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve tabling the Executive Session.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

16. Adjournment.

There being no objections, First Selectwoman Lyons adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager

First Selectwoman Update

- Continuing budget review process
 - Public hearing on March 4th at 7 p.m. at Polson
- 2nd Coffee and Conversation held on February 20th. Annual schedule set. Topics included:
 - Economic development, Town communications with residents, Academy School operating and bonding costs, Library opening
- Madison Cable Access Group launching livestreaming of BOS meetings starting March 9th
- Business Council of Fairfield County recognized Madison as Platinum Level winner for its efforts in promoting a healthy workplace
- Attended COST Annual Meeting

First Selectwoman Update (cont.)

- Launched monthly senior staff meetings and established project tracking process
- Completed assessment of Board of Ed. School Facilities Plan
 - Toured school buildings
 - Held various informational meetings with Board of Education Chair, Superintendent of Schools, Director of Facilities, Chair of School Facilities Committee, Members of Tri-board Committee, Colliers, Bond Counsel
 - Participated in CIP project review

Board of Education
Presentation to the
Board of Selectmen
February 24, 2020

Long-Term Facilities Renewal
Recommendation

Agenda

1. History/Process
2. Facilities Committee Recommendation
3. Cost/Offsets

History/Process

- o 2014 – Initiation of Comprehensive Facilities Study
- o 2017
 - o September–Referendum Failure
 - o October – BOE Decision to Contract to Five Schools
- o 2018
 - o June – BOE Adoption of 10+ Year Maintenance Plan
 - o July – Tri Board Initiation of Task Force to Study Alternatives to 10+ Year Plan (“Tri Board School Facilities Working Group)

Tri-Board School Facilities Working Group October 17, 2018- April 3, 2019

- *Work collaboratively across three primary Boards to identify additional options beyond the BOE adopted 10+year capital maintenance plan as solutions to problem of:*
 - *aging school facilities, and*
 - *mounting maintenance projects.*

- **Community Engagement:**
 - Three public forums, key stakeholder presentations, meetings with realtors, Superintendent's Brown Bag Lunch

History/Process

o 2019

- o May 21- Facilities Committee Review Begins of Final Two Options Recommended by Tri Board School Facilities Working Group
- o May 21 - September 12 -Facilities Committee Meetings
- o Sept 12 - Facilities Committee Vote for Recommended Long-Term Facilities Renewal Plan to be considered for action by the full Board of Education
- o Sept 24 - Board of Education adopted Option 4.4a for recommendation to the Boards of Selectmen & Finance

Facilities Committee Recommendation

- o Recommendation:
 - o Four School Model Projects:
 - o Pre-K-5 New Construction on the Green Hill Campus
 - o Convert Brown Intermediate School to K-5
 - o Polson Renovations:
 - o Air Quality System/HVAC
 - o Auditorium
 - o Security Enhancements

Cost/Offsets

- o Approximate Cost:

- o Four School Model Projects \$84.9 million
- o 10+ Yr Maintenance Plan \$44 million
- o Total \$128.9 million

- o Offsets:

- o Operations and Maintenance Savings:

- o Closure of:

- o Jeffrey School
- o Ryerson School
- o Town Campus Learning Center (Preschool)