

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019
8:30 A.M.

MEETING PLACE: TOWN CAMPUS ROOM A

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

8:30 a.m. Regular Session

First Selectman Banisch called the Regular Session of Monday, May 13, 2019 to order at 8:33 a.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 April 22, 2019.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

3. First Selectman's comments.
 - a. The Tri-Board School Facilities Committee will host a Public Forum on Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Brown Middle School.
 - b. Invited Ellen Weiss of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to speak to the Board:
Ms. Weiss stated that the Town placed 5th in the nation for the Complete Streets Program. The Committee is thankful to the Board of Selectmen for their support and they would like to request support in implementing the Complete Streets Policy. She added that this policy will also help the Town move up Sustainable CT Certification level as well.
First Selectman Banisch asked for a round of applause for the BPAC.
 - c. First Selectman Banisch stated that the Town has signed the contract for the new Beach Pass program and implementation will begin this week. The Town will release information to the public with instructions on how to purchase Beach passes for the upcoming season.
4. Public Comment.
None.

5. Discuss and take action to approve a Proclamation honoring Jack and Helen Davis.

DISCUSSION: Selectman Goldberg read aloud the Proclamation.

MOVED by Selectman Goldberg and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** a Proclamation honoring Jack and Helen Davis.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action to approve the resignation of Ron Bodinson from the Inland / Wetland Commission Alternates.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** the resignation of Ron Bodinson from the Inland / Wetland Commission Alternates, with thanks from the Board.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Discuss and take action to approve the appointment of Ron Bodinson to the Planning & Zoning Commission Alternates for a term to expire on January 1, 2022.

MOVED by Selectwoman Ferris and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** the appointment of Ron Bodinson to the Planning & Zoning Commission Alternates for a term to expire on January 1, 2022.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Discuss and take action to approve the appointment of Rosalyn Fahey to the Senior Services Commission for a term to expire on January 1, 2023.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectwoman Ferris to **APPROVE** the appointment of Rosalyn Fahey to the Senior Services Commission for a term to expire on January 1, 2023.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

9. 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 transfer item from the consent agenda for review and discussion.

Motion: To approve Line Transfers submitted by various departments.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** Line Item Transfers in the amount of **\$419,114.61**.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request from Police Department in the amount of **\$34,000** to fund Special Duty Wages.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Nobitz stated that the account has a balancing revenue account and she discussed that there may be a better way to handle this account that can be reviewed in the fall when the next budget cycle begins.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** a Special Appropriation request from Police Department in the amount of **\$34,000** to fund Special Duty Wages.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action to approve funding from the planning reserve in the amount of **\$71,800** to hire BL Companies of Meriden, Connecticut to provide engineering services for the Bradley Road Pedestrian Improvements project. BL Companies was selected to provide a proposal for engineering services using a qualifications-based selection process.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Iennaco stated that the Town received eight proposals in total. The proposal with BL Companies was then negotiated to be lowered from their original proposal cost. In terms of the total project, some items are in a conceptual phase right now and the final design plan will be determined later. The Board reviewed the different conceptual plans that were included in the current proposal.

Selectman Murphy also asked that any plans consider the Complete Streets Policy.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** funding from the planning reserve in the amount of **\$71,800** to hire BL Companies of Meriden, Connecticut to provide engineering services for the Bradley Road Pedestrian Improvements project.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

12. Discuss and take action to approve a Resolution stating opposition to the State of Connecticut shifting Teachers' Pension costs to municipalities.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Banisch stated that the Board of CCM has undertaken an initiative to create Resolutions for each member municipality which state the Town's opposition to the shifting responsibility of the Teachers' Pension costs. He stated that the shift of the costs to the Town of Madison would result in a mill rate increase.

Selectman Wilson read aloud the Proclamation as follows:

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Madison Board of Selectmen understand the serious fiscal challenges facing the State of Connecticut;

Whereas Madison residents pay the state substantial income and sales taxes, they also shoulder a heavy property tax burden, which is

in part due to persistent underfunding of municipal aid by the state;

Whereas the Madison Board of Selectmen reject the proposal to shift a portion of the "normal cost" of the Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS") onto Madison residents;

Whereas the state offers no assurances it will faithfully make its required contributions and thus the diversion of Madison property taxes to the TRS cannot guarantee its solvency

Whereas the proposal misses the important fact that teacher's salaries are largely determined by the bargaining climate in the state, salaries in surrounding towns, binding arbitration and cost of living - influences that are beyond the control of the local districts;

Whereas Governor Lamont appeared to state that he will not seek immediate pension reforms to make the system sustainable but would do so at some point in the future;

Whereas addressing revenue without reform is problematic and adds to the concern that the proposal will place an uncontrollable expense to our local budget;

Let it be resolved that The Madison Board of Selectmen cannot support assuming an open-ended obligation for which the town does not have a role in negotiating the benefit structure nor managing the investment outcome. It is the position of the Madison Board of Selectmen that the TRS proposal as it stands will negatively impact education and other municipal services. Local budgets are subject to annual referenda and there is only so much taxpayers will support. Important local objectives would necessarily be reduced or eliminated to pay an invoice to the State of Connecticut that we have no control over.

Selectman Wilson stated that although the Resolution appears to be a partisan statement, he didn't believe it was. He stated that the monies sent to Hartford in income taxes and property taxes from Madison are supposed to be used to help fund the Teachers' pensions. However, the state's solution is to push the funding back to the Towns in the form of an additional property tax. Also, throughout the State, Towns are being treated differently because some Towns will continue to receive state education funding while Madison will not. For instance, some Towns will receive more aid from the State than the cost of this additional tax.

First Selectman Banisch stated that CCM was still undergoing negotiations with the State to come to a better agreement; and these Towns involved are run by members of both political parties. CCM Members do not consider this a partisan issue.

Selectman Murphy stated that he was fully supportive of the need for a discussion regarding the impact of Madison's operating budget; however, he felt that a Resolution that represented the entire Board should be crafted by the entire Board. He asked that the item be tabled until the Resolution could be reviewed and perhaps edited as needed.

First Selectman Banisch stated that the Legislature is meeting again on this item prior to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting so time is of the essence.

Selectwoman Ferris asked what might need to be changed in the Resolution to make it comfortable with all members of the Board. Selectman Murphy stated that the Resolution seems to make direct comments to the Governor and he was not comfortable with these statements.

Selectman Goldberg stated that this is the first time he remembers the Board being asked to take a position on an item currently being reviewed by the Legislature. He questioned if the Town should be involved in making statements about State-level initiatives. Also, he stated that a Resolution stating what the Board is in favor of, versus what the Board rejects, would be a better way forward. At this moment, Selectman Goldberg stated that he was not in favor of the Board investing time and energy into matters currently in front of the legislature. The Voters of Madison has given the Board the ability to oversee Town matters and has voted in other members at a State level to take up these items. Selectman Goldberg and Selectman Murphy stated that in taking up this item, the Board was opening up the box to have to take stands on other state-level initiatives (e.g. tolls).

Selectman Murphy stated that he was okay with the Town weighing in, but he felt that there was still more information needed.

Selectman Wilson stated that the process of this type of Resolution is new; and was just brought to the Town from CCM last week. Regarding other issues at the state (e.g. tolls) these legislations are hitting our constituencies directly; however, this item is directly impacting the Operating Budget for the Town. He stated that the Resolution states that the Town is in agreement with other towns in the opposition of the current solution which is detrimental to the operating of the Town. Given the inconsistency in language coming out of the State capital, he felt it was appropriate for the Town to voice concerns about how this solution will not work. Also, he stated that the Board is in a new era and has a different fiscal reality from the state than past Boards oversaw.

First Selectman Banisch stated that CCM Board has asked the Governor to stall this initiative one year so that Towns have the possibility to more accurately budget and determine the impact on our Operating Budget.

Selectman Goldberg questioned what the objection will lead to should the plan not pass at the state level. First Selectman Banisch stated that as the negotiations continue, he will be happy to update the Board. Of the 22 members of the CCM Executive Board, all 22 unanimously approve this resolution. Also, Newtown, which this resolution was borrowed from, is not part of the Executive Board and they have already passed the Resolution.

The Board reviewed the best way to edit the Resolution so that the final document was one that could be unanimously approved. The following revisions were made:

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Madison Board of Selectmen understand the serious fiscal challenges facing the State of Connecticut;

Whereas Madison residents pay the state substantial income and sales taxes, they also shoulder a heavy property tax burden, which is in part due to persistent underfunding of municipal aid by the state;

Whereas the Madison Board of Selectmen reject the proposal to shift a portion of the "normal cost" of the Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS") onto Madison residents;

~~Whereas the current TRS proposal~~ ~~Whereas the state offers no assurances~~ ~~the state~~ ~~it will faithfully~~ ~~make its required contributions~~ ~~to the fund~~; and thus the diversion of Madison property taxes to the TRS cannot guarantee its solvency

Whereas the ~~current TRS~~ proposal misses the important fact that teacher's salaries are largely determined by the bargaining climate in the state, salaries in surrounding towns, binding arbitration and cost of living. ~~—influences that are beyond the control of the local districts;~~

~~Whereas Governor Lamont appeared to state that he will not seek immediate pension reforms to make the system sustainable but would do so at some point in the future;~~

~~Whereas addressing revenue without reform is problematic and adds to the concern that the proposal will place an uncontrollable expense to our local budget;~~

Let it be resolved that The Madison Board of Selectmen cannot support assuming an open-ended obligation for which the town does not have a role in negotiating the benefit structure nor managing the investment outcome. It is the position of the Madison Board of Selectmen that the TRS proposal as it stands will negatively impact education and other municipal services. ~~Local budgets are subject to annual referenda and there is only so much taxpayers will support. Important local objectives would necessarily be reduced or eliminated to pay an invoice to the State of Connecticut that we have no control over.~~

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectwoman Ferris to **APPROVE** a Resolution stating opposition to the State of Connecticut shifting Teachers' Pension costs to municipalities as amended.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

13. Discuss and take action to approve the revised Charge of the Ad-Hoc Academy School Community Center Design Committee.

DISCUSSION: the Board reviewed the membership and noted that Gus Horvath had resigned from the Committee. The Board also reviewed the addition of language for maintenance costs as well as a potential timeline for the project.

Committee Chair, Bill Stableford requested that the Board consider additional funds for Colliers International for their assistance in the next phase of the process.

The Board also reviewed the timeline of how projects are incorporated into the CIP.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectwoman Ferris to **APPROVE** the revised Charge of the Ad-Hoc Academy School Community Center Design Committee, as amended.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

14. Discuss Coastal Resilience.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Anderson stated that a good session was held about a week prior to discuss what Madison can expect as far as sea-level rise by 2050. He also reviewed the reinstatement of the Flood & Erosion Control Board. Additionally, Mr. Anderson stated that town staff and electors should be involved in moving forward with initiatives to address coastal resiliency so that the monetary impact to the Town is minimized. If this new commission is created, the Board could move the Town Meeting vote on June 24th.

Selectman Goldberg stated that the matter is important and a permanent commission should be created. Selectman Wilson agreed to this recommendation.

15. Tax Abatements / Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** tax abatements / refunds in the amount of **\$6,489.62**.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

16. Citizens comments.

Gus Horvath of Aylesbury Circle stated that the Board should work to create line items within the CIP for the Academy School and for Coastal Resiliency. One way to do this would be to add more money into the Planning Reserve Account.

Kathryn Hunter of Scotland Avenue stated that it was her understanding that Academy would be included in the major capital projects. She stated that the \$14million figure should still be a placeholder in the CIP.

17. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments.

Jean Ferris Senior Commission
Scott Murphy Youth & Family Svcs, BOE
Bruce Wilson

18. Adjournment.

There being no objections, First Selectman Banisch adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Executive Assistant