WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut declared a public health emergency and a civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and,

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Connecticut issued Executive Order Number 7, limiting the number of individuals that may convene, meet or otherwise gather throughout the State, to no more than 250 people or more for social and recreational activities including, but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Madison, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-8a(a), 28-1(8), and 28-22, and Section 10.1.3 and 4.1.4 of the Town Charter, declared a local civil preparedness emergency, due to the significant danger to public health posed by the global spread of COVID-19, shortages of supplies and equipment necessary to protect the public health and safety, and the spread of COVID-19 to residents of the Town of Madison as a result of the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Governor of the State of Connecticut amended and modified his Executive Order Number 7 with Executive Order Number 7D, to require that all such gatherings as contemplated and addressed by Executive Order Number 7 be limited to no more than 50 or more people; and, included “religious, spiritual or worship gatherings”; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the Governor of the State of Connecticut amended and modified his Executive Order Number 7 with Executive Order Number 7H, to urge residents to “stay safe, stay home” and provide guidance to essential businesses to reduce their workforce; and

WHEREAS, due to the significant adverse impact on public health of COVID-19, and the acceleration of the spread of the disease, the First Selectwoman, in consultation with Town officials, has decided to take
further action for the purpose of ensuring civil preparedness and mitigating the adverse effects of social and recreational gathering within the Town of Madison; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to combat the transmission of Coronavirus which poses a substantial threat to the public health of the Town of Madison, the Town promotes and encourages residents to stay home whenever possible, and additionally encourages residents to conduct business with the Town and make payments to the Town, such as tax payments, via online services; and,

WHEREAS, it is known that certain populations are more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, such as the elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, it is known that residents will need to leave their homes from time to time to purchase groceries, medical supplies, and other items necessary to sustain life, and that there is a possibility of surface contamination from the virus, on personal use or reusable shopping bags used for these purposes; and

WHEREAS, the powers granted by Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-8a(a), 28-1(8), and Section 10.1.3 and 4.1.4 of the Town of Madison Charter, proclaim said First Selectwoman to have and exercise all executive and administrative powers conferred upon any municipal chief executive;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that, consistent with the guidelines of the Federal Government and pursuant to the powers and duties granted in the Connecticut General Statutes and the Charter of the Town of Madison, in response to the civil preparedness and public health emergency now facing the Town of Madison, and in accordance with advice from Town officials, that:

1. All fees for online payments with e-check or debit card transactions are hereby waived until Town government offices reopen to the public for regular business hours, or until the State of Emergency has been lifted by the Governor following the COVID-19 pandemic response.

2. Applications approved during fiscal year 2018-2019 for relief applied to July 2019 tax bills for tax relief pursuant to Code of Ordinances Sec. 20-11. - Property tax relief; senior tax freeze program for certain elderly and/or disabled homeowners, shall automatically renew for a one-year period only, and said relief shall be considered approved and applied to tax bills due on July 1, 2020.

3. In order to limit the possibility of surface contamination from the virus, personal use or reusable shopping bags are discouraged and businesses in Madison are hereby granted permission on a temporary basis to provide customers single use plastic bags following the Governor’s Executive Order No. 7N, and to waive the $0.10 mandatory charge for paper bags, as set forth in the Code of Ordinances, Section 18-21, until the State of Emergency has been lifted by the Governor.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Executive Order will be in effect until such time as the public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared by the Governor have been rescinded. A full copy of this Executive Order will be made publicly available for inspection and review in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Madison and shall be posted on the Town of Madison website.
Dated: March 25, 2020

Peggy R. Lyons
First Selectwoman