MINUTES
MADISON SELECT BOARD MEETING
EAST MADISON FIRE STATION
Monday February 24, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Video link: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1rRFP8pz-c*

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm and all saluted the flag.

B. Roll Call: Ms. Dwyer was present online (via Zoom), Mr. Bean was absent, all other members were present in person.

C. **Consent Agenda**

1. A/P Warrants:
   #23 – 02-11-2025 - $158,167.41

2. Payroll Registers:
   # 6 – 02-06-2025 – $20,867.52
   # 7 – 02-13-2025 – $24,276.09
   # 8 – 02-20-2025 – $22,623.32

Motion by Ms. Estes to accept the AP Warrants and Payroll Registers as presented, second by Mr. Moody. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

D. **Acceptance of the minutes** of the Select Board meeting on January 27, 2025.

Motion by Ms. Estes to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2025 meeting as presented, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Mr. Moody abstained).

E. **Acceptance of the minutes** of the Select Board meeting on February 10, 2025 (*SD, KE, SB*)

TABLED

F. **Old Business:**

1. Review Ordinance change for Chapter 742 (Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants)

The Town Manager presented the need for this ordinance to be updated because it contained the names of former members of the Select Board, not currently in office. Additionally, there is the need to amend the ordinance to include the ability for one or more Select Board members "currently in office" to approve disbursements to the State or to the County. She presented the Board with two options: 1) to duplicate Article I relating to Employee Wages and Benefits for Article II relating to State and County Transaction-related Fees; and 2) to duplicate the first three sections of Article I into

Article II and create Article III to incorporate the commonalities for both articles. The Town Manager recommended option 2. Chairman Veneziano agreed that specific names of Select Board members should not be included in the ordinance.

Motion by Ms. Dwyer to accept the changes recommended under option 2 (Articles I, II, and III), second by Ms. Estes. Discussion included a question by Ms. Estes to make sure that normal warrants would still require the majority of the Board to sign, not just an individual Board member. The Town Manager explained that it was only for payroll or State / County fees disbursements, not the regular warrants. Ms. Estes asked if there was anything in the State law that would prohibit this procedure. The Town Manager said she would do more research and bring it back to the Board at the next meeting, March 10th, when there will be public hearings on the ordinance changes. The motion was TABLED until March 10th.

2. School crossing lights on Main Street

   The Road Commissioner, Jeff Wright explained that the pedestrian crossing lights in front of Main Street Middle School have not been working and that he reached out to a vendor who could service them. The vendor suggested the controller board needed to be replaced and quoted between $7,200 and $8,800 for parts and labor. Chairman Veneziano asked if there was money in the budget for this year and the Town Manager replied no, it would have to be built into the budget for next year. Chairman Veneziano asked Mr. Wright how long the vendor would be willing to hold the quote for us. Mr. Wright will check and report back.

   Mr. Moody emphasized that we should get the school crossing lights fixed before the next school year, understanding that we don't have the money in this year's budget. He added that it should be a priority as soon as the next year's funding is available. Mr. Wright agreed.

   Mr. Wright also brought up the electronic sign at the playground and how it is not functioning properly. He inquired if it could be repaired or would need to be replaced. The Town Manager said it would have to be replaced, that repairing it is not an option due to the age of the sign and the location of the company that installed it (Florida). She stated that she is researching other sign companies, including more locally owned vendors, and will have suggestions for the next fiscal budget.

G. **Items of Communication:**

1. Living Well reports – Living Well Coordinator, Cheyenne Stevens mentioned that there is a list of free, upcoming community events being offered as a result of a grant, as well as an article about the successful pilot program for offering transportation services from KVCAP to residents of 1 Madison Ave. They are willing to continue the conversation about bringing transportation services back to Madison on a regular basis.

2. Town Manager's report on expenses and revenues – currently at 63.6% (week 34 = 65.4%) – the Town Manager stated we are still running slightly under budget for now but that it will get closer as we near fiscal year end.

3. Associates for Training and Development (A4TD) – Program seeks to help 55+ people learn skills to get them back into the workforce. One person has been working in the Town Office for two weeks under this program. They are paid out of federal grant funds administered through A4TD, not paid by the Town. She is assigned general office clerk tasks including filing, organizing, data entry, etc. and is gaining knowledge, experience and confidence.

   Currently, they are utilizing space in the Old Point Avenue building. Chairman Veneziano asked if this is being advertised, how would people get involved with the program. This could be advertised on the Town sign and website, in addition to the Living Well posters and flyers. Margo Hanlon has been in contact with Channel 11 and the Historical Society in addition to the Town Office in searching for host agencies.

4. Town Manager for Madison (Denise): requested an update for the Madison location. Colin: "We started there last week and installed some of the Ped Heads. We went to Buxton because of a schedule cabinet swap with CMP. The crew will be back in Madison tomorrow, probably for 4 or 5 days. Work on getting the new signals and the cabinet swap done. The PED work is ongoing, and our foreman has contacted Scott Lloyd with the Madison Power Company about the power cut over. They have a date worked out."

   Mr. Wright spoke about the changes to the traffic and pedestrian lights at the intersection of Main St and Weston/Old Point Avenues. There is a camera above the control box to monitor traffic. The Town Manager asked if there was an audible signal for pedestrian crossing. Mr. Wright didn't know but will find out. (There is an audible alert.)

H. **New Business**

1. Volunteer Policy for Library - DRAFT

   Head Librarian Julie Forbus drafted a volunteer policy for people wishing to serve in a volunteer capacity at the public library. She wanted to make sure they understood what their responsibilities might include, what they could be asked to do versus what they would not be asked or required to do.

   Chairman Veneziano suggested changing the word "policy" to "guidelines" in the title. The Library Board of Trustees should be the authority to approve the guidelines. The Town Manager will notify Ms. Forbus how to proceed.

2. Fill vacancy on MSAD 59 School Board

   The Town Manager explained that the vacancy on the School Board must be filled by appointment from the Select Board according to Maine Statute. The Chairperson Irene Christopher put forth the name of Bruce Thebarge to fill the vacancy since he has prior experience with school budgets, and the School Board is beginning their budget process for FY 2025-2026.

Motion by Ms. Estes to appoint Bruce Thebarge to fill the vacancy until the next municipal election on June 10, 2025, second by Ms. Dwyer. Chairman Veneziano stated vacancies need to be opened to the public with an opportunity for interested parties to step forward. Mr. Moody asked if it had been put out to the public before the School Board put in their recommendation. The Select Board and the Town Manager do not have an answer for that. Mr. Moody asked if this was something that should be put in writing? Chairman Veneziano agreed. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Fill vacancy on Appeals Board

   Christine Stratton resigned from the Appeals Board and there are two matters pending for them to review. The Town Manager put the name of Michael Pike forth to fill the vacancy.

   Motion by Ms. Dwyer to appoint Michael Pike to the Appeals Board, second by Ms. Estes. Discussion on length of term was decided as finishing the term for which Ms. Stratton was appointed. Motion passed 4-0.

4. Establish dates for matching grant round 2 (up to $14,400 total)

   The Town Manager suggested having the next round of grant applications due March 31st with the Select Board to review and award grants by the end of April.

5. Set date for annual Town Meeting

   Motion by Ms. Estes to hold the annual Town Meeting at Thomass Elias Auditorium on June 9, 2025 starting at 7pm, second by Ms. Dwyer. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

6. Set date for local election

   Motion by Ms. Estes to set the date and time for the local election to Tuesday, June 10, 2025 from 8am to 8pm at the Old Point Avenue school, second by Mr. Moody. Town Clerk, Cheyenne Stevens noted that with the date set for the local election, nomination papers would be available from the Town Clerk's Office on March 3, 2025 and will be due back no later than 4pm on April 11, 2025. The following seats are open: two (2) seats for three-year terms on the Select Board, two (2) seats for three-year terms for MSAD 59 School Board of Directors, one (1) seat for one-year term to finish the term of the vacated seat on the MSAD 59 School Board of Directors, one (1) seat for a five-year term on the Madison Electric Works Board of Directors, one (1) seat for three-year term on Anson-Madison Sanitary District, one (1) seat for three-year term on Anson-Madison Water District, one (1) seat for two-year term on Anson-Madison Water District (vacant seat not previously filled in last election), and one (1) seat for five-year term on Madison Public Library Board of Trustees. Chairman Veneziano asked if there would be absentee voting again and Ms. Stevens responded that it would start 30 days before the election. No further discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Signatures only on Quit Claim Deeds

The Town Manager presented a corrected version of the payment agreement for the foreclosed upon property, reviewed and approved by Town Attorney, Ken Lexier. The agreement was previously approved but corrected to include the second half of the 2024 taxes and the closing date prior to September 8, 2025.

The Town Clerk stated that there were nine properties that were foreclosed upon in 2024 that have incorrect discharge information on them. Specifically, the foreclosure date was February 9, 2024 but she was taking payments until February 24, 2024. She had been in contact with MMA Legal and Ken Lexier to correct the matter. Mr. Lexier advised her to correct each one of the nine discharges as they come to attention.

Ms. Stevens presented a quit claim deed for one of the nine properties, in the Estate of Bette Ann Chesley. The family is trying to sell the property and cannot proceed without the quit claim deed. Motion by Ms. Estes to issue a quit claim deed to Stephen Chesley, Ann Webb, and Juliette Chesley for 33 Lower Mills Road to correct the error identified above, second by Mr. Moody. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

The Town Manager presented another quit claim deed to be signed for a property that was recently foreclosed upon. The property owner initially paid the outstanding tax by check before the foreclosure cut-off date, but the check was returned for insufficient funds. They came in the following week and paid the balance plus the NSF fee in cash. Motion by Ms. Estes to issue a quit claim deed to Deborah and Lawrence Ashby for 60 Maple Street, second by Mr. Moody. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0.

8. The Town Manager brought the matter of Northern Light Inland Hospital pulling their PT services from the Madison 201 location to the attention of the Select Board. She drafted a letter to be signed by herself and Chairman Veneziano asking the President of Northern Light Inland Hospital to reconsider this decision. Chairman Veneziano read the proposed letter aloud.

I. Citizen Concerns:

Randy Bliss asked if the Town could look at the Sheriff's admin position currently located on the lower level of the Town Office to determine if we should keep that position or not. Chairman Veneziano mentioned we could have a discussion with the Sheriff about that. He also said people in town like having the ability to go to the Admin at the Town Office to do business. Also, he stated not many people would be able to find the Sheriff's main office. Mr. Moody reminded the Select Board that they had visited this issue in the past and that the public wanted to keep the office in town. Mr. Bliss said there were about 10 people a month who were using the convenience but wondered if it was really worth the expense. Chairman Veneziano indicated that the cost was built into the annual Sheriff's contract and that the deputies appreciated having a place to meet with citizens or complete paperwork. By taking the Admin off the payroll, the burden of her duties would shift to the deputies. He added that having the deputies available for more patrol time would be better than requiring them to do more paperwork.

David Bernard revisited the issue under new business for appointing someone to fill the vacancy on the School Board. He wondered if there was a way to keep track of who runs

for School Board and the number of votes each person got. In the event someone stepped down, maybe the person with the next highest number of votes could be invited to fill the vacancy. Chairman Veneziano suggested that they could be invited to a Select Board or School Board meeting and determine whether the board would approve them.

J. Select Board Concerns:

None

K. Adjournment:

Motion by Ms. Estes to adjourn, second by Mr. Moody. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

NEXT REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
WITH PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR ORDINANCES
MONDAY MARCH 10, 2025
108 OLD POINT AVENUE
6:30 pm