

TOWN OF MADISON - PUBLIC NOTICE

The Inhabitants of the Town of Madison are hereby notified of a public meeting,
The time, place and purpose of which are as follows:

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MADISON AREA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
Monday, April 6, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

- A. Salute to the flag. Done.
- B. Roll Call. Present were Albert Veneziano, Jack Ducharme, Paul Fortin, Mike Edgerly and Cyp Johnson.
- C. Consent Agenda.
- 1. Warrants dated: #31 (03/23/15 – \$538,232.33), #32 (03/23/15 – \$4,336.93) Payroll Registers dated: Week #13 (03/26/15 - \$18,808.24), #14 (04/02/15 - \$17,024.44). Selectman Ducharme made a motion to approve the warrants. Selectman Edgerly seconded. Motion carried.
- D. Discuss meeting minutes of March 23, 2015. Selectman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Edgerly seconded. Motion carried.
- E. Old business (Selectmen’s Concerns from immediately preceding meeting). Selectman Johnson has been getting calls on the Kincaid Road and wondered what was being done. Town Manager Curtis said we will rock rake it but we can’t take any heavy equipment down until mud season passes. There were no other concerns.
- F. Items of Communication. None.
- G. New Business.
 - 1. Public Hearing on Police Department. Chairman Veneziano opened the public hearing. Town Manager Curtis provided some information to the public. The economic condition of the Town was discussed. One of the steps to address the situation was to reduce the budget in a significant way. The Town has not borrowed from the Line of Credit and the Board is reluctant to borrow money to run the day to day operations. The preliminary budget is has been reduced by \$800,000 through departmental cuts, delaying capital projects, and utilizing approved TIF funds for municipal expenses. This effort will help to keep the taxes from going up not down. Cutting costs while maintaining services were looked at. The Board looked at Police services to see if we could provide the same service at a lower cost. Somerset County presented the Town with a proposal of \$481,000 for the County to provide police services with the same officers, administrative staff and from the same office that they currently operate. Shared services are not uncommon. Sheriff Lancaster said the bulk of the police budget is wages and benefits. If we go with the County, the 5 employees will become County employees following County wages and benefits. In that cost, they were able to save \$94,000. We would have the same level of service and the same coverage. The office would remain open. Questions from the public. What happens to the equipment and the office space – heat electricity, etc.? The County would take over the cruisers but they would be used to patrol in Madison. Who replaces the cruisers? The County would be asking for a car every other year. The question was raised whether our officers would be sent out of Town to remote County locations. No, the Town of Madison would be paying a cost for Madison operations – the officers would be assigned to Madison unless life or death situations, they would expect any officer to respond to surrounding areas. A question on giving up local control was asked and what are the issues that would be problematic if we gave up local control? The County would partner with the Town to be problem solvers.in the

community. The town would have an avenue to file complaints. The relationship with other communities – partnerships would be built. Would our officers be assigned to work elsewhere or stay in Madison? Our officers would stay/work in Madison. Will cruisers still be identified as Madison Police? Cruisers would be lettered as Sheriff but they would be designated on the car as Madison. Would police officers have more advancement opportunities? They're working on union contracts now – eventually there may be opportunities. Would the contract price increase next year? They can't say that costs will never go up; however, the planned relationship with the Town will allow them to look at costs. Would we have an article placed on the warrant every year to vote up or down? Yes. What is the length of the contract? It is a one year contract. Benefits or losses other than financial? If it does not work, we'll be able to go back to what it was. Equipment will need to be inventoried so that if it doesn't work out, we'll be able to get it back. The rate of crimes solved was questioned. That rate has increased since Sheriff Lancaster has been with the County. The amount spent a year ago was questioned. Town Manager asked individual to stop by the office for explanation – later said that it was due to vacancies in positions. If a police officer leaves or gets promoted, do we get another replacement to keep us at 5? Sheriff Lancaster said yes, the Town pays for a level of coverage. Are the County Commissioners on board with this? Sheriff Lancaster meets with them later this month – although he can't speak for them, he has their support. If Madison cruisers are closer to respond to emergency call and we don't go, is there a liability issue to the taxpayers of Somerset County. Sheriff Lancaster said no, the Town of Madison pays for a service and that equipment and personnel are dedicated and assigned to Town of Madison. Are there any other towns that are doing what we are talking about? There are several in York, Cumberland and Penobscot counties. We would be the first in Somerset. Chairman Veneziano declared the public hearing closed.

2. Discuss small claims on unpaid Personal Property. Town Manager said there are 14 accounts for personal property that our Tax Collector has recommended we take to Small Claims Court. Cost is \$50 per claim; we're hoping to collect up to \$6,000 in past due personal property taxes. Selectman Johnson made a motion to go forward with this. Selectman Fortin seconded. Selectman Fortin asked if any were in bankruptcy-suggested we check before proceeding. Selectman Edgerly asked if we could collect the \$50 fee? Town Manager believes we can re-coop that fee. Motion carried.
3. Discuss Waste Management contract. Town Manager sent the latest version to the Board on Friday. This is a three-year contract. Selectman Ducharme made a motion to approve this contract and have the Town Manager enter into the contract with Waste Management. Selectman Edgerly seconded. Motion carried.

H. Selectmen's Concerns. Selectmen Johnson, Fortin and Edgerly had no concerns. Selectman Ducharme asked about the rental of the street sweeper from Town of Skowhegan – led to believe Skowhegan decided not to buy. Town Manager said it doesn't change the amount allocated in the budget – rental fee would have no impact. Selectman Veneziano reminded the Board that there will be no meeting next Monday, April 13th. Town Manager Curtis said that at the end of the Advisory Board/Selectmen's meeting the boards had approved \$10,000 to go as a Capital expense to pay any interest that may occur if we draw on the Line of Credit. The bookkeeper recommended that we put that amount of money in the Administration budget - contract services (as Capital, we can't depreciate it – it's not an asset). Selectman Fortin made a motion to move \$10,000 from Capital to Administration. Selectman Ducharme seconded. Motion carried.

I. Citizen's Concerns. None.

J. Adjournment. Selectman Ducharme made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Edgerly seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.