

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016
7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: JAMES MADISON ROOM (ROOM A) - TOWN CAMPUS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

7:00 p.m. Regular Session

First Selectman Banisch called the Regular Session of Monday, July 25, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Banisch, Selectman Goldberg, Selectman Hale, Selectwoman Walker and Selectman Wilson.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Eagle Scouts Jack, David & Erik Lazor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of minutes

MOVED by Selectman Hale and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings held on June 27, 2016.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Comments:

- a. As everyone knows the Phase I of the Downtown Center Project is completed. Phase II logistics are being planned. A TOD grant was received from the state to help revitalize the Tuxis Walkway and that will be added to Phase II of the project. The town will also look into other ways to use TOD grants; with this area comprising about 1 ½ miles around the train station. If we increase commercial development; we increase the tax base. There is also a possibility of increasing usage of the western part of the Post Road.
- b. Regarding the SAA's withdrawal from the Academy Street School Project; the project, although good for the Town, was not backed-up with their ability to finance the project. Selectwoman Walker noted that their removal was due to the stagnation of the project and the Town's lack of negotiating. She added that she felt the negotiations were not effective. Selectman Goldberg stated that he is still puzzled about the press release that was issued by the First Selectman. He stated that the press release was not necessarily indicative of the feelings of the board as a whole. Selectman Hale stated that he read the First Selectman's press release as indicative of his feelings and that he is well within his rights under the Charter to have done so. He added that this is a complex issue and the negotiations didn't go as fast as the Town would have liked, either. Selectman Hale stated that the original purpose of the letter of

intent was to stimulate fundraising; and he had not seen any result from that letter.

4. Citizen Comments:

Gus Horvath of Aylesbury Circle stated that regarding the Academy Street School, there have been several questions posed for what can be done with the school going forward and several studies conducted for the same. Mr. Horvath provided a visual presentation of the different phases of the property. He noted that the original building was demolished and therefore this might have bearing on how the current building can be used, and if the stipulations originally put forth in the 1884 deed are still in effect. Mr. Horvath added that he has asked to put this information forward in the newspaper but was denied.

Walter Lippmann of Sycamore Lane first commended the Eagle Scouts for their service to their Town. He also noted the research put forth by Mr. Horvath and noted his admiration for Mr. Horvath as well. Mr. Lippmann added that he has tried to solve some issues that he sees in the Town; one issue being with a contractor that neglected to pick-up the garbage downtown during the sidewalk sales this past weekend. He suggested that the board should terminate this contract with this vendor and that the Public Works department should take over until the RFQ was sent out; also the current vendor should be precluded from bidding on the work going forward. Mr. Lippmann also stated that he has not heard anything regarding an issue he brought up regarding a sign at Moxie (a Madison sign, riddled with bullet holes). He stated that he knows the Board cannot make the owner remove the sign, but he felt that the Board should publically decry the Town. Mr. Lippmann again asked the Board to think about the ramifications of this sign; and what they can do to condemn the sign hanging in an establishment in Town.

Mike Piccione of Neck Road stated that he has seen a lot of rhetorical articles in the local newspaper defending the SAA. He stated that economically this is a horrible time for the Town to be undergoing such a project. He stated that First Selectman Banisch brought out all of the concerns in the Letter of Intent. Mr. Piccione also stated that the Town asked the SAA for financial information and it was not forthcoming. He stated that the Town as well as the State of Connecticut has undergone much financial change throughout the years. He applauded the First Selectman and the board members that supported him for protecting the taxpayers of the Town. Mr. Piccione added that the Town of Madison should also applaud the First Selectman.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Progress Report on Salt Meadow Park.

DISCUSSION: Alicia Sullivan, chair, thanked the Board for allowing their presentation. She also thanked Town Engineer, Mike Ott and Recreation Director Scot Erskine for creating the park and supporting the efforts of the committee. Ms. Sullivan added that the fields are very well-used by the sport leagues in the Town; many walkers who use the

trails and also many birders who frequent the park. The picnic tables are getting use at lunch time and potential kayakers have approached the committee. Ms. Sullivan stated that over the last year, the Town staff has made sure that remediation work was assessed and completed. She added that the coastal grass is growing; this grass is particular and should not be mowed for conservation purposes. There is a sign on its way to the park which will be installed on August 11th at 6:00 p.m. with a dedication ceremony. There is also a lot left to complete for the park including: installation of a parking lot where the remediation was just completed, as well as a building with a restroom facility, a kayak launch. All of this will hopefully be included in the CIP plan going forward.

Selectman Goldberg stated that the Board could perhaps improve their policies on financial programs and develop a more formal process for maintenance budget. He noted that the CALEA accreditation could be used as a guideline. He added that as the Board considers the next budget cycle, they consider a more orderly way to develop maintenance budgets. First Selectman Banisch stated that conversations were in progress for the maintenance of the downtown area already. He added that the plantings downtown have a one-year maintenance plan and will be maintained by an outside company. The goal is for Town employees to learn the process from this outside company. Selectman Goldberg stated that this was a good idea, but that there were other areas of maintenance to consider. Selectwoman Walker stated that also, the different types of areas should be considered, i.e. parking lots, conservation / wetland areas and fields. She added that this is an evolving process that should be considered yearly.

5a. Discuss and take action to approve allowing First Selectman Banisch to apply for and administer a Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program through the Office of Policy and Management.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Banisch stated that this program was just noticed today; and he stated that the Town has a few cemeteries that would benefit from this program. The staff has been maintaining some parts of the cemeteries but the Hammonasset Cemetery in particular needs to be addressed.

First Selectman Banisch stated that the Town currently has an intern, Patrick Fahey who is working on looking into options for the Cemeteries and also an intern, Cameron Hubbard is working on assessing and selling / donating materials left behind in the Academy Street School (this is not the equipment being stored by the SAA).

MOVED by Selectman Walker and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to **APPROVE** allowing First Selectman Banisch to apply for and administer a Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program through the Office of Policy and Management.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action to approve the hiring of Jennifer Wenderoth-Holster to the part-time position of Assistant MADE Coalition Coordinator at an annual budgeted salary of \$26,000. Start date to be determined by Madison Youth & Family Services.

MOVED by Selectman Hale and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** the hiring of Jennifer Wenderoth-Holster to the part-time position of Assistant MADE Coalition Coordinator at an annual budgeted salary of \$26,000.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

6a. Update on the Strong Field Center Project.

DISCUSSION: Duo Dickinson stated that there was work currently in progress and the committee is currently in the process of determining the contract for the Field Houses with construction hopefully for the fall of 2016. When the Town received money from the state, there were strings attached for the project. He stated that buildings may be framed by the winter and the plaza may be completed by Spring 2017. The committee hopes to have the contract and funding to the Board for approval next month. Also, the Visitor's Field House does not have a name; and any outside donor support is appreciated. Mr. Dickinson added that Mr. Ott is an extraordinary employee for the Town and his services should be commended.

7. Presentation and discussion of the 5 year Strategic Plan for Youth and Family Services.

DISCUSSION: Scott Cochran, MY&FS Director thanked the board for allowing his presentation. He also added that the plan was developed over 1 and ½ years ago with the retirement of three of the prior leadership roles. He added that the plan was developed to address issues and measurements to relieve these issues. Mr. Cochran stated that the department would come to the Boards throughout the year(s) for changes in services, etc. and that this plan is the backbone for future requests. He added that residents don't always know what the department does for the Town, including youth development programs, social services and therapy programs to name a few. There are issues in every community, but they key in Madison is the variable level of awareness throughout the community (i.e. academic stress). Mr. Cochran also overviewed several issues facing the youth in Madison and how mediums such a social media affected the spread of these issues. He noted that the goal of the department was to move these issues in a healthy direction.

To address these issues the department would be continuously collecting data on their efficacy and to measure their success. There is a campaign of reach-out to the Police Department and schools. Also, the department wanted to extend their reach to younger students as children in elementary are beginning to show signs of stress and their ability to manage stress should be encouraged from an earlier age. The development of more awareness campaigns is important to this facet of the plan. The department always wants to be moving forward and engaging the community in all aspects of their services. He noted that there would be pitfalls and successes to funding for these services; such as an increase of clinical revenue. They are not asking to add staff, but to reorganize staff to maintain the most efficient department possible. Also, there will be decreases in funding due to the state budget changes. The department needs to plan for other budget cuts, for MADE services going forward and for the staff in relation to the classification plan.

First Selectman Banisch asked if there was a chance of receiving an additional MADE grant once the current grant expires in 2018 and Mr. Cochran stated that the same grant would be available. The current grant is very sizable and pays for many programs as well as for one staff salary. He noted that he would be bringing this to the budget cycle during the next fiscal year. This current plan was hoping to set the foundation of these changes that will be needed in the future. The Board

8. Discuss and take action to approve a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from the Noble Family to the Social Services Department.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cochran stated that this donation was in memory of Michele Noble who passed away in a car accident a couple of years ago.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from the Noble Family to the Social Services Department.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discuss and take action to approve a donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Neighbor 2 Neighbor to the Youth & Family Services & Social Services Departments. The funds will be used for emergency financial assistance to individuals / families in need.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** a donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Neighbor 2 Neighbor to the Youth & Family Services & Social Services Departments. The funds will be used for emergency financial assistance to individuals / families in need.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss and take action to approve Line Item Transfers totaling \$2,200,743.99. Such transfers are for the re-allocation of the 2016-2017 Public Works Budget.

DISCUSSION: Selectwoman Walker noted that this was already reviewed and approved by the Board of Finance.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** Line Item Transfers totaling \$2,200,743.99. Such transfers are for the re-allocation of the 2016-2017 Public Works Budget.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation of \$561,784 to replenish various Departments' budgets due to freeze in 2015-2016.

DISCUSSION: Selectwoman Walker stated that this would bring the budget current to the one set forth by the Board of Selectman. Also, this has already been reviewed and approved by the Board of Finance.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectwoman Walker to **APPROVE** a Special Appropriation of \$561, 784 to replenish various Departments' budgets due to freeze in 2015-2016.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

12. Discuss and take action to call a Special Town Meeting on August 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The call of the meeting will be to consider and take action on a Special Appropriation to replenish various Departments' budgets due to freeze in 2015-2016 in the amount of \$561,784.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** calling a Special Town Meeting on August 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The call of the meeting will be to consider and take action on a Special Appropriation to replenish various Departments' budgets due to freeze in 2015-2016 in the amount of \$562,024.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

13. Discuss and take action to call a Public Hearing on August 22, 2016 immediately following the Special Town Meeting at 6:00 p.m., to review proposed changes to Town Ordinances.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** calling a Public Hearing on August 22, 2016 immediately following the Special Town Meeting at 6:00 p.m. to review proposed changes to Town Ordinances.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

14. Discuss and take action to approve the lease purchase agreement for four (4) Madison Police Department Patrol Vehicles as specified and approved in the 2016-2017 Vehicle replacement schedule; and to approve the First Selectman to sign a resolution for the same, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Madison desires to enter into a Lease-Purchase Agreement, by and between Government Capital Corporation and Town of Madison, for the purpose of financing "Police vehicle(s) & related equipment". The Town of Madison desires to designate this Agreement as a "qualified tax exempt obligation" of the Town of Madison for the purposes of Section 265 (b) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Town of Madison desires to designate Tom Banisch, First Selectman, as an authorized signer of the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE TOWN OF MADISON:

Section 1. That the Town of Madison enters into a Lease Purchase Agreement with Government Capital Corporation for the purpose of financing "Police vehicle(s) & related equipment".

Section 2. That the Lease Purchase Agreement, by and between the Town of Madison and Government Capital Corporation is designated by the Town of Madison as a "qualified tax exempt obligation" for the purposes of Section 265 (b) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 3. That the Town of Madison designates Tom Banisch, First Selectman, as an authorized signer of the Lease Purchase Agreement, by and between the Town of Madison and Government Capital Corporation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Selectman of the Town of Madison in a meeting held on the 25th day of July 2016.

DISCUSSION: Selectwoman Walker read aloud the above resolution for the record. First Selectman Banisch stated that this was already approved through the CIP process, but this motion was to release the funds via signing the agreement.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** the lease purchase agreement for four (4) Madison Police Department Patrol Vehicles as specified and approved in the 2016-2017 Vehicle replacement schedule; and to approve the First Selectman to sign a resolution for the same.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

15. Discuss and take action on the purchase of the LeSage Property at 351 Copse Road in the amount of \$800,000.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Banisch stated that this motion was allowing the Town to move forward with negotiations and Selectman Hale added that the process would still need to go to Town Meeting as well. Selectman Wilson stated that he cautioned that this should not be taken as a signal that the Board supports any other plan than the purchase of this property. The BOE will still need to consider their plan going forward under the school feasibility study.

MOVED by First Selectman Banisch and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to **APPROVE** the negotiations for the purchase of the LeSage Property at 351 Copse Road in the amount not exceeding \$800,000.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

16. Discuss and take action on a Temporary Right-of-Entry agreement with Amtrak for use of the Shoreline East parking area.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Banisch stated that this is the train station parking lot and the Town had negotiated a right-of-entry agreement for a specific period of time. The agreement adds parking on Bradley Road of 74+ spaces. Selectman Walker asked if there was an automatic renewal and First Selectman Banisch stated that the Town Attorney was working on this piece. The Board also discussed the \$10,000 contingency for snow removal; First Selectman Banisch stated that these funds were not budgeted as it was felt by all parties that the fees would not be assessed. Selectwoman Walker added that it wouldn't hurt to add this amount into the budget, just in case. Selectman Goldberg thanked the Town departments for their work towards this agreement, the EDC and Representative Joe Courtney. The Board also discussed the specification of the agreement, including insurance requirements. The Board reviewed that the contract was reviewed by the Town Attorney and that the Town Engineer was involved in the early stages and felt comfortable with the terms of the agreement.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** a Temporary Right-of-Entry agreement with Amtrak for use of the Shoreline East parking area.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

17. Discuss and take action to approve the resignation of Jennifer McLain from the Youth and Family Services Board.

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Wilson to **APPROVE** the resignation of Jennifer McLain from the Youth and Family Services Board with thanks from the Board and Youth & Family Services Director, Scott Cochran.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

17a. Tax abatements / refunds:

MOVED by Selectwoman Walker and seconded by Selectman Hale to **APPROVE** the tax abatements / refunds in the amount of **\$7,219.36**.

VOTE: This motion was approved unanimously.

18. Citizens comments

Gus Horvath questioned the litigation settlement agreement on the prior Board of Finance agenda and First Selectman Banisch stated that this was approved by the Board of Selectman on June 27, 2016.

19. Liaison Reports/Selectmen Comments

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| Bob Hale | Beach & Rec, |
| Al Goldberg | Police Commission, Mike Maloney (videographer) has worked for the MCTV for 15 years; and tonight is his last evening taping the meeting. |
| Tom Banisch | BOF and BOF Senior Tax Relief Drafting Committee |

Bruce Wilson
Selectwoman Walker

Strong Field Center
CIP, Library

20. Adjournment

There being no objections, First Selectman Banisch adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Executive Assistant