

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
8:00 A.M.

MEETING PLACE: ZOOM ONLINE MEETING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

8:00 a.m. Regular Session

First Selectwoman Lyons called the Regular Session of Tuesday, September 14, 2021 to order at 8:03 a.m. Also in attendance were Selectwoman Duques, Selectman Goldberg, Selectman Murphy and Selectman Wilson (via Zoom).

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
First Selectwoman Lyons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of minutes – August 30, 2021

MOVED by Selectman Goldberg and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve Minutes of August 30, 2021.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously

3. First Selectwoman's Updates.

The Board will hold a Special Meeting on September 21, 2021 at 6 p.m. (tentatively) to update the public on certain Public Safety concerns involving the Police Department.

4. Liaison Reports / Selectmen Comments.

Bruce Wilson EDC in-person meeting

5. Citizen Comments.

None.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve opening the Agenda for Item 5a. Executive Session – Pending Litigation.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

There being no objection, the Board unanimously moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:12 a.m. for Item 5a. Executive Session – Pending Litigation. Invited in were:

Attorney Floyd Dugas
Chief Jack Drumm
Lauren Rhines

There being no objection, the Board unanimously moved to back into Regular Session at 8:48 a.m.

6. Review Public Health Initiatives pertaining to COVID-19 response.

Health Director Trent Joseph stated that the system had not been updated so the exact case number was unknown. The Town in general has been bouncing between 10-20 cases per week mostly affecting the unvaccinated; but there have been some breakthrough cases affecting vaccinated residents.

7. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request from the Health Department in the amount of \$19,100 for Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2021 to fund shortage in Household Hazardous Waste recycling services.

Health Director Trent Joseph stated that there was an increase in usage during COVID resulting in a greater collection / cost.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve a Special Appropriation request from the Health Department in the amount of \$19,100 for Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2021 to fund shortage in Household Hazardous Waste recycling services

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

8. Discuss and take action to approve the following hires:

Erin Mannix to the position of Town Planner in the Land Use department. This position is non-union. Rate of pay is Grade 16, Step 5 - \$108,042.80 annually. The position is budgeted, not requiring an appropriation of funds. This position vacancy was created due to a resignation.

Mike Kelley to the position of Dishwasher located within the Senior Center. The position is non-union. Rate of pay is \$13.00 per hour. The position is budgeted, not requiring an appropriation of funds. This position vacancy was created by layoff due to COVID. (His start date has been delayed from 9/6/21).

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve the hiring of Erin Mannix to the position of Town Planner in the Land Use department. This position is non-union; and the hiring of Mike Kelley to the position of Dishwasher located within the Senior Center.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discuss and take action to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Madison and the Town of Guilford as it pertains to the position of the shared Economic Development Director; and to allow the First Selectwoman to sign the same.

First Selectwoman Lyons reminded the Board that they had approved funding under the Round 3 ARP Funds.

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectwoman Duques to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Madison and the Town of Guilford as it pertains to the position of the shared Economic Development Director; and to allow the First Selectwoman to sign the same.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discuss and take action to approve a Line Item Transfer request from the Police Department in the amount of \$90,243.20 to transfer funding for the Police Captain salary.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve a Line Item Transfer request from the Police Department in the amount of \$90,243.20 to transfer funding for the Police Captain salary.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action to approve a Special Appropriation request from the Police Department in the amount of \$62,013.00 to fund rank promotions; pending Board of Finance and Town Meeting approval.

Chief Drumm provided an overview of this request.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve a Special Appropriation request from the Police Department in the amount of \$62,013.00 to fund rank promotions; pending Board of Finance and Town Meeting approval.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

12. Discuss and take action to approve a request from the Caleb Foundation and HOPE Partnership, Inc. for a Tax Exemption under Code of Ordinances Section 20-2.

First Selectwoman Lyons provided an overview of the process to-date and clarified that after review with the Town Attorney, this item is not appropriate for action at this juncture. Instead, the applicant must work with the Assessor to complete an application under State Statute 12-81(7). There being no objection the Board took no action on this item.

13. Discuss and take action to approve a request from the Caleb Foundation and HOPE Partnership, Inc. for Tax Relief under Code of Ordinances Section 20-3; pending Town Meeting Approval.

Liz Torres, from the Caleb Group provided a brief overview of the process of this request to date as well as a summary of the changes between this memo and the one presented on August 30th. Mainly, the changes were due to the language of the Ordinance specifically stating that relief can only be applied to affordable units. Therefore, the request for relief was amended to apply to the 31 affordable units; not the total of 34 units.

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve the future project known as Wellington at Madison as proposed by the Caleb Foundation and Hope Partnership, Inc. and to approve an Application for property tax relief from the Caleb Foundation and Hope Partnership, Inc. to fix the taxes for 20 years for the affordable units of the Housing Project proposed for 131 Cottage Road in accordance with Code of Ordinances Section 20-3, and to allow the First Selectwoman to execute an agreement approved by the Town Attorney in accordance with Ordinance 20-3; all pending Town Meeting approval.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

14. Discuss and take action to approve amending the call of the Town Meeting on September 27, 2021 to approve as follows:

3. The future project known as Wellington at Madison as proposed by the Caleb Foundation and Hope Partnership, Inc. and to approve an Application for property tax relief from the Caleb Foundation and Hope Partnership, Inc. to fix the taxes for 20 years for the affordable units of the Housing Project proposed for 131 Cottage Road in accordance with Code of Ordinances Section 20-3.
4. A Special Appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 to fund the Coastal Resiliency Reserve Fund.
5. A Special Appropriation request from the Police Department in the amount of \$62,013.00 to fund rank promotions.

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve adding to the Call of the Special Town Meeting on Monday, September 27, 2021 as noted above.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

15. Discuss and take action to approve a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the parcel known as the Janssen Property; and the allow the First Selectwoman to sign the same.

There being no objection the Board agreed to Table this item to a future meeting.

16. Discuss and take action to approve a modification to the Charge of the Ad-Hoc Marijuana Legalization Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Wilson to approve a modification to the Charge of the Ad-Hoc Marijuana Legalization Advisory Committee.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

17. Discuss and take action to set a Public Hearing to solicit comment on an Ethics Code Ordinance.

Selectman Wilson stated that after review with the Town Attorney the concerns he has with the document deal more with the intent of the Board and not with clarification on a legal sense. For instance, the document lists “blood relative” and he stated that this was a vague term with a wide berth.

Selectwoman Duques stated that the document states it applies to Officials and Employees but further on the document references consultants and volunteers; and that all of these references should be consistent.

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve setting a Public Hearing on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6 p.m. to solicit comment on an Ethics Code Ordinance.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

18. Appointments / Resignations:

Resignation of Pamela Davies from the Youth & Family Services Board.

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve the resignation of Pamela Davies from the Youth & Family Services Board with thanks from the Board.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

19. Tax Abatements / Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve Tax Abatements / Refunds in the amount of \$5,074.51.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

20. Citizen Comments.

Scott Cochran stated that he had sent the Board material on a potential moratorium on the matter of marijuana sales in Madison. He stated that the role of his department was to inform the public on the research pertaining to supporting and protecting our youth.

Adjournment.

There being no objection the Board adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Town Svcs. Coordinator / Risk Manager

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town's ADA/Human Resources Director Debra Milardo at 203.245.5603 or by email to milardod@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.