

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021
7:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: ZOOM ONLINE MEETING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

7:00 p.m. Regular Session

First Selectwoman Lyons called the Regular Session of Monday, October 25, 2021 to order at 7:01 p.m. Also in attendance were Selectwoman Duques, Selectman Goldberg, Selectman Murphy and Selectman Wilson.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
First Selectwoman Lyons led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of minutes – October 12, 2021

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve Minutes of October 12, 2021 with one correction in Item 8:

~~Mr. Stableford added that the difference between the~~

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

3. First Selectwoman's Updates.

The First Selectwoman thanked this current Board for their work over the last two years as this is the last meeting of this Board. She added that Selectwoman Duques was not running again for the Board of Selectmen and she thanked her individually for her work on the Board.

First Selectwoman Lyons also encouraged all residents to vote next week.

4. Liaison Reports / Selectmen Comments.

Bruce Wilson Thanked Selectwoman Duques for her dedication and work on the Board of Selectmen; he added that he hoped she would find herself volunteering for public service again.

Scott Murphy Thanked Selectwoman Duques for her dedication and work on the Board of Selectmen; he added that she was his “left hand” and he had worked closely with her over the last two years.
Madison Youth & Family Services, Pride Fest

Al Goldberg Thanked Selectwoman Duques for her dedication and work on the Board of Selectmen; he added that she came onto the Board at a particularly busy time in life with young children at home.

Erin Duques Selectwoman Duques thanked the dedicated and talented Town staff, resident volunteers (including fellow Board members) and residents who stay active in engaged. She stated that this experience has confirmed for her the importance of public service and volunteerism. She encouraged others to volunteer for Town boards and also encouraged everyone to vote at the Election next week.

5. Citizen Comments.

None.

6. Discuss and take action to approve the Ethics Code.

Peggy Lyons provided an overview of the Public Hearing comments heard earlier in the evening. The Board reviewed the process of making further changes to the Ordinance and First Selectwoman Lyons stated that she spoke to the Town Attorney and that any substantive changes would require a new Public Hearing as well.

Selectman Wilson stated that he spoke to Attorney Olson about the document and that she indicated that the Board needed to discuss and debate his concerns which were issues of policy. He stated that he wanted to do what was needed tonight to put forth a document that addressed everyone’s concern.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that the Ordinance has been a discussion topic since roughly July. She stated that this was a solid document worth enacting this evening. She stated that there would be corrections that would pop up in the future and a future Board could open and revise the Ordinance after the Committee was enacted and the Committee had time to work with the document.

Selectman Murphy stated that the Ordinance was never going to be perfect but the Board should enact it now so that there was something on the books.

Selectwoman Duques stated that she apologized that there was a delay in her comments on the draft. She stated that after another careful review of the document, and reviewing the document again compared to Ethics Codes from other Towns, she felt that there were some areas that needed to be revised or, that there were items that were incorrect, in this

draft and she felt that these concerns should be addressed prior to enacting the Ordinance. One point was that the Ordinance currently does not require that the person to whom a complaint is made against is not given a copy of the complaint.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that she wished this item had been brought forward during the prior conversations of the Board. She stated that this is a solid proposal and it was time to “put a stake in the ground.”

Selectwoman Duques stated that the members have also received items with short notice to a meeting in the past; this wasn't out of the norm. She stated that she was not trying to delay the process and she supports the document.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that she felt a vote was needed and if the Board waited for a perfect document it would never see a vote. Selectwoman Duques stated that it does not need to be perfect but it should be “correct” before a vote.

Selectman Murphy stated that he thought the vote was appropriate and he felt comfortable that the document was reviewed by the Town Attorney and therefore could be moved forward to a vote.

Selectman Wilson stated that his concerns were the same that he brought up in September and he thought the process was to move the document to Public Hearing and then have a chance to review and revise the document. He stated that the document could be moved forward but he thought it should be made clear that the current draft does not allow for complainants to be told of a complaint against them. He added that the document states that there is a conflict with “blood relatives” and in a town as small as Madison, that could be prohibitive. He added that he had specific questions which he asked of the Town Attorney over a month ago and the Board was told that his questions should be reviewed by the full Board. The review of his questions did not occur.

First Selectwoman Lyons suggested that the Board could vote on the Ordinance now but amend the motion to ask the new Committee to review the suggested changes and provide a report back to the Board with any potential revisions.

Selectman Goldberg stated that he like that suggestion and felt the Ordinance should be moved forward to a vote tonight.

Selectman Wilson stated that he intended to vote an Ordinance forward tonight although he was disappointed with the current draft. He stated that he felt the prior conversations of the Board were that the document would undergo a thorough review by the Board but that this review did not happen and he hopes that the Board will do better in the future.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson and Selectman Goldberg to approve the Ethics Code as drafted.

VOTE: this motion was approved with four votes in favor one vote in opposition by Selectwoman Duques.

MOVED by First Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Wilson to request that the newly established Committee be responsible for reviewing the Ordinance and any suggested revisions by Selectwoman Duques and that the Committee recommend any further revisions back to the Board of Selectmen.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

7. Appointments / Resignations:

Resignation of Kristen Kilbourn from the Youth & Family Services Board.

Resignation of Bruce Beebe from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectwoman Duques to approve the above resignations and appointments with thanks from the Board.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

8. Tax Abatements / Refunds.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to approve a Tax Abatements / Refunds totaling \$12,307.60.

VOTE: this motion was approved unanimously.

9. Citizens comments.

10. Adjournment.

There being no objection the Board adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Town Coordinator / Risk Manager

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