

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
October 25, 2016
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Bill Lord; Vice-Chairman Hersh Sosnoff; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; Nicole Nordlund; Ron Force; Jeffrey Balogh

Members Absent –School Board Representative Cheryl Littlefield

Others Present – Selectmen Josh L. Shackford and Robert J. King, Jr.; Finance Director Sue Stacey; Recording Secretary Linda Shackford; Librarian Slone Jarrell; Madison TV Videographer Carol Dandeneau

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on October 19, 2016.

Meeting Called to Order – By Lord at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Balogh, seconded by Sosnoff to approve the minutes with Stephen-Nordlund changed to Nordlund. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

TAX RATE

The Selectmen held a meeting on October 12, 2016 to set the 2016 tax rate. The rates for the Town and the County went down however, state education and local school increased. The rate for 2016 is \$16.56. Force again did a synopsis of the tax rate percentage increase over the last six years – 18%. Lord noted that keeping an eye on big ticket items is helpful in controlling that percentage.

DRAWDOWN REVIEW

Arruda noted that we are 82% of the year with 71.5% of the budget utilized.

Arruda stated that the Fire Chief has been notified on October 13th that all purchases for the last quarter of this year be pre-approved by the Board of Selectmen no matter the amount. Arruda would like to see the line that the newly purchased rescue truck came out of to not go over. Lord asked if the new fire truck is in town. Arruda stated yes, it has been delivered but is not in use because members are still being trained. The Fire Department budget shows 45% left with the balance usually spent close to the end of the year, noting member reimbursement as a large portion.

Force asked Arruda if he sees any surplus funds at the end of the year. Arruda estimates from what he normally sees there could be \$150,000 to \$180,000.

Health insurance rates have been set by Health Trust but not reviewed by the Selectmen. Stacey factored in a 10% increase as a working estimate, they will be replaced with more accurate numbers.

The committee reviewed and discussed each section of the proposed 2017 budget. Discussion points were any large differences in comparison to 2016.

Ambulance – New contract, nothing to adjust.

Elections – Amount went down as the number of elections went from four to one.

Planning Board – The increase is for the Land Use Administrators hours.

Fire Department – The request for warrant articles include a jaws-of-life, cardiac monitor and fire department exhaust system will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

General Government – Town Hall computer server replacement. The current server is six years old.

Highway – The \$75,000 to be put away for the future purchase of a road grader could be lowered to possible \$50,000.

Parks and Rec – The field will be limed and fertilized this coming year.

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nordlund stated that no decisions have been made as the committee is still working on follow-ups. There could be warrant article requests for weatherization of Town Hall and the Library.

SCHOOL BUDGET

Lord was provided with the School District budget and warrant article timeline by Littlefield. Lord has copies for those interested.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Librarian Sloane Jarrell was present in the event that sealing/stripping projects for town buildings was to be discussed. The library is in need of sealing and striping. Most of the projects proposed at each town location are very different and are not easily linked. Arruda will check with Road Agent Chick regarding a tool for striping the parking lot.

NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of Town Hall.

7:15 PM – Balogh made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Force. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Recording Secretary