

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
November 22, 2016
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Bill Lord; Vice-Chairman Hersh Sosnoff; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; School Board Representative Cheryl Littlefield; Ron Force

Members Absent – Jeffrey Balogh; Nicole Nordlund

Others Present – Selectmen Josh L. Shackford and Robert J. King, Jr.; Finance Director Su Stacey; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michael Brooks; Fire Chief Jeffrey Eldridge; Assistant Fire Chief Richard Clark; Recording Secretary Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Carol Dandeneau

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on October 31, 2016.

Meeting Called to Order – By Lord at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sosnoff, seconded by Force to approve the minutes of October 25, 2016 as written. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Littlefield abstaining.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

DRAWDOWN REVIEW

Arruda noted that we are 89.5% of the year with 78% of the budget utilized. The Fire Department and Highway budget have a couple of line that are being watched. Each department as a whole, along with Solid Waste, are looking good with no major issues.

WARRANT ARTICLE SUMMARY REVIEW

Warrant article #8 is being removed, warrant article #4 is being reduced to \$50,000 from \$75,000 and warrant article #3 for \$100,000 to pave/reclaim town roads is an annual article. Force asked why that amount is not in the regular highway budget. It was explained that once that amount goes into the budget it rarely comes out. As a warrant article, the taxpayers at town meeting have the option to remove it. Also, as a warrant article, the funds can be used only for the purpose of paving and reclaiming town roads.

PETITION WARRANT ARTICLES

Sosnoff requested that with Blue Loon's petition a census of the rides for Madison residents be included. Stacey asked who will be volunteering to review the petition warrant articles. Force stated he will do them if Nordlund and Balogh cannot.

CIP

The committee discussed items currently on the CIP, specifically the Fire Department. Chief Eldridge's priorities are building exhaust system, rescue tool, cardiac monitor and breathing apparatus. The tool is a definite necessity. The building exhaust can be done in stages on vehicles for \$9,000 each and instead use the funds towards breathing apparatus as a priority for 2018. Arruda suggested to Chief Eldridge that his department portion of the CIP needs to be re-done in 2017. King suggested removing the cardiac monitor until the time that the Town considers the purchase of a new ambulance. J. Shackford noted that the monitor is in working condition

now, if there was a failure mid-year it would be addressed at that time. Ultimately, the plan is to encumber funds to purchase the rescue tool and police cruiser from surplus funds at the end of the year. It was suggested that a non-money warrant article be placed on the warrant to open discussion to see if the Town wants to start to put money away for the future purchase of an ambulance.

SUMMARY PAGE

The overall budget has an increase of 0.7%. Force complimented the Selectmen for their good work past and present.

SCHOOL BUDGET

At the elementary school, there are 26 students moving on to Kennett with not as many kindergarteners coming in. The school budget is slightly larger than last projected. Two teacher retirements were accepted which will result in a \$20,000 salary savings because the replacement will have a lower salary. The next School Board meeting is on December 5th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Assistant Fire Chief Clark asked what the decision is on the exhaust for the Fire Station. It was decided that a warrant article would be added each year for \$9,000.

Chief Eldridge explained the reasoning for the requested increase in the Fire Department budget that was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of Town Hall.

7:33 PM – Littlefield made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Sosnoff. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Recording Secretary