

**Madison Advisory Budget Committee Minutes
December 8, 2015**

Members Present: John Arruda – Selectmen Rep., Jeff Balogh, Ron Force, Cheryl Littlefield, Bill Lord–Chairman, Nicole Stephens-Nordlund, and Hersh Sosnoff

Others Present: William Chick, Sr. – Road Agent, William Chick Jr. – Asst. Road Agent, Linda Farinella – Administrative Assistant, Bob King – Selectman, Josh Shackford – Selectman, Sue Stacey – Deputy Town Administrator, and Chris Young – recording secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Lord called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Sosnoff had a correction for **Others Present**. The fire assistant chief was not correctly identified. Chris Wiesmann is the assistant chief not Sean Dunker-Bendigo. Mr. Force had a couple of corrections as well. On page 1, paragraph 3, line 3, it should be “operations” not “operation”. On page 3, paragraph 6 it should be “18 % increase in tax rates” not “taxes”. The last line of that same paragraph was incorrectly phrased and Mr. Force suggested just removing it. Mrs. Littlefield moved, seconded by Mr. Force, to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed.

3. **SCHOOL BUDGET RECAP:** Mr. Lord proceeded to give a brief summary of the School budget. The proposed budget came in at about 6 million, 3.8% higher than last year. The following is an outline of the warrant articles starting with number 2.

Warrant article 2 – Vote to pass the budget or the default. This year the default budget is less than the proposed budget.

Warrant article 3 – anteing up for fair share of SAU

Warrant article 4 – \$27,000 for a new bus

Warrant article 5 – \$55,000 for building maintenance

Warrant article 6 – \$20,000 for educating impaired children

Warrant article 7 – \$16,000 for providing exterior lighting

A discussion began over the funds for the special needs children. Mr. Sosnoff desired to make a warrant article which prevented that money from being spent on anything other than the special needs children. There were some questions about whether that was possible, and Mr. Sosnoff was going to find out if it was possible. Mr. Force also requested that SAU 13 put together a historical summary of the special needs budget for Madison looking at the past six years.

- 4. HIGHWAY BUDGET FOR 2016:** Some clarification on the work that is to be done on High Street and the funds that were requested was needed. There was \$100,000 that was being asked to be put into a capital reserve fund which would be used in 2017 when another \$100,000 was requested. There was also \$40,000 that was requested in the general budget for road repair. Lines 1-6 of the CIP also list funds for road work in 2016 amounting to \$198,004 and \$208,105 in 2017. After some discussion it became clear that lines 1-6 of the CIP were no longer valid and should be removed. The \$40,000 requested in the budget for road repair was for road repair of all other roads. There was a possibility that work on the restoration of High Street might begin before 2017, so the \$100,000 should not be put into a capital reserve fund.

The other concern that arose was the confusion in purchase plans for the new grader scheduled in 2018. In the regular budget, it was proposed to put money aside and build a reserve in advance, while in the CIP it was a straight lease starting in 2018. Mr. Arruda will bring this back to the Planning Board to discuss this as the changes which have developed tonight in the CIP alter the reality of what can be done.

- 5. FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The Fire Department's budget was brought back on the table. The reimbursement line had been dropped by \$8,000 but the chief's stipend had not been fixed yet. The compensation for officers was also still being discussed by the selectmen. The selectmen had asked the fire chief to go back over the CIP and get new figures as well as figure out what was really needed as the fire department was taking up a major section of the CIP.

The results of the meeting on the possibility for getting a grant for the new fire truck were also discussed. Mr. Arruda had been in contact with the grant representative and was informed that the town would most likely be turned down but stood a better chance applying for a smaller grant to get equipment. Mrs. Stephens-Nordlund expressed frustration that this grant had not been pursued when it was originally presented months ago and that it undermined the goodwill of people trying to help find funding sources.

- 6. CHARITIES:** Several charities had submitted warrant article totaling around \$17,000. More information will be presented about them in future meetings as information is still coming in.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS:

- **1/4/16 – School Board Public Budget Hearing @ school 6 or 7 PM (1/7 snow date) Budget Committee will stay meet afterwards to vote on school warrant articles.**
- **1/5/16 – Budget Committee Meeting @ Town Hall 5:30 PM.**
- **2/1/16 – School Board Deliberative Session**
- **2/2/16 – Town Public Budget Hearing @ school 7 PM (Budget Committee meets to vote afterwards)**

Individuals seeking to be elected to the Advisory Budget Committee or those who are up for re-election the filing dates for registering with the town clerk are January 20th to January 29th.

- 8. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting of the Budget Committee is scheduled for January 5 at 5:30 PM.*

*Budget Committee Members will be meeting to vote on the School Warrant Articles immediately following the public hearing on January 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Young

Minutes Approved: January 5, 2016

Corrections: Replace “impaired” with “special needs” in **School Budget Recap**