

**Madison Advisory Budget Committee Minutes
November 24, 2015**

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

Members Not Present:

Others Present: Jeff Eldridge – Fire Rescue Chief, Richard Clark – Fire Warden, Chris Wiesmann – Assistant Chief, Paul Littlefield – SWAC, Jim Cairns – SWAC, Linda Farinella – Administrative Assistant, Bob King – 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 P.M.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mrs. Littlefield moved, seconded by Mr. Balogh, to approve the minutes. Mr. Sosnoff had one correction in the Members Present section which listed him as the chair still when it should be Mr. Lord. The minutes were approved as amended.
- 3. DRAW DOWN:** Mr. Arruda gave a quick drawdown for the year's budget. Currently 90% of the year has passed and the town has expended 81% of the funds bringing operations to 9% below budget. As a result, the town will be able to encumber funds to pay for the new fire truck eliminating the need for a bond. There was some discussion about the possibility that had been raised for a grant to cover some of the new fire truck expense. A representative from the grant organization will meet with the selectmen and the fire chief to discuss what can and can't be done in the near future.
- 4. CIP REVIEW:** Mr. Arruda pointed out that line 7 of the Fire Department section, a thermal imaging camera, may be eliminated as it will be bought from budget money this year. Mr. Force brought up a question about the Highway Department's lines 1-6, Road Maintenance, and line 12 for High Street paving wondering if this was a duplication of spending. Mr. Arruda clarified that lines 1-6 were general maintenance on all the roads, and line 12 was for specific reconstruction similar to what was done on the E. Madison Rd.
- 5. 2016 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEW:**
 - a. SWAC–** Mr. Cairns went through the recent problems that occurred with waste haulers including the fact that the firm that Madison had used went out of business as a result of the price for recycled materials dropping

drastically. Other options have been explored for recycling including doing away with recycling completely. The town is lucky to be getting some money from a local hauler for metal and not having to pay to get it removed. There will be a warrant article for crushing or grinding glass to compress the pile. One of the uses for the glass will be to incorporate it into fill and build up an access ramp to the metal dumpster to make it easier for people to unload.

- b. FIRE DEPARTMENT**– There was a question about the need for a new rescue system and why it was needed. Chief Eldridge explained how the current rescue system does not cut the newer cars which have more steel and a different grade in their doors and window posts. A question also arose as to the need for a new imaging camera and was answered that the old one was outdated. The chief had also found a deal where he could get two for almost the same price as one. The next question was about replacing the mobile radios. These are obsolete and it is difficult to get parts for them. Seven of them will need to be replaced, but only one or two will be done in a year. The portable radios for the firemen also need to be replaced. This is a warrant article for 2018. These radios cost \$4,100 each (these are digital radios, but analogue models are much cheaper.) Mr. Arruda suggested buying digital radios for the officers and analogue radios for the other firemen. The discussion turned to the warrant article for a vehicle exhaust extraction system. There are two types. One is a scrubber system built into the engine and exhaust system of the truck and the other is a breakaway pipe system that disconnects from the tailpipe as the truck drives away. It was pointed out that no new dry hydrant was purchased and installed this year. The dry hydrant on route 41 was also repaired. Money left in this year's budget will be used to bring down the cost of warrant articles. Mrs. Littlefield wondered why the vehicle maintenance line was increased. The fire trucks have to be tested yearly and there are odd rules such as DOT requires fire trucks get new tires every 7 years even if they are in excellent condition. The chief explained that the total cost for member reimbursement and the chief's stipend would actually be less than what was in the budget as the addition to his salary would come out of the member's reimbursement line. The Selectmen are still working on that exact figure of the chief's stipend/salary. There was also some discussion of the Dues line which goes to a regional organization and a national one.

c. Next meeting the Highway Department will go over their budget

6. TAX HISTORY: Mr. Force presented a table showing the history of the tax rate for Madison residents over the few years. There has been an 18% increase in tax rates in the last 5 years. The municipal rate has remained stable for the past three years.

7. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE:

School Board Meetings:

School Budget	12/7/15	7 PM	School
School Budget Public Hearing	1/4/16	6 PM	School
School Deliberative Session	2/1/16	?	School

Budget Committee Meetings:

12/8/15

1/5/16

2/2/16 Town Budget Hearing @ school

Town Meeting 3/12

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Young

Minutes Approved: December 8, 2015

Corrections:

1st page, Others Present: Chris Wiesmann – Assistant Chief not Sean Dunker-Bendigo

1st page, DRAW DOWN, 3rd line, "operation" changed to "operations".

3rd page, Tax History, 2nd line, "18% increase in taxes" to "18% increase in tax rates". Last line of the same paragraph was removed, "Most of the change in taxes is from the state and county rates."