

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
February 7, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Bill Lord; Vice-Chairman Hersh Sosnoff; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; School Board Representative Cheryl Littlefield; Ron Force; Nicole Nordlund; Jeffrey Balogh; Alternate Ned Rogerson

Others Present – Finance Director Su Stacey; Recording Secretary Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Tim Hughes

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 5, 2017.

Meeting Called to Order – By Lord at 7:36 p.m. at Madison Elementary School Gymnasium

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Force, seconded by Balogh to approve the minutes of January 17, 2017. The motion passed **7-0**.

COMMITTEE VOTES – 2017 WARRANT:

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million five hundred seventy-four thousand four hundred fifty-one dollars (\$2,574,451) for general Town operations with discussion and amendments to be considered line by line.

	2016 Approved	2016 Expended	2017 Proposed
Ambulance	\$ 70,147.00	\$ 70,146.72	\$ 85,340.00
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 1,397.67	\$ 1,875.00
Assessing	\$ 19,170.00	\$ 18,752.27	\$ 22,682.00
Building Inspection	\$ 36,163.00	\$ 38,534.23	\$ 39,433.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 4,233.23	\$ 4,550.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 9,135.68	\$ 15,025.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 14,644.00	\$ 9,309.31	\$ 7,900.00
Emergency Management Dept.	\$ 4,901.00	\$ 5,384.60	\$ 4,901.00
Executive	\$ 119,517.00	\$ 120,522.34	\$ 121,379.00
Financial Administration	\$ 142,028.00	\$ 134,113.84	\$ 141,528.00
Fire Rescue	\$ 162,250.00	\$ 159,673.47	\$ 162,750.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 67,892.00	\$ 44,579.23	\$ 61,833.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 10,850.00	\$ 7,865.61	\$ 14,850.00
Highway	\$ 527,807.00	\$ 549,696.60	\$ 530,807.00
Insurance	\$ 52,025.00	\$ 50,718.52	\$ 97,017.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 8,912.59	\$ 18,100.00
Library	\$ 74,571.00	\$ 67,123.53	\$ 75,791.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 18,218.00	\$ 14,936.74	\$ 19,218.00
Notes Due	\$ 108,761.00	\$ 108,763.18	\$ 53,274.00
Parks & Recreation	\$ 27,815.00	\$ 25,594.71	\$ 31,275.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 916.56	\$ 1,025.00

Personnel Administration	\$ 507,572.00	\$ 457,804.74	\$ 538,873.00
Planning Board	\$ 10,060.00	\$ 8,030.54	\$ 14,450.00
Police	\$ 297,412.00	\$ 303,765.29	\$ 294,225.00
Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 203,927.00	\$ 185,087.75	\$ 204,489.00
Street Lighting	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,860.16	\$ 3,600.00
Zoning Board	\$ 8,260.00	\$ 5,145.45	\$ 8,260.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,542,666.00	\$ 2,414,004.56	\$ 2,574,451.00

Discussion: Three lines will be modified – Police increase of \$15,000, Solid Waste Disposal increase of \$36,000 and an increase to Personnel Administration caused by an increase in New Hampshire Retirement System employer percentage contribution and health insurance increase. There were no new hires.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the reconstruction of High Street. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the funds have been exhausted with the completion of the project or by December 31, 2022, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a four-year lease agreement for one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of leasing a new Highway Dump Truck with sander, plow and frame and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause and a buyout option for one dollar (\$1) at the end of the four years.

Discussion: Arruda explained that this is an addition made just before the hearing at the Selectmen's meeting. This is an option to allow flexibility and, as a last resort article, as explained at the budget hearing. If repairs are the best option for the truck then this item will be passed over and funds will be added for the repair into the operating budget.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 - 0 - 1

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the previously established Assessing Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for land acquisition and conservation purposes.

Discussion: There is approximately \$35,000 currently in this fund

Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 3 - 4

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of three thousand two hundred eighty-one dollars (\$3,281) to be placed in PEG TV Expendable Trust Fund this sum to come from the unassigned fund balance which represents unused franchise fees.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year lease/purchase equipment agreement for one-hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000) to lease/purchase air packs for the Fire Department and to raise and appropriate fifty-one thousand one hundred fifty-four dollars (\$51,154) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause and a buyout for one dollar (\$1.00) at the end of three years.

Discussion: Force would like it noted that this is an item than needs to be placed on the CIP.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to establish an Ambulance Committee consisting at minimum of the following residents: one Selectman, two Advisory Budget Committee members, Fire Chief, one resident EMT member of the Madison Fire Department and two Madison voters as alternates. Said committee will be charged with bringing information sufficient to vote at 2018 Town Meeting for a replacement Ambulance. Said committee will conduct open meetings, keep records of all meetings and decisions and comply fully with RSA 91-A.

Non-Monetary – No vote required

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to purchase a *Hurst Jaws of Life* for the Fire Department.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to rescind the action of the 1987 Town Meeting to elect a road agent for a three-year term and authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a full-time road agent who will be the Director of Public Works. The term of the elected road agent will terminate at the March 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Non-Monetary – No vote required

Balogh commented that the following items are petitions for charitable contributions of tax payer dollars. If the committee recommend these he feels there should be a high threshold of service to the community obtained with the funds.

Article 12. By Petition. We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Madison do hereby petition the 2017 Annual Town Meeting to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for Tri-County Community Action for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Madison. Petition signed by Darren Kimball et al.

Discussion: In 2016 there were 81 assisted with fuel, 3 assisted with weatherization and 77 assisted with electricity. Arruda informed the committee that many of these needs for assistance would be the responsibility of the Town if Tri-CAP was not there.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 13. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) to support Madison home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), congregate meals, transportation and program services provided by the Gibson Center for Senior Services, Inc. Petition signed by Henry Forrest, et al.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7 - 0

Article 14. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the support of the Ossipee Children's Fund providing financial assistance for Madison children. Petition signed by Donna Veilleux, et al.

Discussion: Lord noted there were no figures submitted on the number of residents assisted. Balogh stated the Fund assists with afterschool and summer recreational programs.

Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 2 – 3 - 2

Article 15. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand one hundred dollars (\$3,100) for the Family Resource Center at Children Unlimited, Inc. Petition signed by Cathy Livingston, et al.

Discussion: Children Unlimited assists with preschool and early intervention. Nordlund stated they help to keep the school's special education budget down.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 - 1

Article 16. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand one hundred forty-nine dollars (\$2,149) to assist the Mental Health Center. Petition signed by Marianne Jackson, et al.

Discussion: They report forty-seven clients in Madison for assistance with mental health and substance abuse. There was comment that forty-seven seems like a large number for just Madison.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 1 - 1

Article 17. By Petition. To respectively request that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars (\$1,365) in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Petition signed by Tina Marshall, et al.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 - 1

Article 18. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand four dollars (\$6,004) for the support of White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet

healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Madison. Petition signed by Ann Bartlett, et al.

Discussion: They assisted 243 patients in 2016. Nordlund noted that many still do not have health insurance and others need assistance with high deductible payments.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 2 - 1

Article 19. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in support of Blue Loon Bus Service. Petition signed by Jason Sanderson, et al.

Discussion: Sosnoff feels that this service has long been a solution looking for a problem. There were 163 trips in 2016 of which 22 were shopping and balance were for medical.

Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 1 - 6

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to rescind authorization to enter into long-term borrowing up to \$99,999 for the replacement of a fire truck given in accordance with article number 6 at the 2015 Town Meeting. This long-term debt was not issued due to savings in other areas of the 2015 budget, the Board of Selectmen decided it was not necessary to borrow this money, and therefore there have not been any bonds or notes issued for this purpose.

Non-Monetary – No vote required

Article 22. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Non-Monetary – No vote required

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

8:30 PM – Sosnoff made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Force. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Recording Secretary