

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF MADISON  
December 10, 2019  
MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Chairperson Nicole Nordlund; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; Ron Force; Ned Rogerson; Steve Bartlett; School Board Representative Jim Curran

**Members Excused** - Jeff Balogh

**Others Present** – Selectmen Josh L. Shackford and William T. Lord; DPW Director Jon Cyr; Fire Chief Richard Clark; Librarian Sloane Jarell; Residents Linda Haver and Ann Bartlett; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Carol Dandeneau

**Where and When Posted** – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on September 23, 2019.

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

**Approval of Minutes – Motion** by Curran, seconded by Bartlett to approve the minutes of November 12, 2019 as written. The motion passed **6-0**.

**Current Town 2019 budget drawdown status** – Arruda summarized the current 2019 drawdown noting that 87.7% of the budget is spent while we are at 94% of the year. Arruda added it typically runs this way at this point in the year with all departments on target.

Arruda first noted that this is a posted meeting for the Board of Selectmen. Arruda stated that there are funds left in both the general government building maintenance line and town project line that would cover the library roof replacement and balance left to replace the meeting room carpet. These funds could be encumbered allowing the warrant article to be removed from the proposed 2020 warrant.

**Motion** by Arruda, seconded by J. Shackford to use the funds from the General Government Building Maintenance and Town Project lines to fund the replacement of the older portion of the library roof. The motion passed **3-0**.

Arruda has been told that the Code car has been looked at and we can get a couple more years of use before it needs replacement. There is a proposed 2020 warrant article for \$18,500 for the purchase of a replacement. Arruda suggests that a capital reserve fund be opened for the future replacement of the Code car in the amount of \$10,000 instead.

**Motion** by J. Shackford, seconded by Lord to propose on the 2020 warrant a capital reserve fund in the amount of \$10,000 for the future replacement of the Code car. The motion passed **3-0**.

**Proposed Town 2020 budget** – Arruda lead the committee’s review of the proposed 2020 budget. Pertinent comments made are listed:

**2020 Budget**

*Ambulance:* The 2020 proposed amount of \$99,876.00 takes the last three months of the old contract and nine months of the proposed new contract expense into consideration. It was proposed by Michael Brooks that the three-month amount of the old contract be placed in the budget with the nine-month amount of the new contract being offered as a warrant article at Town Meeting. This would cleanly define the beginning and end of the ambulance contracts. The committee was in agreement with this change. The total annual

amount beginning 2021 will be in the operating budget.

*Fire Rescue:* The Chief has submitted a new arrangement of numbers for the Fire Department 2020 budget with the bottom line remaining the same. The Board of Selectmen will review at their next meeting.

*Highway:* The proposed 2020 budget has risen by 2.9% with Director Cyr explaining that the principal reason is that some vehicle maintenance usually done in house may need to be sent out since the mechanic's position has been vacated.

*Solid Waste:* Director Cyr has been researching the best way to handle the transfer station's disposal of municipal solid waste. The current contract ends in March of 2020 with a possibility of Cyr asking North Conway Incinerator to extend it for another year while he revamps our processes to best suit the needs of the Town. The recycling of some products is still slightly profitable but the majority is not. There is a fine line between the right thing to do and the cost-effective thing to do.

**Proposed Town 2020 Warrant Articles** – Arruda lead the committee's review of the proposed 2020 warrant articles. Pertinent comments made are listed:

*Street Paving/Rd Improvement \$100,000:* A total of \$140,000 between this warrant article and a line in the budget are slated for roads in 2020. Force suggested consideration of raising the \$100,000 amount this year since we are working with a pretty flat budget. Director Cyr said there is a plan that shows the tonnage for each road necessary to make the improvements along with each road coded as to it's immediate need for work. The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will have this discussion on its agenda.

*Replace Code car:* This was discussed earlier, there will be \$10,000 put into an CRF to plan ahead for a car in a few years.

*Library roof replacement:* This too was discussed earlier with funds from the 2019 budget to be encumbered to cover the cost of the roof removing the need for the warrant article.

*Reduce LUCT from 50% to 15%:* Lord spoke to this article explaining that the Conservation Commission, per an RSA voted on at a past Town Meeting, receives half of the Land Use Change Tax collected by the Town from land that is removed from current use. Citing close to \$260,000 in conservation accounts, it seems that an average of \$15,000 per year is added; a reduction to 15% would reduce the average to about \$10,000 a year. As a warrant article is being presented that will allow the Town to decide if a change should be made.

*Charities:* Nothing has been received for review as of yet.

**Schedule of Upcoming Budget and School Board Meetings** – It was discussed to reschedule the January 21<sup>st</sup> scheduled meeting for the Advisory Budget Committee to January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**Motion** by Nordlund, seconded by Force to reschedule the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The motion passed **6-0**.

Other upcoming dates:

December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm – Advisory Budget Committee with School Board and SAU 13 Reps

January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm - School Board Public Hearing

February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm – School Deliberative Session

February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pmk – Madison Public Budget Hearing

**Public Comments** – There were none.

**Meeting with School Board and SAU Representatives on December 12<sup>th</sup>** – Nordlund explained that this meeting was prompted as a way to clarify the committee's concerns about the school budget and school performance. Nordlund feels the 2019 budget failed because of a lack of the town's trust, a hike in taxes

and parental dissatisfaction in expensive contracts. Force cited the efforts this committee makes to meet with each department head about their budget and feels the same should be done with the school's portion of the budget.

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

**NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING** – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the lower level of Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Recording Secretary