

**Town of Madison
Public Budget Hearing
February 12, 2020**

Selectmen Present – Josh L. Shackford and John Arruda

Selectman Excused – William T. Lord

Advisory Budget Committee Members Present – Jeff Balogh, Steve Bartlett, and Ned Rogerson

Others Present – Police Chief Robert J. King, Jr.; Fire Chief Richard Clark; DPW Director Jon Cyr; EAC Member Noreen Downs; SWAC Member Dave Downs; Town Moderator George Epstein; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Moselle Spiller; Residents Robert Beale, Cheryl Littlefield, along with several other residents

Public Notice – Notice of this hearing was published in the January 29 & February 12, 2020 editions of the Conway Daily Sun and posted at the upper and lower levels of Town Hall, and the Madison and Silver Lake Post Offices on January 21, 2020.

Chairman Shackford called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm for the purpose of the 2020 Annual Budget Hearing.

**Town of Madison
2020 WARRANT**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Madison in the County of Carroll in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, polls to be open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM to act upon Article 1 with the meeting to reconvene at nine o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, March 14, 2020 in the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison to act upon the remaining Articles:

Article 1. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million eight hundred fourteen thousand seven hundred thirty-five dollars (\$2,814,735.00) for general Town operations with discussion and amendments to be considered line by line.

	2019 Approved	2019 Expended	2020 Proposed
Ambulance	\$ 87,476.00	\$ 87,475.80	\$ 21,869.00
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 1,780.63	\$ 1,975.00
Assessing	\$ 35,150.00	\$ 55,825.17	\$ 39,980.00
Building Inspection	\$ 37,866.00	\$ 38,639.58	\$ 38,141.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 4,270.96	\$ 4,850.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 15,025.00	\$ 4,884.00	\$ 13,025.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,437.87	\$ 10,860.00
Emergency Management Dept.	\$ 4,485.00	\$ 5,320.26	\$ 6,001.00
Executive	\$ 125,951.00	\$ 132,548.49	\$ 128,151.00

Financial Administration	\$ 144,920.00	\$ 139,904.01	\$ 146,258.00
Fire Rescue	\$ 167,750.00	\$ 167,440.21	\$ 170,950.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 127,625.00	\$ 120,406.54	\$ 130,675.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 11,800.00	\$ 11,520.83	\$ 12,600.00
Highway	\$ 574,200.00	\$ 581,663.76	\$ 591,048.00
Insurance	\$ 101,462.00	\$ 96,108.65	\$ 99,177.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 14,228.06	\$ 17,300.00
Library	\$ 79,432.51	\$ 76,707.67	\$ 82,670.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 27,604.00	\$ 23,628.09	\$ 23,400.00
Notes Due	\$ 49,812.00	\$ 49,811.46	\$ 98,260.00
Parks & Recreation	\$ 34,934.00	\$ 29,096.52	\$ 37,351.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 932.18	\$ 1,525.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 484,900.00	\$ 448,136.97	\$ 517,554.00
Planning Board	\$ 11,450.00	\$ 8,873.66	\$ 18,950.00
Police	\$ 305,368.00	\$ 314,537.50	\$ 313,132.00
Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 236,532.00	\$ 248,718.41	\$ 265,347.00
Street Lighting	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,997.65	\$ 3,925.00
Zoning Board	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 14,923.65	\$ 19,760.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,713,541.00	\$ 2,686,818.58	\$ 2,814,735.00

Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-0

Personnel Administration - Rogerson asked for figures regarding health insurance increases. Health insurance premiums increased by 7.6% and dental insurance premiums increased by 3.9%.

Solid Waste Disposal – A RFP was recently sent out because the current contract ends at the end of February. Ultimately, the RFP's were rejected and negotiations with our current provider yielded a smaller increase to the fees. The Board of Selectmen, at their meeting on February 11th, added \$18,024.00 to the Solid Waste Disposal line to cover the increase.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) for paving and road improvements of Town roads including but not limited to West Shore Drive, Greenwood Road, Heritage Road and Danforth Lane. 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, 2025, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Director Cyr addressed the amount of \$200,000 for paving and road improvement. Cyr cited \$2.8 million dollars as the amount to make all the improvements necessary with \$100,000 a hard number to ever get ahead. Cyr can see this \$200,000 number coming for future years too. It costs \$32,000 to chip seal one mile of 22' wide road. Arruda noted that 15 years ago \$100,000 went much further.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year multi-town contract for emergency transport ambulance services in conjunction with the Towns of Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Ossipee and Tamworth for services to be provided by Action Ambulance Service, Inc. from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2025 and to raise and appropriate seventy eight thousand seven dollars (\$78,007.00) for services provided from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Payments for January

1, 2021 through March 31, 2025 will be incorporated into the Town Operating Budget for the remainder of the term of the contract. This contract has an escape clause.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Shackford noted that this amount is for the first nine months of the new contract. An increase of 3% annually is worked into the contract with review of call burden for each town reviewed annually.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000.00) for the purchase of new firefighting hose.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Chief Clark asked to amend the amount to \$19,565.00 as he was able to negotiate a better price. The adjusted amount will be amended in the warrant.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Highway Heavy Equipment Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Assessing Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Compactor Expendable Trust Fund created in 2018. Said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's general fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Transfer Station Capital Projects Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purposes of replacing the existing compactor at the Transfer Station, acquiring new equipment and renovating the transfer station and to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000.00) to be placed in the fund with fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to come from the unassigned fund balance (amount represents discontinued Compactor Expendable trust fund) and the remaining thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) to come from general taxation and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Discussion of the verbiage change brought concern of the word acquiring being not inclusive of doing a lease. L. Shackford will contact Town Counsel to see if a change should be considered.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Code Enforcement Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purposes of replacing and equipping the existing Code Enforcement Vehicle and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for this purpose, and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the replacement of the HVAC unit in the upper level of the Town Hall.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for the fireworks show during Old Home Week.

Not Recommended by Selectmen 1-2-0

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of three thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$3,975) 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 Selectmen 3-0-0

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amount of revenue collected from the Land Use Change Tax and deposit in the existing Conservation Fund from 50% to 15% in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. If adopted, this change shall take effect April 1st and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of Town Meeting.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Article 15. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for land acquisition and conservation purposes. Petition signed by Marcia McKenna, et al.

Not Recommended by Selectmen 0-2-0

Article 16. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the operation of Fuel Assistance Program, a community service program provided by Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. Petition signed by Eleanor J. Jones, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-0

Article 17. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500.00) 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 Norma Alexander, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-0

Article 18. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for the Family Resource Center at Children Unlimited, Inc. This money will be used to strengthen families by promoting health, well-being, self-sufficiency and positive parenting through support and education. Petition signed by Audrey Epstein, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-0

Article 19. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand five hundred and thirty-four dollars (\$6,534.00) to support White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of Madison. Petition signed by Julie Hill, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-0

Article 20. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand two hundred and eighty-nine dollars (\$1,289.00) to support Tri County CAP's Homeless Intervention and Prevention Program, a community service program provided by Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. Petition signed by Cathy Livingston, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-0

Article 21. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison NH will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for MWV Supports Recovery Coalition Programs (family, peer support and recovery referral programs for substance use disorder). Petition signed by Patty Curotto, et al.

Not Recommended by Selectmen 0-2-0

Article 22. By Petition. To respectfully request that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand eight hundred and forty-one dollars (\$3,841) in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Petition signed by Richard Mattei, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2-0-0

Article 23. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Arruda to sign the 2020 Warrant paperwork out of session. The motion passed **2-0**.

Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Arruda to recommend the new operating budget amount in Article 2 in the amount of \$2,814,735.00. The motion passed **2-0**. The recommendation will be changed on the warrant.

Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Arruda to recommend support of Article 21 MWV Supports Recovery Coalition Programs. The motion passed **2-0**. The recommendation will be changed on the warrant.

8:10 PM – Motion by Arruda, seconded by J. Shackford to close the public hearing and adjourn. The motion passed **2-0**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary