

MINUTES OF THE MADISON TOWN MEETING

MARCH 10, 2020 Town Election
and reconvened
March 14, 2020 Town Meeting

PRE-ELECTION PROCEDURES

MANUAL COUNT OF ELECTION DAY BALLOTS—On February 19, 2020, Registered Voter Linda Shackford, Collection Clerk, Rebecca Bonner and Town Clerk Michael Brooks completed the manual counting of Town and School Election Day ballots to be delivered to the Moderator on Election Day (RSA 658:31).

TESTING ELECTION DAY EBCD MEMORY CARDS—On February 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., as posted on February 20, 2020 on the upper and lower level bulletin boards in the Town Office building, at the Madison and Silver Lake Post Offices and the Town website, Town Clerk Michael Brooks, Collection Clerk Rebecca Bonner commenced the required pre-election test of the Electronic Ballot Counting Back-up Memory Card and Election Day Memory Card for tallying the Town and School ballots (RSA 656:42 VIII-(e) (1-11)). The EBCD results were then compared to the manual tally of test ballots cast to ensure the accuracy of the Election Day Memory Card scanning. After completing the reconciliation, the Election Day memory card was installed and sealed as required by State Law.

ELECTION DAY

At 8:00 a.m., March 10, 2020, before the meeting was convened, Moderator George Epstein and Registered Voter Emily Sheppard examined the compartments in the electronic ballot counting device to assure the compartments were empty then the Moderator had the electronic ballot counting device print the Election Zero Report for the annual Town and School Election.

Moderator Epstein opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. A motion was made by Cheryl Brooks, seconded by Jenifer Garside, to waive the reading of the Warrant. Moderator Epstein then declared the polls open for acting upon Article 1 of the 2020 Town Warrant 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, it was so moved by Cheryl Brooks and seconded by Jenifer Garside:

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.

Vote for one Selectman for three years	Josh L. Shackford	<u>243</u>
Write-Ins	Wayne Jones	1
	Phil Laroche	1
	Bill Lord	1
	Carol Kramer	2
Blanks	No vote for this position	22
Vote for one Selectman for two years	Bill Lord	<u>195</u>
	Charles Allen	38
Write-Ins	Charles Doherty	1
	Adam Leiser	1
Blanks	No vote for this position	35
Vote for two Planning Board Members for three years	Paul W. Marks, Jr.	<u>228</u>
Write-Ins	Charles Allen	24
	Ted Kramer	1
	Jenifer Garside	1
	Tyler Eldridge	1
	Gordon Cormack	1
	Sam Doherty	1
Blanks	No vote for positions	283
Vote for one Planning Board Members for two years		
Write-Ins	Charles Allen	26
	Karl Nordlund	1
	Mark Sherwood	2
	Bill Lord	1
	James Buckley	1
	Kevin Clifford	1
Blanks	No vote for this position	238
Vote for one Moderator for two years		
Write-Ins	George Epstein	56
	Bill Lord	1
	Stuart Lord	1
Blanks	No vote for this position	212
Vote for one Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years	Jenifer Garside	<u>233</u>
Write-Ins		0
Blanks	No vote for this position	37

Vote for two Trustees of the Library for three years	Patti Rau	<u>246</u>
Write-Ins	Jan Eskedal	1
	Ellen Rancourt	1
	Cheryl Littlefield	1
	Sandra Carr	1
	Laura Jawitz	1
Blanks	No vote for this position	289
Vote for one Advisory Budget Committee Member for three years	Ronald Force	<u>216</u>
Write-Ins	Nicole Nordlund	1
	Devin Nordlund	1
	Joy Gray	8
Blanks	No vote for this position	44
Vote for one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years	Cheryl Q. Littlefield	<u>249</u>
Write-Ins	Ted Kramer	1
	Pam Wells	1
Blanks	No vote for this position	19

TOTAL VOTES CAST ON ELECTION DAY: 270
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS AT END OF ELECTION DAY: 1,893
TURNOUT PERCENTAGE of TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 14.26%

TOWN MEETING RECONVENED – MARCH 14, 2020

Prior to reconvening the meeting, Moderator Epstein suggested those voters present proceed to the Supervisor of the Checklist table to sign and receive his/her ["A" through "I" printed] ballot and ballot envelope.

Sixty-three (63) voters signed and received paper ballots.

TOTAL VOTER RECEIVING HAND-HELD PAPER BALLOTS: 63
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS AT END OF ELECTION DAY: 1,892
TURNOUT PERCENTAGE of REGISTERED VOTERS: 3.3%

At 9:00 a.m. Moderator Epstein opened the meeting and began by explaining that a number of Towns have postponed their meetings into May and even June. The Moderator pointed out that we do have Purell available at the rear of the room and Clorox wipes near the microphone.

Moderator Epstein asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Epstein referred to page 1 of the 2019 Annual Report and requested a

moment of silence for town officials whose passing during 2019 will have an impact on our community:

Carol Josephine Lyman Batchelder,
James H. Cairns, and,
Rodney “Deke” Arthur Lyman

The Moderator then pointed out the printed rules of procedure and the fact that there is a procedure to challenge his decisions.

The Moderator read the Town & School Election results of the election held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The Moderator stated that he is accepting the write-ins for Town and School Moderator. The results were posted in three places in the entry-way to the gymnasium.

At 9:00 a.m., after stating that on Tuesday, March 10th, there was a motion made, seconded, and passed to waive the reading of the warrant, Moderator Epstein asked Advisory Budget Committee Chairman Nicole Nordlund to please introduce the panel of Advisory Budget Committee members seated to her left—Ron Force, Steve Bartlett, and Doug McAllister (newly elected). Moderator Epstein then turned to his right and asked Selectman Josh L. Shackford to introduce those individuals and his/her position with the Town—Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michael R. Brooks, Selectman John Arruda, Selectman Bill Lord, Town Administrator Linda Shackford and Town Attorney Diane Gorrow.

The Moderator introduced Sloan Jarell from the Madison Library and encouraged those in attendance to sign up for a library card.

Refreshments were provided by the Madison PTO to benefit general student activities. Donations are greatly appreciated.

After the introductions, Moderator Epstein continued the meeting by asking voters to turn to the green pages beginning at Page 131 of the 2019 Town of Madison Annual Report to consider Articles 2 through 23 of the 2020 Town Warrant.

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
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0

Moved:
Seconded:

Josh Shackford
John Arruda

The article was reviewed line-by-line with opportunity for discussion, questions and amendments.

The Moderator pointed out the change in the Ambulance line and directed attention to Article 4 regarding the new ambulance contract.

The Moderator explained the fact that we have to hold four elections this year.

Donna Veilleux questioned the changes in the Financial Administration Department and asked if there will be changes in personnel, and why the line has gone up.

Selectmen Shackford explained that the Finance Director is being reduced to part-time, but the bottom line was not changed.

The Moderator requested an explanation of the increase of the Notes Due line.

Selectman Arruda explained that it was the purchase of the rubber-tired excavator, a new highway truck, the new fire command vehicle and a new police cruiser, all approved last year. He explained that all Town vehicles are well used before they are retired.

Donna Veilleux questioned the increase in the Personnel Administration line and requested that the Selectmen explain.

Town Administrator, Linda Shackford, explained that the increase is due to insurance. She also explained the new procedure of the Health Savings Account to enable the Selectmen to obtain a lower cost plan.

Donna Veilleux questioned where any raises would be reflected.

Linda explained that salaries and wages are included in each departments' lines.

Selectmen Arruda explained the Selectmen's concern over losing highway technicians to other Towns.

Donna Veilleux wanted to clarify that there was an increase in the legal line for the Planning Board line.

Selectmen confirmed an increase in the legal line for Zoning line, as well.

Noreen Downs moved an amendment to the Madison PEG TV line to \$28,467.00, an increase of \$5,067.00, seconded by Hope Hutchinson. Ms. Downs explained that the Town received an increased amount in franchise fees from Charter Communications. The motion is to add \$5,000 to the line to pay for the four-year contract to support their infrastructure. They also intend that \$15,000 of the franchise fees be returned to the General Fund. She explained that \$25,000 is needed annually to support PEG TV operations. The amendment would increase the bottom-line budget to \$2,819,802.00.

The Moderator declared the amendment to Article 2 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Donna Veilleux asked for clarification that the Town does not carry unemployment insurance. The Selectmen affirmed. She asked for the amount spent in 2019 and 2020.

Selectman Arruda explained that \$5,000 is budgeted for 2020 and nothing was spent in 2019. Selectmen Arruda stated that we spend so little on unemployment compensation that carrying a policy is not financially advantageous to the Town.

Despite the Selectmen stating that a policy is not necessary, Donna Veilleux wants the Selectmen to look into the cost of a policy.

Selectmen Arruda explained again that nothing was spent in 2019, after appropriating \$20,000, and that \$5,000 is appropriated this year.

Donna Veilleux pointed to the change in format of the reporting of employee wages on Page 59 and requested that we go back to the old format.

The Moderator declared Article 2 PASSED, as amended, by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0

The Moderator made reference to a supplemental spreadsheet available in the back of the room.

Moved:

Josh Shackford

Seconded:

John Arruda

Donna Veilleux asked how much the Town received from the State through the highway block grant.

Selectman Arruda answered, approximately \$80,000.

Donna Veilleux asked where the money goes.

Selectman Arruda stated the General Fund.

Donna Veilleux did not understand the Municipal Finance Act and how the Selectmen must account for monies received from outside sources.

Selectman Arruda stated that we are falling behind with our maintenance program. Increased spending is necessary in order to try to catch up. The expectation is to spend this amount annually going forward.

DPW Director, Jon Cyr, explained that in current dollars, it would take \$2.7 million to rehabilitate our current roads. Under present practice, it would take 27 years and we will be falling behind. He also explained the cost factors of materials that are constantly going up. He explained his intention of utilizing paver shimming and chip sealing going forward.

The Moderator declared Article 3 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

Moved:

Bill Lord

Seconded:

Josh Shackford

Selectman Lord gave a brief explanation of the process through the RFP resulting in the contract. Selectman Lord introduced John Hatch from Action Ambulance. Selectman Lord explained the increase and the proposed annual increases under the contract.

John Hatch wanted to thank the Selectmen and the Ambulance Committee for their diligence in the process. He explained that the biggest difference that will be seen is the level of service (three dedicated ALS vehicles with one being a Paramedic vehicle) 24 hours a day. He also explained that they will be operating from two bases in the service area. They have been doing all of the critical patient transfers for Memorial Hospital since December 1st, 2019.

Donna Veilleux asked if there was a fee to the patient being transported.

Selectman Arruda explained that insurance will be billed first and that the patient would be billed for the balance.

John Hatch explained the procedures they will follow.

This reporter explained the importance of the patient getting the necessary care without regard for the cost. All member Towns were in agreement that we did not want patients not calling for an ambulance because they were concerned that they could not afford it. A number of mechanisms are built into the contract to assist with the payment of bills and obtaining insurance coverage.

Mary Cronin questioned the status of the vote on the contract in other Towns.

Selectmen Shackford stated that he was not aware of any results at this time.

The Moderator declared Article 4 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nineteen thousand six hundred sixty-five dollars (\$19,565.00) for the purchase of new firefighting hose.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0

The article was amended by the Selectmen and brought to the floor as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nineteen thousand five hundred sixty-five dollars (\$19,565.00) for the purchase of new firefighting hose.

Moved:

Josh Shackford

Seconded:

Bill Lord

No discussion.

The Moderator declared Article 5 PASSED, as amended, by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

The article was amended by the Selectmen and brought to the floor as follows:

Moved:

Josh Shackford

Seconded:

Bill Lord

No discussion.

The Moderator declared Article 6 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

Moved:
Seconded:

Josh Shackford
Bill Lord

No discussion.

The Moderator declared Article 7 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Moved:
Seconded:

Josh Shackford
Bill Lord

Selectman Arruda explained the change in philosophy going forward to provide greater flexibility at the transfer station regarding the purchase of equipment to better handle rubbish and recyclables.

DPW Director, Jon Cyr, wanted to thank the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for their assistance. He recently received new information regarding recycling programs going forward. He stated that he is leaning towards the purchase of a baler for our recyclable materials in hopes of generating revenue from recycled materials and avoid tipping fees and shipping costs for general municipal solid waste.

The Moderator explained that the original 2018 article was very specific to a compactor project and the new article will provide greater flexibility regarding the purchase of equipment.

Nicole Nordlund requested that the Selectmen keep the public updated on exactly what is happening with the recyclable materials at the transfer station.

Mr. Cyr explained that #1 & #2 plastics are the most profitable right now. He pointed to a new initiative to utilize recycled plastics in pavement processes.

The Moderator declared Article 8 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

Moved: Bill Lord
Seconded: Josh Shackford

Bonnie Slader wanted to clarify the intent with the plastics. Should they be separated further?

Mr. Cyr stated to continue as we have been until changes are made.

Mike Veilleux wanted to clarify if the DPW was going to have greater flexibility to make decisions "on the fly".

Selectmen responded in the affirmative.

Marc Ohlson had a question regarding the legality of appropriating from the unassigned fund balance at this meeting.

Attorney Gorrow responded that the warrant article was a legal appropriation.

Mr. Ohlson requested the Moderator to explain the unassigned fund balance.

The Moderator explained that the funds that we are talking about are from the previous article being dissolved.

A summary of the unassigned fund balance can be found on Page 49.

The Moderator declared Article 9 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

Moved: Bill Lord
Seconded: Josh Shackford

The Moderator explained what an expendable trust fund is.

The Moderator declared Article 10 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

Moved:
Seconded:

Josh Shackford
Bill Lord

No discussion.

The Moderator declared Article 11 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 2 - 3

Moved:
Seconded:

Josh Shackford
Michael Brooks

Ellen Perkins stated that this is the best money that we ever spend and we should just do it.

Candy Sue Jones of the Old Home Week Committee explained that the Committee does not generate enough money to fund the fireworks. She explained that these are the only funds that the Committee requests from general taxation. The presentation draws the largest crowds.

Mike Veilleux suggested that the Moderator be on a committee to solicit alternative funds to sponsor the fireworks.

Police Chief, Robert J. King, Jr., spoke in general support of the article and pointed out that he generally watches the display with the Selectman that votes against them and that the Selectman who is in favor is generally asleep before the display starts.

The Moderator declared Article 12 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

Moved: Josh Shackford
Seconded: Bill Lord

Noreen Downs explained the intent of the article is to retain funds for future purchases and/or replacement of equipment. She explained the need for Board Members.

The Moderator declared Article 13 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

Moved: Josh Shackford
Seconded: Bill Lord

The Moderator gave a brief explanation of Current Use Taxation and the implication of Land Use Change Tax when the use of the property changes.

Selectman Lord explained that any change of use through development would trigger the assessment.

Marcia McKenna, Chair of the Conservation Commission, explained that the article is extremely detrimental to the aims of the Master Plan. She asked if the Master Plan was consulted prior to this vote.

The response from the Selectmen was in the negative.

Ms. McKenna explained that the reduction would only reduce each tax bill by approximately \$2.00 per property per year. She clarified that this costs the taxpayers nothing in this process as opposed to all costs of a purchase through direct taxation. She had a list of Towns in New Hampshire that give 50% to 100% of the LUCT to Conservation funds.

Nicole Nordlund requested additional information of the future purchase that is planned.

Ms. McKenna stated that she could not comment.

There is approximately \$198,000 in the LUCT account at this time. Their total funds are approximately \$240,000.

Selectman Lord explained that this article changes the amount of funds feeding the previously discussed accounts. No change to the existing funds is proposed. Currently over 30% of property in Town is already protected by conservation measures. The DRA has stated that our properties are drastically undervalued. These values could go up 20-30%. The Selectmen are focused on this change to provide sources to offset other appropriations.

Ms. McKenna feels that the percentage is really 11.8% protected. The goal is 25%.

Ted Slader referenced the hand-out that was placed on the chairs this morning. No other Town is giving just 15%. He feels that this would be a regression.

Mike Veilleux agrees with the move toward more recreation. He supports the purchase of additional lands for recreation purposes.

Ralph Lutjen felt that it was important to note the growth rate and the impact on the environment.

Selectman Shackford clarified that any future purchase would have to come to Town Meeting with a warrant article to make the purchase.

Attorney Gorrow clarified that all that would be needed would be a public hearing if there was enough money in the fund and no further appropriation were required.

Noreen Downs spoke against the article.

Nicole Nordlund wanted to know what the impact of the future purchase would be on the existing funds.

Marc Ohlson encouraged a no vote. This is preservation funded by developers of the land through the payment of land use change tax.

Marcia McKenna read a portion of the Master Plan regarding the focus of the Conservation Commission and its purpose in the Town of Madison.

Cynthia Lord questioned the data used to arrive at the percentages. The Town Reports provide this data.

Selectman Lord feels that the data is being misrepresented by the Conservation Commission. Both parties are utilizing the same data to make different statements.

Cynthia Lord stated that she was confused regarding the source of funding. She thought that it was simply the \$5,000 warrant article each year. She is concerned with the loss of property from the tax rolls resulting in increased taxes. She made a motion for a secret ballot. Five voters in attendance agreed.

The Moderator stated that he is confused with the statistics being presented. He asked Attorney Gorrow about the impact of Conservation Easements.

Attorney Gorrow explained that a valid easement must be held by a third party in order to be valid. They are very difficult to change unless the third party were to release their easement rights.

The Selectmen did not have a number of acres in conservation easement.

Police Chief, Robert J. King, Jr., moved and called the question.

Noreen Downs clarified that taxes are still paid on property held in conservation easement.

Motion to end debate was passed by a show of hand-held ballots as declared by the Moderator.

The Moderator explained the process and that we will be using the ballot lettered "A" for purposes of voting on this article.

Polls were opened at 10:50 AM. The Moderator determined that the polls were closed at 11:00 AM. Supervisors of the Checklist were solicited to count the ballots and tabulate the results.

The Moderator declared Article 14 DEFEATED by a vote of YES 22 and NO 39.

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
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 1 - 4

Moved: Bill Lord
Seconded: Josh Shackford

Marcia McKenna stated that all of her arguments on the previous article apply here as well but this is an opportunity for taxpayers to contribute. Her argument on the previous article was that the developer of land was funding the purchase of future land. Under this article, she is soliciting funds directly from the taxpayers.

The Moderator paused debate pending a tabulation of the vote on the previous article.

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0

Moved:

Bill Lord

Seconded:

Josh Shackford

Ron Force made a motion to package Articles 16-22 and vote them as a group.

Selectman Arruda indicated that the total is \$26,164.00 for Articles 16-22.

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 1

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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 1

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
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 1

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.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 1

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
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 - 0

Moved: Josh Shackford
Seconded: John Arruda

Donna Veilleux asked what non-profits did not apply.

Selectman Arruda stated that there was no petition received from the Blue Loon.

The Moderator declared Articles 16-22 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Discussion resumed on Article 15.

Selectman Lord pointed out that \$20,000 in land use change tax was about to be warranted. That would result in \$10,000 going into the fund.

Marcia McKenna clarified that Article 15 is your opportunity as a tax payer to contribute to this fund.

Selectman Arruda clarified that an additional \$100,000 was raised for road needs. This Article is a want.

Mike Veilleux wants to keep right in the middle. He supports this article.

Ron Force wanted to point out the hard work that goes into the budget and the increased costs of maintaining our roads. He also pointed out that the \$200,000

appropriation will likely be an annual appropriation. He feels that conservation should be privately funded.

The Moderator declared Article 15 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots by a sitting count YES 31 NO 25.

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

Hope Hutchison had a question regarding getting more information from the Selectmen.

The Moderator stated that he was looking for volunteers to be named to the Cooperative School District Study Committee.

Donna Veilleux commented that she did not recognize Selectman Shackford wearing a tie.

Nicole Nordlund wanted to thank the Selectmen for their diligence with the budget. She also requested the Old Home Week Committee and other non-profit entities state in this forum where funds can be sent to support their endeavors.

Candy Sue Jones stated that any donations could be made to the Selectmen and, additionally, the Committee has vacancies.

Marcia McKenna wanted to state that all Town Committees have vacancies and are in need of volunteers.

Selectman Arruda issued the Oaths of Office to all those elected and appointed members of the Town and School.

Seeing nothing further, the Moderator solicited a motion to adjourn from Henry Forrest, seconded by Tino Fernandes, and was so voted.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted and attested to the minutes' authenticity and accuracy,



Michael R. Brooks,
Town Clerk/Tax Collector