

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF MADISON  
September 15, 2020  
MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Chairman Nicole Nordlund; Ron Force; Ned Rogerson; Selectman William Lord; School Board Representative Michael Brooks; Alternate Doug McAllister

**Members Excused** – Selectmen Representative John Arruda; Steve Bartlett

**Others Present** – Town Administrator Linda Shackford; DPW Director Jon Cyr; Administrative Assistant Kim Cyr; Officer Michael Mosher; Madison TV Videographer Moselle Spiller

**Where and When Posted** – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on August 11, 2020.

**Meeting Called to Order** – By Chairman Nordlund at 6:00 p.m.

**Selection of Committee Chairman:** Discussion of appointment of a new chairman included a reference to the Town Budget Ordinance that stated “The Advisory Budget Committee shall elect its chairman to serve no longer than one year during his/her term.”.

**Motion** by Nordlund, seconded by Brooks to nominate Force to serve as chairman for the 2020-2021 budget season. The motion passed unanimously.

**Schedule of 2020-2021 ABC meetings:** Using calendars noted with scheduled selectmen’s meetings noted, the committee decided to schedule 2020 meetings for October 13, November 10, December 8; and a 2021 meeting for January 19. These meetings will commence at 6:00 pm.

Chairman Force cited a committee conversation last fall about hosting School representatives at one meeting per month. Brooks will bring that request back to his Board at their October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for consideration.

The committee discussed the location of future budget meetings keeping the ability to social distancing in mind. McAllister noted that the videography at the Town Hall is more convenient and already set up. Ultimately, it was decided to proceed month to month with the October meeting being held at the school.

**Current Budget Status:** Lord stated that with 70% of the year gone by the the budget is 62% spent. Tax collection for the 2020 tax year is at 96% collected which is in line with past years. The Town has submitted approximately \$35,000 for grant reimbursement for unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19 which include payroll taxes, sanitization, social distancing and voting.

Lord explained the process of the revaluation that took place this year noting that some properties showed significant increases in their assessed values. Lord added that the tax rate will be set in October with the assistance of the Department of Revenue Administration; at that point people will be able to see the impact of the new assessments.

Chairman Force asked DPW Director Cyr for a quick summary of road activity. Cyr stated that the scheduled paving and chip sealing for 2020 was finished on Friday. That included the final paving of the fire department and chip sealing of roads that included bonus areas of Maple Grove and Ridgeview. Cyr was able to gain a little on the 10-year plan.

Cyr offered information about the Transfer Station stating that COVID-19 caused an increase in tonnage brought to the station with so many cleaning out homes and doing home projects. Fees have been changed since June so more revenue has been collected and put in the general fund. The new compactors are 100% OSHA approved and re-arranged as to keep patrons at a safe social distance. Rogerson questioned the

plastic recycling with Cyr explaining that only certain numbers are of value; MSW is \$27.85/ton with plastic being \$138/ton.

**Anticipated Large Expenses for 2021 Budget:**

- *Silver Lake Dam/Boat Ramp* – Lord explained that DES has informed the Town of deficiencies with the dam. With the boat ramp and dam both needing work perhaps the cost could get rolled into a community infrastructure project involving Conservation Commission, the Town, SLAM and the Boat Club.
- *Dump Truck* – Director Cyr is considering asking for the purchase of a dump truck in 2021.
- *Fire Department* – Brooks stated that the fire department is collecting numbers on replacing the aluminum chassis on the 1989 truck.

Chairman Force asked Brooks about the school expenditures for the coming year. Brooks stated they are just finishing up their 2019-2020 budget year and that there is an estimated surplus of \$272,000 in the 2019-2020 budget that will be held on to by the school as an appropriation.

**Update of the Town Budgeting Ordinance:** Chairman Force asked members to review the almost 30-year old ordinance and look to see if changes or updates that should be made. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Brooks noted that a public hearing would be necessary to make any changes and suggested looking into holding it the same night as the budget hearing, upon confirmation of proper procedure by Town Counsel.

**Such Business as properly presented:** The committee is in receipt of the resignation of regular member Jeff Balogh. Doug McAllister as an alternate was offered a regular position on the committee and accepted.

**Motion** by Brooks, seconded by Lord to elevate McAllister to a regular voting member for the 2020-2021 budget year. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** There were none

**6:49 PM** – Chairman Force made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by McAllister. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING** – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Gymnasium.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator  
Recording Secretary