

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
December 8, 2020
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Ron Force; Selectman John Arruda; School Board Representative Michael Brooks; Nicole Nordlund; Ned Rogerson; Doug McAllister; Steve Bartlett

Others Present – Selectman William Lord; DPW Director Jon Cyr; Librarian Sloane Jarell; Fire Chief Richard Clark; Deputy Fire Chief Russ Hawkes; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Moselle Spiller

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on November 30, 2020.

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

Chairman Force suggest the appointment of a Vice-Chairman and asked for the Committee to consider Rogerson for the position. The Committee was in agreement with Rogerson accepting.

Current Town 2020 budget drawdown status – Arruda noted that we are currently at 92.1% of the year with 82% of the budget spent. Arruda noted that the fire department still has 37% of their budget remaining. The BOS is considering the encumbrance of funds from the Fire Department budget to offset the cost of a chassis for the rescue vehicle. Arruda estimates a 2020 budget surplus of \$150,000 to \$175,000.

Approval of November 10, 2020 minutes – Motion by Rogerson, seconded by Bartlett to accept the minutes of November 10, 2020 as written. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Proposed Town 2021 budget review – The budget pages were reviewed with very few changes. The proposed bottom line for 2021 stands at \$2,990,283.00 which is a 6% increase with Arruda noting that the ambulance line skews the realistic number of 3.1% increase.

Proposed Town 2021 warrant articles review – The operating budget, Article 2, was reviewed previously. Any discussion on the proposed warrant is noted.

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 ROAD NAMES. 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.

King Pine Rd and Fox Rd are proposed to be worked on. Bartlett referenced the 5-year plan and noting that more done than originally scheduled in 2020. Rogerson asked about the fire station parking lot paving with Cyr stating it came in about \$2,000 under budget.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a #-year lease/purchase agreement for one hundred and twenty-one thousand (\$121,000.00) for the purpose of leasing a new Highway Truck with dump body, plow, frame and sander and to raise and appropriate the sum of XXXXX dollars (\$XXXXXX) of which XXXX dollars (\$XXXXXX) will apply to the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own at the end of the # years.

The numbers on lease information are forthcoming soon.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a #_year lease/purchase agreement for thirty seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-four dollars (\$37,864.00) for the purpose of leasing a tractor mower with leaf blower and to raise and appropriate thirty seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-four dollars (\$37,864.00) of which XXXX dollars (\$XXXX) will apply to the first year's payment for that purpose and XXXXXXXX dollars (\$XXXXX) to outfit the tractor mower with leaf blower. This lease agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own at the end of the # years.

The Selectmen have considered purchasing this outright from the 2020 budget. This will be decided at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a #_year lease/purchase agreement for XXXXXXXX dollars (\$XXXXXX) for the purpose of leasing a Police Cruiser and to raise and appropriate XXXX dollars (\$XXXXX) of which XXXX dollars (\$XXXX) will apply to the first year's payment for that purpose and XXXXXXXX dollars (\$XXXXX) to outfit the police cruiser. This lease agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own at the end of the # years.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a #_year lease/purchase agreement for XXXXXXXX dollars (\$XXXXXX) for the purpose of leasing a Police Cruiser and to raise and appropriate XXXX dollars (\$XXXXX) of which XXXX dollars (\$XXXX) will apply to the first year's payment for that purpose and XXXXXXXX dollars (\$XXXXX) to outfit the police cruiser. This lease agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own at the end of the # years.

Articles 6 and 7 are still pending while waiting for the State of NH bids to be released.

Article 8. 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.

Article 9. 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.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate twenty-five dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Transfer Station Capital Projects Expendable Trust Fund.

Cyr has plans for a roof over the compactor to deflect rain and snow as it adds to the tonnage costs. The balance information on the fund will be available for the next Selectmen's meeting.

Article 11. 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.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of XXXX dollars (\$xxxx) to be placed in PEG TV Expendable Trust Fund this sum to come from the unassigned fund balance which represents unused franchise fees.

The year must be closed out before this number will be available.

Article 13. 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.

Lord explained that the Conservation Commission has agreed to support and use conservation account funds for the repair of the dam and boat ramp. Selectmen agreed to put up this article with that agreement in mind. Brooks noted that if funds are coming from a Capital Reserve Fund a vote at Town Meeting to expend those funds is necessary. Bartlett asked when the project would commence with Cyr stating it is planned for next year.

Article 14. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint two (2) volunteer representatives from the Town to serve on the “Communications District Planning Committee” for the purpose of drafting a “Communications District Agreement” under RSA Chapter 53-G – Communications Districts?

Arruda noted that this article is not a monetary article but it can bind the Town into future expenses. Arruda just hopes it is looked at with eyes wide open.

Chief Clark supplied information to all members about information to replace the chassis on the 1989 Rescue truck. Brooks explained that it is proposed to take the box off and fit with new chassis on the body. The total project is estimated at \$184,000 of which \$50,000 would be encumbered from the 2020 operating budget. Lord asked why this is necessary. Brooks explained that items have been moved to other apparatus but there is still not enough room or a generator available. Brooks noted that an in-kind new vehicle would be in the \$425,000 to \$470,000 range. Clark added that this would allow for another cascade system that allows for air tanks to be filled at the scene. Arruda asked if this will be warrantied by Dingee Company. The response was that the chassis warranty would stay in effect. Bartlett asked if there is a contingency plan on the rehab. Brooks explained that there is no indication that there is a problem with the body and it should last as it is all aluminum with good welds. If so, decided by the Selectmen, this would be a warrant article.

Review Proposed Changes the Town Budgeting Ordinance – Force offered some grammatical corrections to the ordinance that were accepted by the committee. **Motion** by Rogerson, seconded by McAllister to accept the ordinance as proposed. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Review of 2021 members up for election – Nordlund will not be running again in 2021. Nordlund suggested getting the notice of vacant spots out on the web and announced at Town Meeting with hopes that some of the younger generation will get involved. Nordlund will send out something through the Boulder email list. Brooks will be publishing a list of open seats for all boards and committees with sign up in January.

Determine location of January meeting – It was decided that the meeting will again be held in the gymnasium of the school. L. Shackford will make the appropriate request to school staff.

The committee will be attending a ZOOM meeting on January 4th for the school’s public budget hearing. This committee will meet on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 to vote on the School Board’s articles. This meeting will be posted by L. Shackford.

Brooks gave an overview of the School’s 2021 budget which is looking at \$7,170,464.69; an increase of 1.69% over 2020.

Public Comments – There were none.

7:43 PM – McAllister made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Rogerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator
Recording Secretary