

**Town of Madison
Public Budget Hearing
April 6, 2021**

Selectmen Present – Josh L. Shackford and William T. Lord

Selectman Excused – John Arruda

Advisory Budget Committee Members Present –Ron Force, Nicole Nordlund, Steve Bartlett, Ned Rogerson, Michael Brooks, Doug McAllister and Tino Fernandes.

Others Present – Police Chief Robert J. King, Jr.; Officers Mike Mosher and Jake Martin; DPW Director Jon Cyr; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Moselle Spiller; Residents Noreen Downs; Dave Downs; Annette Bartlett along with several other residents

Public Notice – Notice of this hearing was published in the March 23 & April 6, 2021 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 March 16, 2020.

Force made a suggestion to hold the Public Hearing and the Advisory Budget Committee meeting simultaneously with a recording of the Committee's votes during the meeting. All were in agreement.

Lord called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm for the purpose of the 2021 Annual Budget Hearing.

**Town of Madison
2021 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, May 11, 2021 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, polls to be open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM to act upon Articles 1 and 2 with the meeting to reconvene at nine o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, May 15, 2021 in the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison to act upon the remaining Articles:

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the amendments proposed by the Advisory Budget Committee to the Town's Budgeting Ordinance adopted at the 1991 Town Meeting which include changing meeting and reporting requirements, the term of the Chairman, and the date minutes must be made available. (ballot vote required)

This article will be by ballot vote with the purpose of synchronizing the procedures followed currently between this committee, the Selectmen, the school and RSA 91A.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three million eight thousand two hundred and ninety-seven dollars (\$3,008,297.00) for general Town operations with discussion and amendments to be considered line by line.

	2020 Approved	2020 Expended	2021 Proposed
Ambulance	\$ 21,869.00	\$ 21,868.95	\$ 106,350.00
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 1,975.00	\$ 2,214.04	\$ 2,300.00
Assessing	\$ 39,980.00	\$ 105,941.44	\$ 37,600.00
Building Inspection	\$ 38,141.00	\$ 35,616.43	\$ 39,262.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 1,502.63	\$ 4,850.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 13,025.00	\$ 5,615.13	\$ 9,525.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 10,860.00	\$ 10,210.00	\$ 7,150.00
Emergency Management Dept.	\$ 6,001.00	\$ 4,805.50	\$ 6,001.00
Executive	\$ 128,151.00	\$ 104,937.48	\$ 128,153.00
Financial Administration	\$ 146,258.00	\$ 130,130.56	\$ 153,450.00
Fire Rescue	\$ 170,950.00	\$ 174,225.22	\$ 173,100.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 130,675.00	\$ 116,693.90	\$ 130,675.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 9,519.84	\$ 12,600.00
Highway	\$ 591,048.00	\$ 599,858.84	\$ 629,865.00
Insurance	\$ 99,177.00	\$ 93,469.26	\$ 99,177.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 17,300.00	\$ 8,362.50	\$ 12,000.00
Library	\$ 82,670.00	\$ 74,244.78	\$ 84,542.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 28,467.00	\$ 20,453.06	\$ 46,318.00
Notes Due	\$ 98,260.00	\$ 98,258.91	\$ 98,260.00
Parks & Rec	\$ 37,351.00	\$ 67,114.54	\$ 37,351.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 815.95	\$ 1,525.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 517,554.00	\$ 459,048.52	\$ 555,946.00
Planning Board	\$ 18,950.00	\$ 5,147.82	\$ 13,950.00
Police	\$ 313,132.00	\$ 265,870.36	\$ 329,314.00
Solid Waste	\$ 265,347.00	\$ 305,456.18	\$ 265,347.00
Street Lighting	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 3,927.92	\$ 3,925.00
Zoning Board	\$ 19,760.00	\$ 10,303.71	\$ 19,760.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,819,802.00	\$ 2,735,613.47	\$ 3,008,297.00

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

The Ambulance line has increased within the budget for 2021 compared to 2020 because a portion of the 2020 cost was in a warrant article.

The insurance line 2021 amount should read \$96,281.

The Solid Waste should read \$276,630.

The Madison PEG TV line at \$46,318 represents the amount received from cable franchise fees.

The 2021 Proposed Total with the Insurance and Solid Waste adjustments is \$3,016,684.00.

Force state Point of Order – Force noted that in Arruda’s absence a vote from the Board of Selectmen representative is missing offering that Fernandes be moved up from Alternate to cover the vacancy. Lord offered that either himself or J. Shackford should make the vote as it is a Selectmen’s spot. Lord will vote in place of Arruda.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 4. 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 King Pine Road, Fox Road and High Street. 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, 2026, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 6-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of one hundred and thirty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$131,500.00) for the purpose of leasing a new loader. The cost of the new loader is one hundred sixty-one thousand dollars (\$161,000.00). The Town will trade in its currently owned loader to reduce the amount of the lease/purchase agreement. No lease/purchase payment is due in this fiscal year. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own the loader at the end of the 6 years.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Director Cyr described the poor and unsafe condition of the loader. Bartlett confirmed correctly that the first year is a trade with the next five years leasing.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 7-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of one hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars (\$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 eighteen thousand and nine hundred and sixty-eight dollars (\$18,968.00) for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own the highway truck at the end of the 7 years.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of fifty-three thousand dollars (\$53,000.00) for the purpose of leasing an outfitted Police Cruiser and to raise and appropriate eleven thousand three hundred and four dollars (\$11,304.00) for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own the police cruiser at the end of the 5 years.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Chief King responded to an inquiry to a pick-up truck versus an SUV with the explanation that there are places in Town that a truck can access easier, the cargo space for warrants and it is \$6,000 less than an SUV.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 7-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of one hundred and twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$129,000.00) for the purpose of leasing a rescue truck chassis and mounting it to the Town's existing truck body and to raise and appropriate twenty thousand three hundred and twelve dollars (\$20,312.00) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause and the Town will own the rescue truck chassis at the end of the 7 years.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Brooks summarized that the chassis and updates is considerably less expensive than a new truck estimated at \$476,000 with the life span being similar.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Highway Heavy Equipment Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 10. 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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Transfer Station Capital Projects Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

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.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6-1-0; Force opposed

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Eight Thousand and fourteen dollars (\$8,014.00) 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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 14. 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.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Lord noted that the Conservation Commission agreed to fund the dam and boat ramp repairs with funds from their accounts with the total balance of all conservation accounts at about \$331,000. The committee was please to know the Commission supports other projects. Cyr stated that the Commission has expressed concern for salt in the water and he is looking at a salt brine system as a remedy that will have money and the environment. The logs from the Veteran’s Memorial on Winter Road have the ability to be milled using Conservation funds to construct a pole barn to keep salt under cover.

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund created in 1996. 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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Code Enforcement Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund created in 2020. 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

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 18. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand one hundred dollars (\$3,100.00) for the Family Resource Center at Children Unlimited, Inc. Petition signed by Patricia Ambrose, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 19. 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 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 20. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$5,625.00) for the operation of Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Madison: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, RSVP for Disaster Services, Tamworth Dental Center. Petition signed by Richard P. Eldridge, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 21. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) in support of Ossipee Children’s Fund to provide direct support/financial assistance for eligible children and families for childcare, education, enrichment and recreation programs. Petition signed by Donna Veilleux, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 22. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand four hundred and twelve dollars (\$7,412.00) to support White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of Madison. Petition signed by Melissa Gentry, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3-0-0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

There were no additional comments from the public.

Motion by J. Shackford, seconded by Lord to close the public hearing portion of the meeting. The motion passed.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Rogerson to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2021 ABC meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Rogerson to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2021 ABC meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by McAllister, seconded by Rogerson to accept the draft Advisory Budget Committee Report with the addition of this evening's votes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Public Hearing for the changes proposed to the Budget Ordinance is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 4:30pm in the Lower Level Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Town Meeting dates are Tuesday, May 11, 2021 for ballot voting with the remaining articles being addressed on Saturday, May 15, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

8:23 PM – Motion by McAllister, seconded by Nordlund to close the public hearing and adjourn. The motion passed **2-0**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator
Recording Secretary