

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF MADISON  
January 4, 2022  
MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Chairman Steve Bartlett; Doug McAllister; Tino Fernandes; Selectmen Representative Bill Lord; School Board Representative Mike Brooks; Ron Force; Ned Rogerson

**Others Present** –Town Administrator Linda Shackford; DPW Director Jon Cyr; Chief Robert King, Jr., Librarian Sloane Jarell; MadTV Videographer Aysia Morency

**Where and When Posted** – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on September 30, 2021.

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

**Approval of Minutes: Motion** by Rogerson, seconded by Force to approve the minutes from December 7, 2021 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

**MES Budget Discussion:** The Committee attended the School Board meeting on January 3, 2022. The Committee began discussion of the articles with the votes recorded below:

**ARTICLE 1:** Non-monetary article – Election of officers

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$7,231,309? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,198,174 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the School District or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0-0

Article 2 **Recommend** by the Committee **7-0-0.**

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the voters of the Madison School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$1,036,450 for the 2022-2023 school year in which \$378,779 is assigned to the school budget of this district? The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0-0

*Fernandes was unclear of why the substantial increase over last year. Bartlett knows that \$100,000 is for a special ed position but not aware of the reason for the rest. Brooks explained that it is for the special ed position and for the transfer of the IT budget to the SAU for each town, but noted that contingency funds are within the school's budget should it not pass. If it passes, the school would not expend the funds.*

Article 3 **Recommend** by the Committee **7-0-0.**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Madison School Board and the Madison Employee's Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Estimated Increase

Year 2022-2023	\$83,202
Year 2023-2024	\$68,005
Year 2024-2025	\$75,775

and further raise and appropriate the sum of \$83,202 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

*Brooks explained that the pay scales were adjusted to equalize salaries amongst those in the valley. Fernandes would like to see the schedule with Brooks feeling it would not help in his decision making as this committee is only voting on cost items with the cost being part of the agreement. Bartlett feels the school board did their due diligence when negotiating this contract. Force would like to see some detail. Brooks explained that a goal of the pay scale changes was to bring salaries in line while avoiding a big spike. The old tables were ten steps that many staff members had already reached so they were receiving longevity stipends. Those stipends have been done away with for any future hires. Force feels if the ultimate goal of this is to retain and obtain good people, he could be sold on it, with Brooks stating that this is the intention. Fernandes would still like to see the schedule and see how this is a positive change. The intention of the negotiations was to have a competitively paid staff remarked Brooks adding that Madison is not the highest or lowest paid in the area.*

Article 5 **Recommend** by the Committee **6-0-1**  
with Fernandes abstaining for lack of enough formal information.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be placed in the capital reserve fund previously established for the purpose of educating educationally disabled children. The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0-0

*This fund currently has a balance of approximately \$100,000.*

Article 5 **Recommend** by the Committee **7-0-0.**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Madison School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$50,000 to be placed in the previously established Building Capital Reserve Fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30 unreserved fund balance available for transfer on July 1. The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0-0

*McAllister expressed concern that these funds are not being managed well by the School Board. Brooks noted that \$726,000 was turned back last year and it was used to lower the school portion of the tax rate.*

Article 2 **Recommend** by the Committee **7-0-0.**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the School District will vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end undesignated fund balance in an amount that is up to 5.0% of that year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b II. The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0-0

*Brooks remarked that the amount historically retained is 2.5%.*

Article 7 **Recommend** by the Committee **7-0-0.**

**2021 Drawdown:** Lord lead the discussion noting that 93% of the 2021 budget has been spent. On December 28<sup>th</sup> the Selectmen encumbered \$43,742 for the following:

Fire Department Turnout gear - \$11,717  
Town Hall Alarm Panel - \$3,591  
Generator Maintenance - \$6,853  
Library Air Conditioning Service - \$5,671  
Library Sign Repair - \$1,360  
Police Handguns - \$1,056  
Police Upfit of 2021 Cruiser - \$12,350  
Police Equipment for 2021 Cruiser - \$1,414

Bartlett asked about the timing of the purchase of the cruiser. Chief King explained that with the chip problem for new vehicles his purchase is out of place per the CIP but noted that ultimately it will be the same number of vehicles in the same span of time. Bartlett expected more staggering of purchases. Chief King feels it won't be an issue and expect the cruisers to last their regular life span or better as his department personnel each have a vehicle which helps to keep a pulse on the maintenance needs better.

**Review of 2022 Budget:** Lord explained that the budget is not much different from the last version with the only change being a new line to the Police. A taser line for \$2,800 was added. Chief King was able to explain that it is a maintenance program that allows exchanges and upgrades to the tasers keeping them in compliance.

**Warrant Articles for 2022:** The new format of article by function is used for the line items on the draft warrant. The road improvement for \$200,000, a cruiser for \$57,400, a DPW pickup truck to replace the one-ton, ballfield repairs, ETF fundings of assessing, highway heavy, transfer station and MadTV, fireworks and petition charities are all included.

**ARPA Funds:** Brooks is obtaining quotes from generator companies to service the two garages and Town Hall reported Lord. The estimates are coming in around \$50,000.

**Such Items as Properly Presented to the Committee** – Lord informed the committee that the joint meeting of the ZBA, Planning Board, moderator, lawyers and selectmen regarding STRs resulted in the hopes of planning an informational meeting to keep the direction of the STR proposed changes from conflicting.

The plan is progressing with application being made to DES regarding the path from the school to Burke Field. The purpose of the new path is to redirect the students on to a safer path that does not include walking through the DPW lower garage.

**Public Comments:** There were none.

**7:15 PM** – Fernandes made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Rogerson. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING** – The next meeting of the Advisory Budget Committee will be at the Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Madison Elementary School.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator