

MINUTES OF THE MADISON TOWN MEETING

MARCH 14, 2023 Town Election
and reconvened
MARCH 18, 2023 Town Meeting

PRE-ELECTION PROCEDURES

MANUAL COUNT OF ELECTION DAY BALLOTS—On February 22, 2023, Collection Clerk, Rebecca Bonner and School Clerk, Patricia Ambrose 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 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., as posted on February 22, 2023 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 14, 2023, before the meeting was convened, Moderator Pro-Tempore, Bill Lord and Selectman/Registered Voter John Arruda examined the compartments in the electronic ballot counting device to assure the compartments were empty then the Moderator Pro-Tem had the electronic ballot counting device print the Election Zero Report for the annual Town and School Election.

Moderator Pro-Tem Lord opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. The Moderator Pro-Tem declared that it was no longer necessary to move to waive the reading of the Warrant. Moderator Pro-Tem Lord then declared the polls open for acting upon Article 1 of the 2023 Town Warrant with the meeting to reconvene at nine o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, March 18, 2023 in the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison to act upon the remaining Articles, it was so moved by Michael Brooks and seconded by Linda Shackford:

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 14, 2023 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 18, 2023 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	Lucas Jesseman	133
	Adam J. Price	<u>164</u>
Write-In	Josh Shackford	2
Blanks	No vote for this position	13
Vote for two Planning Board Members for three years	Paul W. Marks, Jr.	<u>249</u>
Write-Ins	Jay Buckley	15
	Sharon Schilling	2
	Bill Lord	2
	Nick	1
	Chris Martin	1
	Matt Veilleux	1
Blanks	No vote for positions	354
Vote for one Planning Board Member for one year	Marc Ohlson	<u>251</u>
Write-Ins	Jay Buckley	1
	Phil Laroche	1
Vote for two Trustees of the Library for three years	Cheryl Littlefield	<u>265</u>
	Patricia A. Rau	<u>216</u>
Write-Ins		
Blanks	No vote for this position	145
Vote for one Advisory Budget Committee Member for three years		
Write-Ins	Joe Dame	21
	Lucas Jesseman	1
	Karen Rein	1
	Joy Gray	1
	Susan Lee	1
	Nicole Nordlund	1
	Ted Kramer	1
Blanks	No vote for this position	280
Vote for one Advisory Budget Committee Member for two years		
Write-Ins	Joe Dame	17
	Sharon Schilling	3
	Nicole Nordlund	3
	Stuart Lord	2
	Ron Force	2

	Jim Curran	1
	Marc Ohlson	1
	Lucas Jesseman	1
	Karen Rein	1
	Jim Eldridge	1
	Penny Hathaway	1
	Cheri Stackpole	1
	Blanks No vote for this position	277
Vote for one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years	Cheryl Littlefield	<u>274</u>
Write-Ins		
Blanks	No vote for this position	38

TOTAL VOTES CAST ON ELECTION DAY: 313
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS AT END OF ELECTION DAY: 1,945
TURNOUT PERCENTAGE of TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 16.09%

TOWN MEETING RECONVENED – MARCH 18, 2023

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

Two-hundred twenty-three (223) voters signed and received paper ballots.

TOTAL VOTER RECEIVING HAND-HELD PAPER BALLOTS: 223
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS AT END OF ELECTION DAY: 1,945
TURNOUT PERCENTAGE of REGISTERED VOTERS: 11.47%

Due to a larger than expected turn-out, the start of the meeting was delayed in order to permit those in attendance to sign-in with the Supervisors of the Checklist and receive their paper ballots. At 9:45 a.m. Moderator Pro-Tem Lord requested all persons elected on Tuesday to proceed to the front table to be sworn in by the Town Clerk – Tax Collector.

At 10:00 a.m. Moderator Pro-Tem Lord opened the meeting.

Moderator Pro-Tem Lord asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Pro-Tem Lord asked Advisory Budget Committee Chairman Justino Fernandes to please introduce the panel of Advisory Budget Committee members seated to his left— Ron Force, Ned Rogerson, Doug McAllister, and Sharon Schilling. Moderator Pro-Tem Lord then turned to his right and asked Selectman Shackford to

introduce those individuals and his/her position with the Town—Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michael R. Brooks, Selectman John Arruda, Selectman Mike Mauro, Town Administrator Linda Shackford and Town Attorney Pro-Tem, Eric Mayer.

The Moderator Pro-Tem then pointed to the In Memorium on page 1 and recognized the contributions of Donald Colcord to the Town of Madison. He then pointed out the printed rules of procedure and the fact that there is a procedure to challenge his decisions. He made reference to Herschel Sosnoff and his saying that we can disagree without being disagreeable.

The Moderator Pro-Tem read the Town & School Election results of the election held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. The results were posted in three places in the entry-way to the gymnasium.

After the introductions, Moderator Pro-Tem Lord continued the meeting by asking voters to turn to the green pages beginning at Page 141 of the 2022 Town of Madison Annual Report to consider Articles 2 through 31 of the 2023 Town Warrant.

On a point of order, Jay Buckley made a motion that non-resident taxpayers be permitted to speak at this meeting, his motion was seconded by Bob Ingram.

Dee Dempster rose to express her displeasure with the intent to rehash issues that have been discussed throughout the year.

Ned Rogerson asked if there would be any time restraints on such comments. The Moderator Pro-Tem responded that each individual will have 2 minutes in accordance with the rules.

Nicole Nordlund stated that we take their money and we should take their opinions.

Reed Heath is concerned with setting a precedent. He is opposed to the motion.

Bob Ingram wanted to clarify that it is not a motion to allow non-residents to vote. Does not understand what the problem is.

Dee Dudley moved the question. Seconded by an unnamed person.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the motion DEFEATED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million seven hundred and fifty thousand six hundred and seventy-one dollars (\$1,750,671.00) for General Government. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

	2022 Approved	2022 Expended	2023 Proposed
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,444.31	\$ 2,500.00
Assessing	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 30,594.00	\$ 38,345.00
Building Inspection	\$ 51,525.00	\$ 50,212.54	\$ 51,750.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 2,374.10	\$ 5,600.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,050.18	\$ 10,150.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,766.07	\$ 8,750.00
Executive	\$ 173,053.00	\$ 154,193.52	\$ 173,053.00
Financial Administration	\$ 158,977.00	\$ 159,494.06	\$ 167,024.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 153,350.00	\$ 174,054.06	\$ 187,700.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 8,146.36	\$ 12,600.00
Insurance	\$ 111,003.00	\$ 82,861.31	\$ 114,219.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 16,148.50	\$ 22,300.00
Library	\$ 86,605.00	\$ 80,476.79	\$ 102,092.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 44,492.00	\$ 30,256.68	\$ 44,500.00
Notes Due	\$ 150,895.00	\$ 150,993.55	\$ 135,027.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 343.95	\$ 9,025.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 575,939.00	\$ 564,586.21	\$ 600,195.00
Planning Board	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 5,582.57	\$ 11,950.00
Rec Program	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 38,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 3,078.45	\$ 3,900.00
Zoning Board	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 5,897.46	\$ 11,990.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,613,635.00	\$ 1,536,554.67	\$ 1,750,671.00

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 2 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Arruda

Seconded:

Selectman Shackford

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

Marcia McKenna requested to remove \$1,200 from the Conservation line as it is included in Article 16 for the Forest Management account. She also discussed their hope of hiring an administrative assistant. The Conservation line would end up at \$4,400. Seconded by Donna Veilleux.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the Amendment PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

The new budget, after the Amendment, is as follows:

	2022 Approved	2022 Expended	2023 Proposed
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,444.31	\$ 2,500.00
Assessing	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 30,594.00	\$ 38,345.00
Building Inspection	\$ 51,525.00	\$ 50,212.54	\$ 51,750.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 2,374.10	\$ 4,400.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,050.18	\$ 10,150.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,766.07	\$ 8,750.00
Executive	\$ 173,053.00	\$ 154,193.52	\$ 173,053.00
Financial Administration	\$ 158,977.00	\$ 159,494.06	\$ 167,024.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 153,350.00	\$ 174,054.06	\$ 187,700.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 8,146.36	\$ 12,600.00
Insurance	\$ 111,003.00	\$ 82,861.31	\$ 114,219.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 16,148.50	\$ 22,300.00
Library	\$ 86,605.00	\$ 80,476.79	\$ 102,092.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 44,492.00	\$ 30,256.68	\$ 44,500.00
Notes Due	\$ 150,895.00	\$ 150,993.55	\$ 135,027.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 343.95	\$ 9,025.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 575,939.00	\$ 564,586.21	\$ 600,195.00
Planning Board	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 5,582.57	\$ 11,950.00
Rec Program	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 38,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 3,078.45	\$ 3,900.00
Zoning Board	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 5,897.46	\$ 11,990.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,613,635.00	\$ 1,536,554.67	\$ 1,749,471.00

Donna Veilleux rose to question the insurance line. She once again asked her annual question about whether the Town carries unemployment insurance. She went on to ask if the Town was paying any unemployment or worker's compensation claims at this time.

Town Administrator, Linda Shackford responded in the negative.

Linda Shackford moved to amend the Madison PEG TV line to \$46,572 seconded by Josh Shackford. The amended amount represents that actual amount of franchise fees received by the Town which information was not available before the Town Reports went to print.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the Amendment PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

The new budget, after the Amendment, is as follows:

	2022 Approved	2022 Expended	2023 Proposed
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,444.31	\$ 2,500.00

Assessing	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 30,594.00	\$ 38,345.00
Building Inspection	\$ 51,525.00	\$ 50,212.54	\$ 51,750.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 2,374.10	\$ 4,400.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,050.18	\$ 10,150.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,766.07	\$ 8,750.00
Executive	\$ 173,053.00	\$ 154,193.52	\$ 173,053.00
Financial Administration	\$ 158,977.00	\$ 159,494.06	\$ 167,024.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 153,350.00	\$ 174,054.06	\$ 187,700.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 8,146.36	\$ 12,600.00
Insurance	\$ 111,003.00	\$ 82,861.31	\$ 114,219.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 16,148.50	\$ 22,300.00
Library	\$ 86,605.00	\$ 80,476.79	\$ 102,092.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 44,492.00	\$ 30,256.68	\$ 46,572.00
Notes Due	\$ 150,895.00	\$ 150,993.55	\$ 135,027.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 343.95	\$ 9,025.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 575,939.00	\$ 564,586.21	\$ 600,195.00
Planning Board	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 5,582.57	\$ 11,950.00
Rec Program	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 38,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 3,078.45	\$ 3,900.00
Zoning Board	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 5,897.46	\$ 11,990.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,613,635.00	\$ 1,536,554.67	\$ 1,752,543.00

Marcia McKenna asked about the increase to the Patriotic Purposes line. She understood that the fireworks were included but questioned what the other \$3,000 was for.

Candy Sue Jones explained that the Memorial Day Flags come out of that line as well as replacing the flag pole at the ballfield.

Bill Dempster questioned the \$38,000 for the Recreation Department.

Adam Price explained the Recreation line.

Donna Veilleux requested that all speakers utilize the microphone.

Susan Hirtle responded that the Recreation Line provides full time childcare in the summer and listed other programs. She is hoping to do so many more programs this year.

Joy Gray made comparison to the recreation budgets of our surrounding towns. Madison is less than half of any of the surrounding towns.

Ron Force had a general presentation that approval of the entire warrant would result in an 8.4% increase in taxes. This is unacceptable to him under the present economic circumstances across the country. He urged those in attendance to postpone less

important expenses. He moved to cut the budget to \$1,678,200. Seconded by Sharon Wilson. This would require cutting \$74,343.00 from the budget.

Adam Price asked where the cuts would come from.

Ron Force expressed his confidence in the ability of the Selectmen and Department heads to make the necessary cuts.

Nicole Nordlund explained that she would have voted against this budget if she had been elevated to a voting member on the Advisory Budget Committee. She recommended cutting the legal line to what was expended in 2022.

Ned Rogerson described his evaluation of the Town of Madison tax rate from 2013 to the present to determine the compounded interest rates over time. He explained that there are other factors contributing to the tax rate.

Shawn Bergeron, Sr. wished to consider the total recreation requested expenditures printed in the budget.

Adam Price explained the recreation fundraised funds.

Ron Force explained that his concern was with the spikes in the operating budget and try to minimize them.

Joy Gray spoke in favor of the budget for the Recreation Committee. She anticipates \$30,600 in revenue from summer programs.

Susan Hirtle rose to state that she was the full-time Rec Director last summer and she lauded her accomplishments.

Candy Sue Jones moved the question. Seconded by Dee Dudley.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the motion to move the question PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

The Moderator called for a vote on Mr. Force's amendment to reduce the operating budget. The hand-held vote was too close to call and went to a count of the house.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the amendment to the operating budget PASSED by a standing count of the house.

YES	102	NO	87
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Attorney Mayer asked if the amendment was inclusive of the two previous amendments.

The Moderator Pro-Tem responded in the affirmative.

Moved by Doug McAllister and seconded by Ron Force.

Donna Veilleux asked for a secret ballot.

It was explained that 5 registered voters would have to submit that request in writing.

Hope Hutchinson asked for all speakers to move to the microphone.

Donna Veilleux argued with Town Counsel regarding the requirement of signatures for a secret ballot stating that Moderator George Epstein never required a written submission.

The House was opposed to a secret ballot vote, by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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

The new budget, after the Amendment, is as follows:

	2022 Approved	2022 Expended	2023 Proposed
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,444.31	
Assessing	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 30,594.00	
Building Inspection	\$ 51,525.00	\$ 50,212.54	
Conservation Commission	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 2,374.10	
Direct Assistance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,050.18	
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,766.07	
Executive	\$ 173,053.00	\$ 154,193.52	
Financial Administration	\$ 158,977.00	\$ 159,494.06	
General Government Buildings	\$ 153,350.00	\$ 174,054.06	
General Government Equipment	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 8,146.36	
Insurance	\$ 111,003.00	\$ 82,861.31	
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	
Legal	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 16,148.50	
Library	\$ 86,605.00	\$ 80,476.79	
Madison PEG TV	\$ 44,492.00	\$ 30,256.68	
Notes Due	\$ 150,895.00	\$ 150,993.55	
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 343.95	
Personnel Administration	\$ 575,939.00	\$ 564,586.21	
Planning Board	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 5,582.57	
Rec Program	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Street Lighting	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 3,078.45	
Zoning Board	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 5,897.46	
TOTAL	\$ 1,613,635.00	\$ 1,536,554.67	\$ 1,678,200.00

Cuts in individual lines to be determined by the Selectmen and Department Heads to get to the new bottom line after Mr. Force's amendment.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred sixty-six thousand seven hundred and forty-nine dollars (\$966,749.00) for Public Works.

	2022 Approved	2022 Expended	2023 Proposed
Highway	\$ 232,797.00	\$ 216,004.03	\$ 265,297.00
Parks & Rec	\$ 36,351.00	\$ 29,378.75	\$ 16,351.00
Solid Waste	\$ 187,525.00	\$ 115,462.54	\$ 149,501.00
Administration	\$ 559,785.00	\$ 539,999.79	\$ 535,600.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,016,458.00	\$ 900,845.11	\$ 966,749.00

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Shackford
 Seconded: Selectman Mauro

There was no discussion.

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

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred and forty-nine thousand two hundred and seventy-nine dollars (\$649,279.00) for Public Safety.

	2022 Approved	2022 Expended	2023 Proposed
Ambulance	\$ 111,145.00	\$ 111,144.30	\$ 107,366.00
Emergency Management Dept.	\$ 5,001.00	\$ 4,062.83	\$ 7,511.00
Fire Rescue	\$ 164,850.00	\$ 114,694.80	\$ 166,900.00
Police	\$ 340,134.00	\$ 344,874.83	\$ 367,502.00
TOTAL	\$ 621,130.00	\$ 574,776.76	\$ 649,279.00

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Shackford
 Seconded: Selectman Arruda

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem 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 two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) for paving and road improvements of Town roads including but not limited to Pound Road and a portion of East Madison Road. 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, 2028, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Shackford
Seconded: Selectman Mauro

Ron Force gave kudos to the highway department for the development of the 10-year plan.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 5 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

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 two hundred and five thousand dollars (\$205,000.00) for the purpose of leasing a new truck for the Department of Public Works. The cost of the new DPW truck is two hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$260,000.00). The Town will trade in its currently owned truck 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 truck at the end of the 7 years.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Mauro
Seconded: Selectman Arruda

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem 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 the sum of 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 6 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

The fund currently has \$21,000, as stated by the Moderator Pro-Tem.

There was no discussion.

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

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of 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 6 – 0 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Arruda

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

The fund currently has \$66,000, as stated by the Moderator Pro-Tem.

There was no discussion.

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

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

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Mauro

Seconded:

Selectman Shackford

The fund currently has \$95,000, as stated by the Moderator Pro-Tem.

There was no discussion.

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

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand two hundred and thirty-five dollars (\$14,235.00) to be placed in PEG TV Expendable Trust Fund this sum to come from the unassigned fund balance which represents unused franchise fees from the 2022 Operating Budget.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Mauro
Seconded: Selectman Shackford

There was no discussion.

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

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Historical Society Building Improvement Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purposes of repairs and improvements to the Historical Society Building, and to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) to be deposited into the fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Shackford
Seconded: Selectman Mauro

The Moderator asked Linda Smith to confirm the need for a new roof and other necessary improvements.

The Moderator Pro-Tem 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 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
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 2 – 4 – 0

Moved: Selectman Shackford
Seconded: Selectman Mauro

The fund currently has \$52,000, as stated by the Moderator Pro-Tem.

Marcia McKenna is excited to report a partnership that is actively pursuing the purchase of the 700 acre "Chain of Ponds" property.

Jesse Shackford questioned where the Chain of Ponds property is. He expressed the need for a better presentation.

Marcia McKenna explained that it is a strip of land extending from the transfer station to the Silver Lake Post Office.

Jesse Shackford clarified that the entire property is a swamp and will never be built on. We do not have to own it.

Elizabeth Gagnon explained that 60% of the world's wetlands have been filled. If we do not protect it, it will be lost.

Shawn Bergeron explained that the property is predominately on the westerly side of the railroad tracks. He agreed that the property was generally undevelopable. However, he stated that there are a few suitable house lots.

There was general discontent with the quality of the sound amplification and the ability to hear those who are speaking.

Marcia McKenna rose again to exalt the importance of protecting Silver Lake.

Cynthia Lord wanted to clarify that the vote today is not to purchase land.

Candy Sue Jones explained that she has hiked this area for years and you cannot buy it for \$70,000. If you could, she would own it.

The Moderator Pro-Tem 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 the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the purpose of forest maintenance, the entire amount to come from the previously established Forest Maintenance account, and no amount to be raised by taxation. Any amount not expended during the year will be returned to the Forest Maintenance account.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 1

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

The fund currently has \$66,000 in it, as stated by the Moderator Pro-Tem.

Marcia McKenna explained how the Conservation Commission has always expended from the fund without proper authority, as it turns out. The Selectmen discovered the need to follow a different procedure.

Sharon Schilling understands that this will raise the balance of the fund to \$76,000.

The Moderator Pro-Tem clarified that this article is to withdraw funds to be expended. We are not adding to the fund, as stated in the Article.

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

Article 14. To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Expendable Trust Fund for Land Acquisition established in 1989 and distribute the moneys in the fund one thousand one hundred and ninety-seven dollars (\$1,197.00) to the town's general fund, to be held by the town treasurer.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 1

Moved:

Selectman Arruda

Seconded:

Selectman Shackford

Marcia McKenna requested that this article be combined with the next article.

It was explained that the articles had to be voted separately.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 14 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand one hundred and ninety-seven dollars (\$1,197.00) to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund for Land Acquisition and Conservation established in 2006 with said amount to come from the unassigned fund balance. (This amount represents the funds to be deposited in the general fund from the discontinuance of the Land Acquisition pursuant Expendable Trust Fund in Article 14. This article is contingent on the passage of Warrant Article 14. If Article 14 fails, this article will be null and void.)

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 1

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Arruda

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 15 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Short-Term Rental Legal Expense Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purposes of enforcing and defending the Town's Zoning Ordinance in respect to limitations on short term rentals, and to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000.00) to be deposited into the fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 2 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

Mark Faunce moved to dispense with Article 16, seconded by Reed Heath.

Town Counsel explained that you can amend it or vote it down but you cannot simply dispense with it.

Mr. Faunce withdrew his motion. He went on to request that the people be asked if they want to allow the existence of short-term rentals and he read a petitioned article that he intends to submit for consideration next year.

Nicole Nordlund expressed her disappointment that we did not allow non-residents to speak. She stated that her business will 100% close if short-term rentals are not allowed.

Jake Boewe stated that most of his business is related to second home owners who will be engaging in short-term rentals. He cautioned that we are throwing good money after bad.

Bruce Borofsky spoke about the need to increase the population in the school. He requested support in order to establish the legality of the short-term rentals.

Katherine Koziel read a statement regarding the defense of the zoning ordinance and the actions taken by the voters last year. She pointed out that the voters voted down a proposed definition of short-term rental last year.

Jake Martin asked what the plan is and what the legal fight is going to look like if this is defeated.

The Moderator explained that if the Town were sued, and this article was defeated, the Selectmen would have to find money in the operating budget to pay for the defense of the Town and the Zoning Ordinance.

Bob Ingram stated that he does not rent his house. He does not think that the intent is to prevent tourism. He believes that the Town should come up with a plan to satisfy everyone.

Christine Taylor feels that the discussion has gone off track. This article is for the defense of the zoning ordinance, not whether you have short-term rentals or not.

Bill Dempster explained the content of the letters that have been sent out by the Selectmen. He requested the Town Administrator to update us on the status.

Town Administrator, Linda Shackford, stated that 18 letters have been sent out requesting voluntary compliance with the Zoning Ordinance as amended at last year's meeting. The Town has received 7 responses to date.

Bill Dempster read an email from the short-term rental group advising its members not to respond to the Town's request.

Reed Heath asked if we are currently in litigation at this time that requires this money.

The Selectmen responded in the negative.

Mr. Heath felt that the State had prohibited the Towns from pursuing this.

Elizabeth Gagnon understands that we would need \$100,000 to hire someone to manage this issue.

Selectman Arruda explained the amount of time that he has spent on this issue since he came back to the Board. He explained that the people approved the ordinances and the Selectmen are tasked with defending them. He expressed that the multinational companies have created a problem for us. He disagreed with the assessment that the use is not commercial. He explained that the Zoning Ordinance needs to be defended.

Jay Buckley rose to restate the intent of the article. He does not understand what he gets out of it. He would prefer that the money be spent on paving. He asked that we vote it down.

Nick Borelli asked to address Town Counsel and asked how legal fees and expenses can be recovered.

Attorney Maher explained several different procedures under different statutes depending upon how the action was filed and which process was followed.

Ned Rogerson explained that if we vote this down, the Selectmen would have to find it in a budget that we have already cut.

Nicole Nordlund would prefer to see the money go to the recreation department and that it is a divisive issue.

Jake Boewe asked about the creation of licensing and taxation to make the short-term rentals pay for their own issue.

It was explained that the Planning Board would be the forum for such a discussion.

Jay Buckley stated that we could end up paying the rental-owners' attorney fees if the Town were to lose in court.

Counsel explained that it is very difficult to recover attorney fees and costs from municipalities as it is generally accepted that volunteers working on behalf of the municipality defending its ordinances cannot be held liable for attorney fees and costs.

Bill Dempster rose to speak again. He wanted to point out that selective enforcement is not permitted. If a complaint is brought, it has to be defended.

Cheryl Brooks rose to move the question.

Counsel advised that it is customary to allow those in line to speak.

Mike Mosher wished to move the question also.

Kevin Ackert threatened to sue the Selectmen if this passes and offered \$10,000 to commence such litigation.

Mike Rogers agreed to join Mr. Ackert's lawsuit.

Mr. Dempster presented a written request for a secret ballot.

Mr. Bergeron requested an explanation for the different procedure on this question with regard to the secret ballot.

Counsel explained that because the request for the secret ballot was presented before the article was called for a vote, it had to go to the secret ballot.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared that the Article would be voted by using Ballot lettered "A".

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Silver Lake Dam Improvement Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purposes of engineering, design, review, repairs and improvements to the Silver Lake Dam, and to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) to be deposited into the fund. Further, to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

Shawn Bergeron spoke on behalf of the Selectmen to explain the intent of this article. He stated that replacement of the dam would exceed \$2 Million.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 17 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) for the purpose of repair or replacement of the pedestrian bridge over the Silver Lake Dam.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 18 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 19. To see if the town will vote to establish a Ballfield Expendable Trust Fund under RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of rehabilitating Burke Field, and to raise and appropriate sixty-two thousand nine hundred and sixty-one dollars (\$62,961.00) to be deposited into the fund, of which twelve thousand dollars (\$12,961.00) will come from unassigned fund balance and the remaining fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) from taxation. Further, to name the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 3 – 2 – 1

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 19 PASSED by a standing count of the house.

YES

93

NO

52

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 16 PASSED by a hand-count of Ballot letter "A".

YES

114

NO

98

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund under RSA 35-B:2, II, to be known as the Madison Recreation Committee Revolving Fund. If the fund is established, all moneys raised from donations, fundraising efforts and concessions related to parks and recreation, but not from registration or participation fees, will be deposited into the fund and will be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and will not be considered part of the town's general surplus. The town treasurer will have custody of all moneys in the fund, and will pay out the same only upon order of Board of Selectmen and only for park or recreation purposes.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 20 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Katherine Koziel made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 16, seconded by Shawn Bergeron.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the Motion PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand five hundred and eighty-one dollars (\$4,581.00) to be deposited into the Madison Recreation Committee Revolving Fund established under Article 20, such amount to come from the town's unassigned fund balance. (This article to be acted upon only if Article 20 is adopted.)

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Moved:

Selectman Shackford

Seconded:

Selectman Arruda

Adam Price clarified that these funds were raised last year.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 21 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Town Counsel clarified the legality and consequences of the restriction of reconsideration.

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-one thousand six hundred and seventy-four dollars (\$71,674.00) for the purpose of funding a full-time Recreation Director from April 1 to December 31, 2023. This amount includes salary, NH Retirement System contribution, FICA, health insurance, and dental insurance. If this article is adopted, it is anticipated that a full-year amount of \$95,565 will be included in the proposed budget for 2024.

Not Recommended by Selectmen 0 – 2 – 0
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 3 – 3 – 0

Moved: Lisa Dembowski
Seconded: Cheryl Harris

Jake Boewe stated that \$100,000 was an incredible amount of money to pay someone. It's just too much.

Joy Gray clarified that it will be cheaper if the candidate did not take a family insurance plan. Need to get kids off the screens and on the fields.

Michael Brooks referenced the hypocrisy of the Budget Committee and voters cutting \$74,343 from the operating budget to reduce taxes and then supporting this article. He also referenced the number of existing town employees listed on Page 66 that are not paid \$55,000 per year. He ended by stating that one of the current employees has worked for the Town nearly 20 years and the passage of this article would be a slap in the face to those years of service.

Selectman Mauro spoke about the need to ease into this and suggested that it be part-time before being made full-time.

Steve Bartlett wanted to clarify that the Selectmen were the managers.

Susan Hirtle explained that we are able to charge residents from Freedom and Tamworth to participate in our programs. She can no longer volunteer her time as she has opened a business in Conway.

Christine Taylor discussed the fact our Library Director is not paid as much as this position. She works full-time with a degree and does not take benefits. She feels that the Rec Program is great but they should be going for a part-time position.

Joy Gray stated that they are asking for an investment. She guaranteed a return on the investment.

Carol Kramer spoke about the growth of the budget in just two years. She does not feel that it should be full time. She moved to change it to a part-time position at \$30,000. Seconded by an unnamed person.

Town Counsel clarified with the Town Administer that \$30,000 for a year would be prorated to \$22,500 for April to December 2023.

Cheryl Littlefield clarified that the Library Director is not full-time and she does not get benefits.

Christine Taylor asked if the rate of pay should be specified.

The amended article will read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500.00) for the purpose of funding a part-time Recreation Director from April 1 to December 31, 2023. If this article is adopted, it is anticipated that a full-year amount of \$30,000.00 will be included in the proposed budget for 2024.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the amendment passed by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Cheryl Brooks requested clarification of who was paid stipends and encouraged folks to volunteer their time.

Mary Holmes did not feel that this article should pass because a proper process has not been followed.

Susan Hirtle clarified that no coaches were paid stipends. She was paid all of the stipends to direct the programs.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 22, as amended, PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Selectman Mauro moved to reconsider Article 2, seconded by Selectman Shackford. He is concerned that they cannot find the necessary cuts within Article 2 alone. Articles 2-4 are up 3.8%. Article 2 itself is up over 8 %.

The Moderator Pro Tem requested an explanation of the law on budgeting from Counsel.

Counsel explained that a transfer of appropriation can occur but there are limitations. Those amounts can be moved around within each budget to balance them all with the cut.

Chief King feels that the explanation merits reconsideration of the vote on Article 2.

Ted Kramer requested to get the Selectmen latitude to address the cuts in all budgets.

Joy Gray spoke in favor of reconsideration.

Sloane Jarell took issue with Ron Force making the amendment as the Chairman of the Advisory Budget Committee and someone who had been involved in the process of developing the budget. She thought he should be ashamed of himself.

Todd Cromie thought we ought to wait until the end of the meeting to reconsider the article.

The Selectmen wished to reconsider Article 2 in the amount of \$1,751,543. Moved by Selectman Mauro and seconded by Selectman Shackford.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared the Motion to Reconsider Article 2 DEFEATED by a standing count of the house.

YES 69 NO 76

Article 23. Shall the Town of Madison accept the provisions of RSA 53-G:1-RSA 53-G:11 providing for the establishment of a communications district, together with the municipalities of Albany, Bartlett, Brookfield, Chatham, Conway, Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Hales Location, Harts Location, Jackson, Moultonborough, Ossipee, Tamworth and Tuftonboro in accordance with the provisions of the proposed agreement filed with the Madison Board of Selectmen?

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Moved: Selectman Mauro
Seconded: Selectman Arruda

Mr. Lord read a prepared statement to explain what this article is all about.

Doug McAllister stated that our contract with Spectrum is expiring.

Sharon Schilling asked if the decisions of the District would be binding on Madison.

Mr. Lord answered in the affirmative but restated that the decisions of the District could not result in an expense to the taxpayer. It will be a consumer decision whether or not to purchase a service.

Mr. McAllister stated the difficulties we have had trying to negotiate with Spectrum.

Mark Faunce asked about the impact on what the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative is already undertaking.

Mr. Lord stated that NHEC is ahead of the game and this decision would not impact them.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 23 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 24. Shall the Town vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28, II, previously adopted, for an Optional Veterans' Tax Credit of \$500.00 per year? (Majority vote required) If readopted, this article shall take effect for the 2023 property tax year and remain effective until rescinded?

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Moved:	Selectman Shackford
Seconded:	Selectman Mauro

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 24 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 25. By Petition. To see if the town will vote to remove the designation of Highway to Summer Cottages, pursuant to RSA 231:81-II (b) a section of Lead Mine Road (a class 5 highway) beginning at the intersection of Lead Mine Road and Black Brook Road and continuing westerly on Lead Mine Road to the Cook Pond Turnaround. Petition signed by Michael P Veilleux, et al.

Moved:	Donna Veilleux
Seconded:	Michael Veilleux

Mr. Veilleux presented that this article is a house-keeping matter. The Town is not exempt from maintaining the road. He did clarify that they want a speedy transition to their heirs. Nothing changes with the passage of this article.

Counsel explained that the Court settlement was between the Town and Mr. & Mrs. Veilleux and is personal to them.

David Cribbie agreed with the legal explanation. The Veilleuxs are the only people who will benefit. Should the property ownership change, the Town would not be obligated to maintain the road. He disagreed with the characterization that the Veilleuxs are not opposed to snowmobiles when their actions before the Selectmen have been the opposite.

Mike Veilleux stated that they had never spoken against the snowmobiles using the trail.

Jake Boewe asked if we could just let sleeping dogs lie.

Donna Veilleux characterized the settlement as having been requested by the Selectmen. She threatened additional litigation.

Jake Martin asked why the road is being plowed.

Selectman Shackford read a prepared statement explaining the impact of the legal stipulation. Basically, the Town is plowing the road under the terms of the Court settlement and that is the only reason.

Eric Edwards asked how many roads in town are plowed to one residence. He asked if it could be reversed. He believes that we should cater to everyone.

Mike Veilleux again stated that they live on the only Class V road that is not routinely maintained.

The Selectmen clarified that it is a Highway to Summer Cottages.

Jay Rancourt stated that she skis and parks frequently at the Cook Pond turn around.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Article 25 DEFEATED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Selectman Arruda moved the charitable articles as a group (Articles 26-30) in the aggregate amount of \$27,578, seconded by Selectman Mauro.

Article 26. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand seven hundred and seventy-one dollars (\$5,771.00) 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, Disaster Relief, Tamworth Dental Center. Petition signed by Ken Sullivan, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Article 27. 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 Karen Alexander, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Article 28. 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 Debra Hughen, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Article 29. By Petition. To see if the town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand five hundred and thirty-two dollars (\$7,532.00) for the support of White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the town of Madison. Petition signed by Susan Stacey, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Article 30. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand six hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$5,675.00) in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Petition signed by Susan Stacey, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 2 – 0 – 0

Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6 – 0 – 0

Selectman Arruda moved the charitable articles as a group (Articles 26-30), seconded by Selectman Mauro. \$27,578

There was no discussion.

The Moderator Pro-Tem declared Articles 26-30 PASSED by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Article 31. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Cheryl Brooks rose to thank Mr. Lord for filling in today and stated that he did a good job.

Paul Jean requested that action be taken to clean up 2229 Village Road.

Chief King requested the meeting recognize Selectman Shackford for his years of service as a Selectman. This meeting was Josh's last official act as Selectman. He received a standing ovation from the majority of those present.

Seeing nothing further, the Moderator solicited a motion to adjourn from Ken Hughes, the Moderator did not seek a second, and was so voted.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.

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



Michael R. Brooks,
Town Clerk/Tax Collector