

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
FEBRUARY 4, 2014
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present: Chairman Michael Brooks, Josh Shackford, and John Arruda.

Budget Committee Members Present: David Chase, Hersh Sosnoff, Jim Lyons, Cheryl Littlefield, and Ray O'Brien.

Others Present: Town Administrator Melissa Arias; Deputy Town Administrator Sue Stacey; Fire Commissioners Joyce Elliott and Alan Gilman; Fire Chief Jeff Eldridge; firefighters David Cribbie and Phoebe-Lynn Rand; Librarian Mary Cronin; Library Trustee Peter Stevens; Emergency Management Director and Forest Fire Warden Richard Clark; Solid Waste Advisory Committee member David Downs; Police Chief Jamie Mullen; Moderator George Epstein; Conservation Commission member David Riss; Historical Society members Becky Knowles, Linda Smith, Penny Hathaway, and Celeste Benoit; residents Phoebe Rand, Franklin Jones, Richard Papazian, Barbara Anderson, Donna Veilleux, Denita Dudley, Fred Ham, and Mike Benoit; non-residents Jack Rose and George Cleveland; Madison TV Videographers Noreen Downs and Amy Boyd (with Videographer-in-training Garrett Boyd).

Where and When Posted: Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 23, 2014 and published in the Conway Daily Sun on January 25, 2014 and February 4, 2014.

Meeting Called to Order: By Brooks at 7:00 p.m. in the James Noyes Memorial Hall at the Madison Elementary School.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE – 7:01 PM – The Chairman opened the Public Hearing on proposed Warrant Article #4 which would authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$453,411 payable over 10 years for a new pumper truck for the Madison Fire Rescue (see full language of Article #4 later in minutes). Brooks said this hearing is mandatory because the appropriation exceeds \$100,000. As there were no comments or questions from the audience the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING - 7:04 PM - Pertinent comments made during the hearing are listed in bold print under the article being discussed.

Town of Madison
2014 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, March 11, 2014 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, March 15, 2014 in the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison to act upon the remaining Articles:

Article 1. To bring in your votes for Executive Councilor. To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Article 2. By Petition. Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Madison on the second Tuesday of March? Petition signed by Mark Graffam, et al.

Brooks said there will be a statutory Public Hearing on this petitioned article at 5:30 p.m. on February 18, 2014 in the Town Hall Meeting Room. This article will appear on the printed ballot to be voted on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

Article 3. To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 154:1(a) to formally organize the Madison Volunteer Fire Department with the fire chief appointed by the local governing body, upon recommendation of the firefighters, with firefighters appointed by the fire chief.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0

Brooks said this article won't be discussed because it doesn't contain an appropriation or expenditure.

Article 4. To see if the municipality will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of four hundred fifty-three thousand four hundred eleven dollars (\$453,411) payable over a term of 10 years for a new pumper truck for the Madison Fire Rescue and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred sixty-three thousand dollars (\$163,000) as a down payment to lower the agreement amount with said sum to come from the withdrawal of one hundred sixty-three thousand dollars (\$163,000) from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. This lease agreement does not contain an escape clause and requires a 2/3rd ballot vote for passage.

Recommended by the Selectmen 2-0-1
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Fred Ham said the proposed truck has been picked out by the Fire Department as a show truck and believes there has to be a lower cost option out there. Ham said the Fire Department is known for replacing vehicles that have very low mileage. Ham said the fire trucks drive drastically fewer miles that our school buses and are housed inside as opposed to outside like the school buses so they should last much longer.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million three hundred ninety-four thousand seven hundred fifty-two dollars (\$2,394,752) for general Town operations with discussion and amendments to be considered line by line.

	2013 Approved	2013 Expended	2014 Proposed
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Ambulance	\$ 28,100.00	\$ 28,100.04	\$ 28,100.00
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 1,775.00	\$ 1,654.51	\$ 1,775.00
Assessing	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 13,946.69	\$ 20,059.00
Building Inspection	\$ 37,309.00	\$ 32,583.34	\$ 38,136.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,944.61	\$ 3,750.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 33,080.00	\$ 15,722.36	\$ 33,080.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 6,125.58	\$ 8,600.00
Emergency Management Dept.	\$ 4,721.00	\$ 3,624.27	\$ 4,751.00
Executive	\$ 111,800.00	\$ 107,864.19	\$ 114,243.00
Financial Administration	\$ 133,066.00	\$ 122,706.03	\$ 136,181.00
Fire Rescue	\$ 141,148.00	\$ 134,458.44	\$ 148,194.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 77,975.00	\$ 76,303.37	\$ 65,960.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 10,850.00	\$ 13,354.77	\$ 10,850.00
Highway	\$ 501,580.00	\$ 512,236.19	\$ 524,178.00
Insurance	\$ 68,100.00	\$ 61,911.01	\$ 85,158.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 22,700.00	\$ 35,855.69	\$ 22,700.00
Library	\$ 67,379.00	\$ 65,291.26	\$ 68,036.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 20,592.00	\$ 16,687.99	\$ 23,292.00
Notes Due	\$ 9,179.00	\$ 9,178.52	\$ 55,487.00
Parks & Recreation	\$ 36,001.00	\$ 31,319.70	\$ 30,447.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 900.00	\$ 802.92	\$ 900.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 453,937.00	\$ 433,666.26	\$ 502,301.00
Planning Board	\$ 11,950.00	\$ 4,527.60	\$ 11,950.00
Police	\$ 282,662.00	\$ 275,332.20	\$ 291,439.00
Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 155,278.00	\$ 154,293.75	\$ 152,114.00
Street Lighting	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 4,724.44	\$ 4,950.00
Zoning Board	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 3,924.85	\$ 8,120.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,255,043.00	\$ 2,169,140.58	\$ 2,394,752.00

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Donna Veilleux asked if there is a line in the budget for unanticipated income, specifically for the NH Local Government Center's return of money to NH municipalities who were charged more for insurance premiums than they should have been. Veilleux asked whether there would be a breakdown on the return of funds for health, liability, and workers compensation insurances. Stacey said those figures will appear in the Town Report under the Treasurer's Report section.

Mike Benoit asked for an explanation on the proposed decrease to the General Government Building line since it's down 15.4% over last year's appropriation. Arruda said there were two building projects in 2013 that amounted to \$25,790 and this year the town project line is proposed at \$15,000.

Brooks was asked to explain the change in the Insurance line, which is up 25% over last year. Brooks said the Town has had a change in our insurance “experience” rating over the last 5 years which has caused our premiums to increase. Brooks explained the overage in 2013 Legal expenditures versus what was appropriated. Although we have several ongoing legal cases the Selectmen are opting not to increase the 2014 appropriation.

Brooks outlined the vehicle payments covered under the Notes Due for 2014, which include payments on the 2013 Police cruiser and the 2014 Highway truck. In 2013 there was only one vehicle payment from this line which paid off the 2011 Police cruiser.

Brooks said the Personnel line reflects an increase of 7.9% in medical insurance but since one of our employees changed from a double plan to a family plan our overall increase in 2014 is 10.2%. Brooks also reviewed the increases in NH Retirement (Police increase of 5.45% and all other employees at a 3.33% increase). Benoit asked if there increases are statutory and Brooks said yes.

Brooks said the Planning Board activity in 2013 was low resulting in only 38% of their appropriation being expended. Brooks said the 2014 case load can’t be anticipated so the Selectmen have opted to ask for the same appropriation in 2014 as was approved in 2013.

Arruda announced that Police Chief Jamie Mullen, who had worked part-time in Madison and full-time in another town for several years, has returned to Madison full-time in 2014 while still keeping his operating budget at a 3.1% increase.

Brooks pointed out how the Street Lighting project really paid off.

Peter Stevens asked about the Direct Assistance line and why the 2013 expenditure was so much less than what was appropriated. Brooks said the Town was fortunate to be able to retain some of the appropriated funds and return them to the general fund. Brooks said the Selectmen are appropriating the same amount in 2014 that was appropriated in 2013 because of state and federal mandates that require the Town to assist the needy if they meet our guidelines. This is another budget line that’s impossible to predict.

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the beginning reconstruction 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, 2015, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Brooks pointed out that the non-lapsing language within the article can afford the Town up to 5 years to expend the appropriated funds but in this case the Selectmen are seeking two years. Brooks explained how the East Madison Road bridge project is schedule to be completed this summer with non-lapsing funds appropriated at two previous town meetings. This warrant article is intended to cover the necessary paving along portions of East Madison Road which can hopefully be done in conjunction with the bridge project paving.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the Assessing Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$155,000) for the purpose of repairing and restoring the Historical Society Building with fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) to come from the Madison Historical Society Building Fund and seventy-five thousand five hundred sixty-five dollars (\$75,565) to come from the Historical Building CRF and the remaining twenty-four thousand four hundred thirty-five dollars (\$24,435) from taxation. Furthermore, to vote to discontinue the Historical Building Capital Reserve Fund with any remaining funds to be transferred to the general fund. 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, 2019, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by the Selectmen 2-1-0
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 2-4-1

Mike Benoit asked for and received confirmation that the only money being raised through taxation in this article is \$24,435. Benoit asked the Budget Committee why they voted not to support the article. Chase said the no vote was mostly because of the late arrival of the article before the Budget Committee. Sosnoff said the objection wasn't necessarily against the work to be done but more that the project hadn't gone out to bid before it was proposed. Arruda said he didn't support the article as a Selectmen because of the lack of a bid process by the Historical Society. Beckie Knowles, President of the Historical Society, said they met with the Selectmen in early December and didn't walk away from the meeting with the understanding that the Historical Society was responsible for putting the work out to bid. Knowles said the Historical Society has since put out a request for proposal with the hope that the numbers will be back before Town Meeting. Brooks said the Moderator will accept a revised article from the Selectmen on behalf of the Historical Society and place it on the floor as revised at Town Meeting.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a four year lease/purchase agreement for fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) for the purpose of leasing a new Highway Truck with sander, plow and frame and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$15,500) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease/purchase agreement contains an escape clause and a buyout option for one dollar (\$1) at the end of the four years.

Recommended by the Selectmen 2-1-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4-3-0

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$14,500) for interior renovations at the Madison Library to include relocation, renovation, and construction of service desk, shelving, and computer work stations. Three

thousand dollars (\$3,000) will come from funds administered by Madison Library Board of Trustees, three thousand dollars (\$3,000) will come from Friends of Madison Library, with the balance of eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,500) to be raised by general taxation, less amount of any grants received for the project.

Not Recommended by the Selectmen 1-2-0

Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 0-5-2

Library Trustee Peter Stevens asked for the reasoning behind the negative votes. Brooks said his vote was to hold off on this project due to the possible need for repairs to the sills around the exterior of the Library building. Brooks sees this article as a want and the sill repairs as a need. Chase said the Budget Committee considered the possible sill rot but also the photographs presented during the Library's presentation on their proposal which showed the current condition of the workspace as messy. Chase said the Budget Committee would rather see the Library staff tidy up the existing space and try to work within the workstation they have before considering a change. Cheryl Littlefield said she and Ron Force abstained from the vote because they both sit on the Library Board of Trustees. Stevens spoke about the sill rot which the Trustees feel was caused by condensation buildup discovered last year. Stevens said the Selectmen found money within last year's budget to repair the sills along the road side of the building. Stevens said the Library Trustees brought their concern of expanded sill rot to the Selectmen's attention and asked for an inspection. Stevens understands that the inspection will have to wait until spring. Stevens said the repairs wouldn't be constituted as an emergency. Stevens said the funding of any repairs would likely be proposed through future Town Meeting warrant articles. Stevens said the existing sills, if not damaged, could be wrapped in protective material to prevent condensation from causing future rot. Stevens said the Library has applied for a grant to go toward this expenditure but the results won't be known until after Town Meeting. Stevens said the woodworking quote to re-use the existing workstation is good through June 2014.

Donna Veilleux said the Library space is not messy but is crowded and cluttered which should make supporting the article that much easier.

Mike Benoit asked whether there would be an opportunity for the Selectmen or Budget Committee to reconsider their vote on this article prior to Town Meeting. Brooks said it would be possible and probably easier for the Selectmen because they have a meeting scheduled between now and Town Meeting where the Budget Committee doesn't.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for land acquisition and conservation purposes.

Recommended by the Selectmen 2-1-0

Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 1-6-0

Fred Ham said there is plenty of conservation land in Madison already and there's an even larger amount of conservation land when you consider the parcels in surrounding towns. Ham said the

Conservation Commission has a large sum of money between their existing accounts which grows each time land is taken out of Current Use.

Article 12. To see if the municipality will vote to establish a Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19 for the purpose of PEG TV Expenses and to raise and appropriate up to the sum of three thousand nine hundred dollars (\$3,900) to be placed in this fund with this sum to come from the unassigned fund balance which represents unused franchise fees. Furthermore, to name the board of selectmen as agents to expend on the fund.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 7-0-0

Brooks explained how the establishment of this expendable trust will allow Madison TV to have access to any funds remaining in their annual operating budget at the end of the year. Brooks said the Madison TV operating budget is proposed annually at the same amount as our anticipated cable franchise fees. In years past any funds remaining in the Madison TV line have been returned to the general fund. This expendable trust would give Madison TV the ability to purchase new equipment from funds that were left over from previous years' operating budgets. Donna Veilleux asked for and received more information on the term unassigned fund balance.

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund.
This article will be passed over if article four passes.

Not Recommended by the Selectmen 0-2-1
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 0-7-0

Epstein pointed out that the article can't just be skipped; it will have to be put on the floor and voted to pass over.

Article 14. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in support of Conway Humane Society. Petition signed by Charlotte Emmel, et al.

Not Recommended by the Selectmen 1-2-0
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 0-7-0

Fred Ham asked if this was a new article and Brooks said yes. Sosnoff said charity is very important but funding should come from private donations instead of through taxation. Arruda said the Town pays the Humane Society to board stray animals and only expended \$100 for that purpose in 2013.

Article 15. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in support of Carroll County Transit Blue Loon Public Bus Service. Petition signed by Roger Ambrose, et al.

Not Recommended by the Selectmen 0-3-0

Jack Rose received permission to speak as a non-resident spokesman for the Blue Loon. Rose said Silver Lake Landing residents are the largest demographic of Madison riders. Rose said there is a large number of elderly and disabled individuals who use or could use the service. Rose asked the Selectmen and Budget Committee to reconsider their recommendation. Arruda asked Rose for updated financial reports to show the viability of the Blue Loon service. Sosnoff said he's looked into ridership numbers and said Madison is getting very little from the Blue Loon. Sosnoff said last year a representative from the Blue Loon gave a presentation to the Selectmen and Budget Committee and never once let on that part of the available services would be immediately cut in half. Rose disputed that statement and said the Blue Loon's scheduled bus service was interrupted but the current 5 day per week program continues.

Article 16. By Petition We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Madison do hereby petition the 2014 Annual Town Meeting to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for Tri-County Community Action for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Madison. Petition signed by Karen Alexander, et al.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6-0-1

Brooks and Chase said this organization provided over \$100,000 in assistance to Madison residents last year. Noreen Downs asked for clarification of how this program and the Town's welfare program relate. Brooks said unlike the Town, Tri-CAP has a large pool of resources to pull from which makes the Town's welfare application process for fuel assistance more of a last resort.

Article 17. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand four hundred eight dollars (\$6,408) for the support of White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Madison. Petition signed by Ann Bartlett, et al.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-1-1

Fred Ham asked what the Affordable Care Act and mandated health insurance will do to this article in the future. Chase said this is something the Budget Committee is keeping an eye on.

Article 18. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) 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 the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-1-1

George Cleveland received permission to speak as a non-resident representative of the Gibson Center. Cleveland said these funds don't go toward funding the Silver Lake Landing property. Arruda asked Cleveland what type of transportation the Gibson Center provides and was told that they have a small bus that will travel to Madison upon demand with at least 24-hour advanced notice. Cleveland said the bus usually comes to Madison a couple times a week.

Article 19. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) in the support of the Ossipee Children's Fund providing financial assistance for Madison children. Petition signed by Ann Bartlett, et al.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 3-4-0

Phoebe Rand asked for the Budget Committee's reasoning behind not recommending the article. Chase said the Budget Committee feels Madison already has a program in place for children's recreation.

Article 20. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the Early Supports & Services Program (birth to 3 years) of Children Unlimited, Inc. Petition signed by Audrey Epstein, et al.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4-3-0

Article 21. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand one hundred forty-nine dollars (\$2,149) to assist the Northern Human Services Mental Health Center. Petition signed by Nicholas Calitri, et al.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 3-4-0

Article 22. By Petition. This petition is in support of the Warrant Article to be submitted to the Town of Madison on behalf of the American Red Cross New Hampshire. The Warrant Article authorizes the sum of eleven hundred twenty-one dollars (\$1121) [\$0.45 per resident] in this fiscal year for the Red Cross to help support disaster preparedness, response and recovery; blood services; Armed Forces emergency services; international aide; and health and safety training to the benefit of residents of Madison. Petition signed by Linda Haver, et al.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 6-1-0

Mike Brooks said this article will need to be amended on the floor of Town Meeting, hopefully with the consent of the petitioners, because it doesn't contain the statutory language "raise and appropriate".

Article 23. By Petition. To respectively request that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand seven hundred fifty-one dollars (\$1,751) in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Petition signed by Heidi L. Forde, et al.

Recommended by the Selectmen 3-0-0
Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4-2-1

Article 24. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

David Chase said the Budget Committee appoints a member to review the financial reports and viability of the various charities who submit annual petitioned warrant articles. Chase said some of the charities have had a change in their financial status that bears watching. Chase said he feels it would be a mistake to lump all the charitable warrant articles together at Town Meeting.

As there was no further discussion the Chairman closed the Public Budget Hearing.

Motion: Brooks made a motion to sign the completed warrant out of session, seconded by Arruda, and so voted 3-0.

Decision: The Warrant will be signed by the Board of Selectmen out of session once prepared.

8:20 PM - Brooks made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Arruda, and so voted **3-0**.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – The next Selectmen's meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Arias, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary