

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET HEARING
TOWN OF MADISON
FEBRUARY 2, 2016
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present - Chairman Josh Shackford, John Arruda, Robert King, Jr.

Others Present – Administrative Assistant Linda Farinella; Finance Director Su Stacey; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michael Brooks; Fire Chief Jeffrey Eldridge; Budget Advisory Committee Members; Land Use Clerk Chris Young; Energy Advisory Committee Members Noreen Downs; Librarian Sloane Jarrell; Madison TV Videographer Carol Dandeneau; several members of the public

Meeting Called to Order – By the Chairman at 7:00 p.m.

Town of Madison
2016 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 8, 2016 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 12, 2016 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.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million five hundred forty-two thousand six hundred sixty-six dollars (\$2,542,666) for general Town operations with discussion and amendments to be considered line by line.

	2015 Approved	2015 Expended	2016 Proposed
Ambulance	\$ 28,350.00	\$ 28,350.00	\$ 70,147.00
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 1,579.82	\$ 1,875.00
Assessing	\$ 19,122.00	\$ 11,947.00	\$ 19,170.00
Building Inspection	\$ 34,837.00	\$ 37,234.07	\$ 36,163.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,362.42	\$ 3,800.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 15,070.48	\$ 23,000.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 6,044.96	\$ 14,644.00
Emergency Management Dept.	\$ 4,901.00	\$ 3,833.64	\$ 4,901.00
Executive	\$ 120,247.00	\$ 124,162.14	\$ 119,517.00
Financial Administration	\$ 137,803.00	\$ 145,310.30	\$ 142,028.00
Fire Rescue	\$ 156,900.00	\$ 117,275.09	\$ 162,250.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 77,570.00	\$ 45,793.90	\$ 67,892.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 10,850.00	\$ 11,422.76	\$ 10,850.00
Highway	\$ 524,147.00	\$ 493,126.64	\$ 527,807.00
Insurance	\$ 88,592.00	\$ 66,087.28	\$ 52,025.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00

Legal	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 28,165.56	\$ 25,000.00
Library	\$ 74,153.00	\$ 67,840.37	\$ 74,571.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 19,802.00	\$ 15,827.01	\$ 18,218.00
Notes Due	\$ 66,152.00	\$ 66,151.88	\$ 108,761.00
Parks & Recreation	\$ 28,384.00	\$ 25,617.22	\$ 27,815.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 900.00	\$ 875.13	\$ 1,000.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 484,947.00	\$ 466,347.57	\$ 507,572.00
Planning Board	\$ 9,900.00	\$ 4,131.09	\$ 10,060.00
Police	\$ 292,054.00	\$ 305,304.76	\$ 297,412.00
Solid Waste Disposal	\$ 170,231.00	\$ 172,029.33	\$ 203,927.00
Street Lighting	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,285.92	\$ 4,000.00
Zoning Board	\$ 8,820.00	\$ 6,230.80	\$ 8,260.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,431,663.00	\$ 2,272,417.14	\$ 2,542,666.00

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Executive – Noreen Downs asked what the executive line includes. Shackford read from the list of expenses for the Board of Selectmen’s office.

Financial Administration – Noreen Downs asked what the financial administration line includes. Shackford read from the list of expenses for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office.

Donna Veilleux asked if employees received raises. Shackford said yes, with the exception of new hire Linda Farinella, all employees received 3.5%.

Insurance – Donna Veilleux asked why the insurance amount of \$52,025 is less than last year. Stacey explained that it is a half year bill for property liability and workman’s compensation insurance. Veilleux asked if next year will be double. Stacey stated that it could, but always try and find best pricing. Veilleux asked if it went out to bid. Stacey responded that it did not; the experience level of the town due to past legal claims is unfavorable. This unfavorable experience level limited the companies that would insure the town. Arruda added that it took time to get an unfavorable experience level and it will take time to bring us back to favorable.

Legal – Donna Veilleux questioned what lawsuit the town was dealing with at the end of last year. The board answered there are no lawsuits right now.

Madison PEG TV – Phoebe Rand asked if the \$18,218 in Time Warner franchise fees received covers this line. Noreen Downs stated yes and added that no tax dollars are used to fund Madison PEG TV.

Police – Phoebe Rand asked how many officers are in the department. King responded there are four full-time and three part-time.

Solid Waste Disposal – A member of the public asked why the line increased. Arruda explained that recyclable that used to generate revenue are now costing money to dispose of. Sloane Jarrell asked if the town is still recycling. Arruda stated yes, in hopes that when things turn around all will still be in the habit.

Arruda commented that the bottom line of \$2,542,666 has increase by \$110,003 from 2015. This is caused by increases that are out of the control of the Town. The Ambulance contract increase of \$41,797, the solid waste increase of \$33,696 and notes due account for that increase.

Donna Veilleux asked when the Board of Selectmen vote to use Fund Balance. Arruda stated it is used when setting the tax rate adding that the Department of Revenue puts together a formula for the use. Veilleux said she want to see more information that shows the board's use of the fund balance. Shackford noted that it was discussed at a selectmen's meeting that was recorded by Madison TV. Veilleux stated that it should be more transparent.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the reconstruction of 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, 2021, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of purchasing a Grader for the Highway Department, to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for this purpose, and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the previously established Assessing Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) to crush the glass pile at the Transfer Station.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 7. 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 Selectmen 2 – 1

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of allowing the Town's cable subscribers to continue to view Conway PEG TV on channel 3.

Not Recommended by Selectmen 0 - 3

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of three thousand nine hundred seventy-five dollars (\$3975) 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

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to change the office of Town Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position per RSA 41:26-e. Such appointment shall be made by the Board of Selectmen in writing and shall include the compensation to be paid. If approved, the current elected Treasurer will continue to serve until the March, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, at which time the Treasurer shall be appointed. [Majority Vote Required].

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 11. To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems, wind-powered energy systems or wood-heating energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying equipment under these statutes.

Recommended by Selectmen ???

Vote was postponed at the 01/26/16 meeting awaiting recommendation of Town Council. This will be voted on at the completion of this public hearing.

Article 12. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison 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 Pamela Helm, et al.

Not Recommended by Selectmen 0 - 3

Article 13. By Petition. We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Madison do hereby petition the 2016 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 Carlotta Girouard, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Lisa Hinkley from Tri-CAP spoke to support this article.

Article 14. 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 Barbara Anderson, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

George Cleveland of the Gibson Center spoke to support this article.

Article 15. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the support of the Ossipee Children's Fund providing financial assistance for Madison children. Petition signed by Ann Bartlett, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 16. By Petition. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand one hundred dollars (\$3,100) for the Early Supports & Services Program (birth to 3 years) of Children Unlimited, Inc. Petition signed by Audrey Epstein, et al

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 17. 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 Debe Darling, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 18. By Petition. To respectively request that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand seven hundred fifty-two dollars (\$1752) in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Petition signed by Linda Dockham, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 19. 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 Holly Hawkins, et al.

Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0

Article 20. By Petition. To see if the Town of Madison will raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the Madison Preschool to provide funding for a music program for the children, school supplies and field trips to supplement our curriculum. Petition signed by Jennifer Colassi, et al.

Not Recommended by Selectmen 0 - 3

Article 21. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Motion by Shackford, seconded by Arruda to close the public hearing. The motion passed **3-0**. The hearing closed at 8:10pm.

Shackford brought up for discussion Article 11. The article was sent to town council for review. An adjustment was made to remove geothermal system from the list of systems eligible for exemptions as it is not within the Board of Selectmen's authority to do so.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Shackford to approve and recommend Article 11 as written. The motion passed **3-0**.

8:12 PM – Shackford made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by King, and so voted **3-0**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Farinella, Administrative Assistant

