

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
December 20, 2016
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Bill Lord; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; School Board Representative Cheryl Littlefield; Ron Force; Jeffrey Balogh; Nicole Nordlund

Members Absent - Vice-Chairman Hersh Sosnoff

Others Present – Selectmen Josh L. Shackford and Robert J. King, Jr.; Finance Director Su Stacey; Recording Secretary Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Carol Dandeneau

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on November 28, 2016.

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

SCHOOL BOILER REPLACEMENT

The School Board will be considering withdrawing \$50,000 from the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, which has a balance of \$159,000, for the replacement of two boilers at the elementary school. A public hearing is being held on December 21, 2016 for this purpose.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Littlefield, seconded by Force to approve the minutes of November 22, 2016 with changes. The motion passed **unanimously**.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

FINAL DRAWDOWN REVIEW

Arruda noted that we are at 98% of the year with 89.8% of the budget utilized with most departments at 95-100% of their budget utilized. Some surplus of funds is anticipated at the end of the year. The Selectboard is entertaining the idea of a pay raise for employees versus a bonus of sorts which would not incur the town to have to pay into New Hampshire Retirement. The Selectboard plan to purchase a police cruiser and a jaws of life tool from the surplus. King noted that the board discussed doing the jaws of life tool as a warrant article because the fire department budget was all used. Arruda added he was inclined to go with a warrant article also.

Arruda informed the committee that Chief Eldridge proposed a new solution for the replacement of air packs for the department. The purchase of demo packs can considerably lower the cost. These demos are one year old and can be purchased for almost half and be done with a lease purchase. The Selectboard was discussing putting money into a Capital Reserve Fund or raising funds for a down payment. Chief Eldridge has not yet brought the information requested to the Finance Director.

Nordlund reiterated her feeling of the need for the fire department to pursue grants and do some fund raising. Nordlund would rather give the money to the department than be taxed.

WARRANT ARTICLE SUMMARY REVIEW

The committee agreed to add the jaws of life tool as a warrant article. Force asked why \$1.00 is in the Ambulance Replacement line. Arruda explained it was there so it can be discussed at Town Meeting.

Putting a dollar amount in that line gives the opportunity at Town Meeting to allow taxpayers to raise and appropriate funds to be spent for that purpose. Shackford added it could be changed on the floor at Town Meeting so long as an amount is there.

BUDGET SUMMARY REVIEW

The actual figures for property liability and workman's compensation have been added into the Insurance line. The overall increase is about \$10,000. All lines that had notable increases have been accounted for. Stacey added that the Solid Waste contract is going out to bid and could have new numbers coming in February. Arruda mentioned that the fuel line for the highway could change just before Town Meeting. The committee was in agreement that no more adjustments or changes are necessary. The overall increase over 2016's budget will be 1.1%.

PETITION WARRANT ARTICLES

The only petition warrant article received was from Tri-Cap. Northern Human Services has sent in their financials which Stacey emailed to Balogh and White Mountain Community Health Center has sent a letter. The petitions are due by 4pm on February 7, but are always welcome ahead of that deadline.

SCHEDULE FOR BUDGET COMMITTEE

The next Advisory Budget meeting will be held following the 7pm School Budget Public Hearing on January 9, 2017 at the Madison Elementary School. The Advisory Budget will hold their meeting after the Town Budget hearing on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. Town voting is on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 with Town Meeting being held on Saturday, March 18, 2017.

2017 MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Lord is the only member up for re-appointment in 2017. Lord asked that people keep in mind the need for alternate members, it would be great to have two.

Arruda added that the Town is in need of two people to act as Trustees of Trust Funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

Chairman Lord thanked the Board of Selectmen and town employees for their hard work all year round. Shackford added just as much appreciation for the Budget Committee members service.

NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Monday, January 9, 2017 following the 7pm School Board Public Hearing at Madison Elementary School.

7:05 PM – Littlefield made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Force. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Recording Secretary