

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
January 9, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Bill Lord; Vice-Chairman Hersh Sosnoff; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; School Board Representative Cheryl Littlefield; Ron Force; Nicole Nordlund

Members Absent - Jeffrey Balogh

Others Present – Selectman Robert J. King, Jr.; Recording Secretary Linda Shackford; Ned Rogerson

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on December 27, 2016.

Meeting Called to Order – By Lord at 8:25 p.m. following the School Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sosnoff, seconded by Force to approve the minutes of December 20, 2016. The motion passed **unanimously**.

VOTING ON SCHOOL BUDGET WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE II: Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$6,180,193. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$6,233,926 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the School District or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0).

Motion by Nordlund, seconded by Force to recommend this appropriation. The motion passed **6-0**.

ARTICLE III: Shall the voters of Madison School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$705,717 for the 2017-2018 school year in which \$239,728 is assigned to the school budget of this district? (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0).

This year's adjusted budget of \$697,703 with \$236,935 assigned to the School District budget will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the district voters voting in this administrative unit.

Motion by Force, seconded by Arruda to recommend this appropriation. The motion passed **6-0**.

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

	Estimated Increase
Year 2017-2018	\$53,354
Year 2018-2019	\$79,375
Year 2019-2020	\$77,833
Year 2020-2021	\$82,978

and further to raise and appropriate \$53,354 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0). (Majority vote required)

There was discussion about the purpose of this article. The Collective Bargaining Agreement fuels this article. This will equalize the wages over a four-year span which includes projections for step increases and health insurance costs.

Motion by Sosnoff, seconded by Force to recommend this appropriation. The motion passed **6-0**.

ARTICLE V: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,680 to be added to the previously established Bus Capital Reserve Fund. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0).

There was discussion about the amount of this article. It is not the usual appropriation of \$27,000 because of the recent lease of a bus. Outsourcing through a bus company is being considered because of difficulty in obtaining bus drivers. Arruda noted that this article is contingent on funding our own buses. If an outside source is chosen the monies will be returned to the town as they are being appropriated for this specific purpose.

Motion by Arruda, seconded by Sosnoff to recommend this appropriation. The motion passed **6-0**.

ARTICLE VI: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,000 to be placed in the Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of capital repairs. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0).

The school is currently doing an emergency replacement of boilers due to a failure. The school used \$51,000 of funds from this capital reserve fund to pay for it. Nordlund is in favor of using funds for insulating.

Motion by Force, seconded by Sosnoff to recommend this appropriation. The motion passed **6-0**.

ARTICLE VII: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the capital reserve fund previously established for the purpose of educating educationally disabled children. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0.)

Lord in years' past was against adding more funds to the already large reserve, however, much of those funds have now been used. Sosnoff considered a vote against based on not knowing how the funds are being spent. The current balance of the fund is \$18,000.

Motion by Force, seconded by Arruda to recommend this appropriation. The motion passed **6-0**.

MEMBERSHIP

Force introduced Ned Rogerson to be committee. Rogerson would like to be considered for a position as an alternate member of the committee.

Motion by Force, seconded by Lord to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the appointment of Ned Rogerson as an alternate to the Advisory Budget Committee. The motion passed **6-0**. Shackford will ask the Town Clerk to produce an Oath of Appointment for the Selectmen to sign at their next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nordlund reiterated the need for fund raising at the Fire Department. After speaking with members of a local department she found that their Chief is the driving factor for fund raising. Nordlund added that it should be a required skill set for the Chief or at least be something under development.

NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6pm in the lower level of Town Hall.

9:21 PM – King made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Arruda. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Recording Secretary