

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
January 17, 2017
MINUTES**

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

Others Present – Selectman Robert J. King, Jr.; Fire Chief Jeffrey Eldridge; Recording Secretary Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Ted Hughes

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 10, 2017.

Meeting Called to Order – By Lord at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Force, seconded by Sosnoff to approve the minutes of January 9, 2017 with correction of word purchase to lease in the paragraph containing Article V. The motion passed **unanimously**.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee welcomed Ned Rogerson as an alternate member appointed by the Board of Selectmen at their January 10, 2017 meeting. Rogerson will offer comments during discussion but unless sitting in for an absent member will not have voting privileges.

OPERATING BUDGET

Arruda explained that there is change to the Personnel Administration line. An increase of \$3,162 to cover increases to NH Retirement and DOT testing requirements has been added.

WARRANT ARTICLE SUMMARY

The Committee reviewed Articles 2-10.

Article 9 regarding the ambulance was discussed. The article as currently written has \$1.00 allotted so as to enable the Town Meeting participants to amend the amount on the floor, if desired. Lord added that this makes the article have a monetary value allowing the committee to make recommendations. Arruda explained that this could turn from nothing being spent to the Town purchasing a new ambulance. Sosnoff sees no merit to a new ambulance with the Town having a 24/7 ambulance contract in place. Arruda stated that the Town recently received a letter from Conway Fire Department notifying that they will not provide paramedics for Care Plus. King asked how many paramedics Care Plus has. Chief Eldridge answered one per shift. Lord asked if any our volunteers are qualified, Chief Eldridge answered no. Arruda asked how many EMT level members are there. Chief Eldridge responded currently eight, soon to be ten. Chief Eldridge added that if the ambulance was kept it would be as a back-up, as re-assurance. Chief Eldridge also added that at the last officer's meeting there was discussion to take the ambulance and rescue and buy a rescue truck chassis with ambulance body. Arruda suggested that the Town pays for supplies that the ambulance uses to provide paramedic care. Force asked if the Selectmen had taken a position on the ambulance issue. J. Shackford's position is that this will be for discussion.

Article 8 Air Packs for Fire Department was discussed. The cost of 20 air packs and support equipment will be \$145,000. Chief Eldridge informed the committee that the amount of \$145,000 is reduced from an original price of \$179,000 for the same amount of product. The quote from IPS was reviewed and Chief Eldridge was asked to confirm that the agreement will have an escape clause in case the article does not pass at town meeting. Arruda and Force were in agreement that adding an annual amount to be put away for future purchases of air packs should be added to the CIP.

Charities were briefly reviewed. All information has not been submitted as of yet.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

School Deliberative Session: February 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Elementary School

Town Budget Hearing: February 7, 2017 at 7:00 at the Elementary School

Advisory Budget Meeting: February 7, 2017 following the Town Budget Hearing

Town Elections: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 8:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Elementary School

Town Meeting: Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 9:00 am at the Elementary School

J. Shackford asked to bring up discussion of the Ambulance Article. J. Shackford suggested taking off the monetary amount and instead word it in the form that a committee be established and they will present their findings at the 2018 Town Meeting. Stacey asked if there were going to be funds necessary for a minute taker that it be put in the budget. Lord suggested that a member take the minutes. There was agreement amongst the committee to remove the monetary option and have this been consideration of a committee. Stacey will re-word Article 9 similar to the old fire truck article.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at following the 7:00pm budget hearing at the Elementary School.

7:08 PM – Sosnoff made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Arruda. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Recording Secretary