

**Madison Advisory Budget Committee Minutes**  
**January 5, 2016**

Members Present: Jeff Balogh, Ron Force, Cheryl Littlefield, Bill Lord–Chairman, Nicole Stephens-Nordlund, and Hersh Sosnoff

Members Not Present: John Arruda – Selectmen Rep.

Others Present: Linda Farinella – Administrative Assistant, Bob King – Selectman, Josh Shackford – Selectman, Sue Stacey – Deputy Town Administrator, Chris Young – recording secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Lord called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.
  
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The term “impaired” children was questioned as being appropriate in its use throughout the last paragraph on page 1. It was suggested that “special needs” be substituted instead. Mr. Force moved, seconded by Mr. Balogh, to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed.
  
3. **VOTING ON SCHOOL BUDGET WARRANT ARTICLES:**

ARTICLE II:     a) Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations 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 \$6,061,499. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0). (The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0).

b) Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$6,057,250. 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.

There was a short discussion on item “a”. Mr. Sosnoff moved, seconded by Mrs. Littlefield, to recommend the article. The article was recommended (6-0). Mr. Sosnoff then made a comment in appreciation of the fact that the default budget was less than the proposed budget.

ARTICLE III: Shall the voters of Madison School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$850,583 for the 2016-2017 school year in which \$237,419 is assigned to the school budget of this district? (The School Board

recommends this appropriation 5-0). (The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0).

This year's adjusted budget of \$843,311 with \$234,903 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.

Mr. Force moved, seconded Mr. Balogh, to recommend this article. The article was recommended (6-0).

ARTICLE IV: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,000 to be added to the previously established Bus Capital Reserve Fund. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0). (The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0).

There was some discussion about whether this amount of money needed to be raised or if it could be a smaller amount which led to a discussion on the bus replacement schedule. Mr. Force moved, seconded by Mr. Sosnoff, to recommend this article. The article was recommended (6-0).

Article V: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,500 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 Budget Committee **DOES NOT** recommend this appropriation 5-1).

Mr. Force suggested that this was too much money for that item and instead recommended that the committee disapprove the article and during the deliberation see if the school board would change the figure to \$12,500 each year through 2018. This recommendation is partly based on the energy committee coming up with an alternative to replacing the boiler. Mr. Force moved, seconded by Mr. Sosnoff, to not recommend this article. The article was **NOT** recommended (5-1).

Article VI: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 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). (The Budget Committee **DOES NOT** recommend this appropriation 5-1).

There was a discussion about how necessary this money was to be raised as there is already about \$80,000 dollars set aside in this fund. Mr. Sosnoff moved, seconded by Mr. Balogh, to not recommend this article. Mr. Force wished to add a qualifier to that to

not impede the needs of the program, but the need has not been demonstrated for four years. The article was **NOT** recommended (5-1).

Article VII: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$16,000 for the purpose of upgrading outside lighting to LED fixtures. (The School Board recommends this appropriation 5-0). (The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 3-3).

Mr. Lord supported this article and also reported that there was a possibility that the cost could come down to \$12,000 if the installation was done with the payment coming from the savings in the electric bill which would be around \$2,000 per year. This created a discussion about why \$16,000 should be raised if only \$12,000 were needed. Some members felt that this project had not been fully researched and should not have been presented until all the research was done. Mr. Sosnoff moved, seconded by Mr. Balogh, to not recommend this article. The article was recommended (3-3).

**4. PETITION WARRANT ARTICLES:** There was brief look at the petition warrant articles proposed. Carroll County Transit still has not submitted information on their service. The committee then looked at the town warrant articles briefly. There was some discussion on the cost of crushing glass and the PEG TV contract. These will all be voted on February 2<sup>nd</sup> after the public hearing.

**5. MADISON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Mr. Lord gave a report on the energy committee. There were four phases to the energy committee's plan. Phase 1 is to go after the low hanging fruit by tightening up building envelopes, using more efficient lighting, and a few other things that could be easily gotten. Phase 2 is to attend various demonstrations and see what would work best in Madison. Phase 3 is to replace the HVAC systems in the public buildings. Phase 4 is to look at district heating potential.

The energy committee is proposing to have a town energy maintenance representative to do repairs and energy saving quick-fixes that can be done.

**6. MEETINGS:**

February 1	School Deliberative	7:00 PM	School
February 2	Selectmen Present Budget	7:00 PM	School
March 12	Town Meeting		

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2 immediately following the Selectmen's presentation of the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Young

Minutes Approved: February 2, 2016

Corrections:

Page 3, **VOTING ON SCHOOL BUDGET WARRANT ARTICLES:**, Article VII, second paragraph, "**The article was recommended (3-3)**" should be changed to "The article was **not** recommended (3-3)". Given the phrasing of this motion and how Robert's Rules are interpreted, the original sentence may actually be the correct one as a tie usually defeats a motion.