

**Madison Advisory Budget Committee Minutes**  
**October 27, 2015**

Members Present: 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, and Jeff Balogh

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Lord the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
  
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Item number 3, Potential Large Ticket Items, 1<sup>st</sup> line, “...the committee with outlining...” changed to “...the committee outlining...”  
The minutes were approved as amended.
  
3. **JEFF BALOGH INTERVIEW:** Mr. Balogh gave a summary of his experience working in the corporate world. Mr. Force moved, seconded by Mr. Sosnoff, to recommend to the selectmen that Mr. Balogh be appointed as a member of Advisory Budget Committee. The motion passed unanimously.
  
4. **REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET:** The committee moved to reviewing the 2016 proposed budget. There was some discussion about the Ambulance Service Contract and how much it would be increasing each year. Those figures will be available at the next meeting. Election & Vital Statistics is up 64% as a result of all the elections next year. There was some concern about the Fire & Rescue Department and it was requested that the chief come to the next meeting to go over the proposed budget. Solid Waste Department was also requested to be represented at the next meeting. Mr. Shackford reported about a meeting he went to in Freedom regarding personnel insurance. A number of towns have found that they can save lots of money by putting aside a large deductible and rewriting their insurance policies with larger deductibles. Mr. Shackford invited the speakers to Madison to get more information and have more people review the idea. This could reduce required budget for the Personnel and Administration in future years.

Mrs. Stephens-Nordlund had received a question about the transparency of encumbered funds and if there was a public document where residents could see how that money was spent. There was some discussion about this and efforts are being made to make that information available.

5. **REVIEW OF CIP:** The committee looked over the CIP. There was some discussion about how the annual growth rate is figured.
6. **TAX RATE:** The Selectmen returned to the meeting having set the tax rate for 2016. The tax rate will be 16.51. Last year it was 15.96. The municipal tax portion remained at 3.87 for both years.
7. **ENERGY COMMITTEE:** Mr. Lord gave an update on the energy committee. The energy committee will propose a warrant article this year to work on fixing the envelopes of building to make them more efficient. Recommendations will also be made that the library and school hold off getting new boilers until it is decided whether the town will invest in alternative energy heating systems. The energy committee will be looking at existing systems around the area and comparing them with possible applications in Madison. The last alternative is to look at huge heat plants that heat several buildings. This last alternative is probably the least feasible.
8. **CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS:** Mrs. Stephens-Nordlund volunteered to review the charitable organization warrant articles this year.
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Sosnoff moved, seconded by Mr. Force, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 24 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Young

Minutes Approved: November 24, 2015

Corrections: Bill Lord is the chairman not Hersh Sosnoff.