

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
October 24, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Bill Lord; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; Nicole Nordlund; Ron Force; Jeffrey Balogh; Ned Rogerson

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

Members Absent – School Board Representative Jim Curran

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on September 18, 2017.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Balogh, seconded by Force to approve the minutes of September 26, 2017 as written. The motion passed **unanimously**.

DRAWDOWN REVIEW

Arruda noted that we are 81% of the year with 75.9% of the budget utilized. Arruda made a brief review of the 2017 budget and mentioned the \$60,000 paid out for truck repairs at the beginning of the year and noted that the Fire Department has member reimbursements coming soon. There is a 6.2% decrease in health insurance premiums for 2018. Arruda feels we are looking pretty good and noted that there was no increase in the 2018 Municipal portion of the tax rate.

2018 BUDGET SUMMARY:

Discussion involved:

Personnel – Up 5.2%. Police retirement employer contribution rose dramatically. Arruda noted that the BOS is considering a 5% employee contribution for health benefits, the numbers reflect that change.

Notes Due – Up 116.9%. Fire Department air packs and several vehicle notes contribute to the large increase. No large truck purchases are in the 2018 budget taking into consideration there will be a new DPW Director.

Solid Waste Disposal – Up 8%. The main cause is the cost of recycling.

Parks and Rec – The BOS has agreed to do a warrant article, at the request of the Old Home Week Committee, in the amount of \$6,000 to pay for 2018 Old Home Week fireworks.

Arruda mentioned a warrant article for repair of the Boat Ramp. A user fee has been considered for non-resident/taxpayers. Stacey noted that the fuel lines for each department is being put into one line in General Government Buildings.

Chairman Lord asked about the Reserve Fund Balance. The amount is a little under the 5% that DRA suggests be held by the town. \$235,500 was used to offset taxes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

Warrant Articles:

Fire Department - Requests warrant article for a gear washer/dryer, paving of the driveway/parking area and a new command vehicle. Nordlund asked about the need for the command vehicle; could a cruiser from the police department be utilized. The next cruiser in line is a 2013 that has many miles and not worth the swap.

Force asked how the fire department gear is cleaned now. The gear is taken to a neighboring town. Force suggested that we compensate that town for the use of their equipment, as opposed to \$20,000 to purchase our own equipment. Chief Clark will be asked to attend the November 21st meeting.

Highway - Force asked if funds will be put away for the grader. Arruda stated that the amount put away would be towards a down payment on a lease. J. Shackford feels there is a need to put funds away for a grader.

Library – As part of the Energy advisory committee some consideration is being paid to replacement of the boiler.

Parks & Rec – Replacement of the dock at the lake, Old Home Week’s request for \$6,000 for fireworks and the boat launch.

Police – A warrant article for Mobile Data Terminal with grant funds is proposed.

SWAC – King explained that replacing the compactor is necessary along with replacement of the pad. There are also issues with current configuration not being up to code. The proposed plan is the new compactor in 2018 on the existing pad with a new pad in 2019. This will eventually eliminate the cost for special hauls due to a full compactor.

TAX RATE

Force presented a summary of the tax rate over the last few years. The Town portion has remained the at or lower than the previous year for 4 years. The local school portion went up by 5.7%. The committee hoped for an explanation but Schoolboard Committee Chairman Curran was not in attendance. It was noted that 1 million, of the 6-million-dollar budget, is designated for special needs student expenses. The State Education tax is the lowest it has been since 2010.

Chairman Lord stated that the School Board will be doing their review of the first version of the budget on November 6 and the review of the second version on December 4th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were none.

NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of Town Hall.

7:15 PM – Balogh made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Force. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Recording Secretary