

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
November 12, 2019
MINUTES**

Members Present – Nicole Nordlund; Selectmen Representative John Arruda; Ron Force; Jeffrey Balogh; Ned Rogerson; Steve Bartlett; School Board Representative Jim Curran

Others Present – Selectman William T. Lord; Finance Director Su Stacey; DPW Director Jon Cyr; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Madison TV Videographer Carol Dandeneau

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on September 23, 2019.

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

Point of Order – Force called for a Point of Order stating that this committee meets once a month about the Town budget but not the school. Force proposed more interaction with the school side citing a suggestion of an invitation to a representative of the Special Education department to discuss the budget. Force sees this as a win-win. Nordlund agreed with Curran offering to make representatives available.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Balogh, seconded by Bartlett to approve the minutes of October 1, 2019 as amended with the addition of Bartlett’s name to those present. The motion passed **6-0-1** with Curran abstaining for the reason he was not at the meeting.

Schedule of Madison School Board/budget meetings/times – The committee discussed the warrant article from 1993 stating the duties of the committee. These duties include a report to be made in January to the School Board with recommendations. This timeline may have worked in 1993 but it does not allow enough time for the opinions of the ABC to be heard prior to School Board decisions. Lord suggested a modification to the warrant article. Force noted that the School Board meetings are a week or so ahead of the ABC meeting adding it would be helpful if the School Board’s handouts were available to the ABC. Curran agreed to forward the handouts to the ABC once he receives them.

Current Town 2019 budget drawdown status – Arruda summarized the current 2019 drawdown noting that 79.2% of the budget is spent while we are at 87% of the year. The Fire Department saves several large purchases for the end of the year but Arruda still expects a surplus. The committee reviewed the 2019 budget. Pertinent comments made are listed:

- Assessing: This will be reimbursed by the Assessing ETF;
- Fire Department: The stipends for the members have not been paid out;
- General Government Buildings: Several projects have yet to be paid from this line, including carpet, soffits and library porch;
- Highway: Cyr explained that Horseleg Hill Rd and Danforth Lane were in more need of attention adding that West Shore Drive is on next year’s list;
- Patriotic Purposes: Next year will see an increase of \$500 to cover the expense of additional engraved names on the monument;
- Planning Board: Legal line may be impacted with recent issue;
- Solid Waste: Director Cyr is looking into how recycling impacts the bottom line, and it will require some discussion and hard look at numbers.

Proposed Town 2020 budget and warrant articles – The committee reviewed the proposed 2020 budget. Pertinent comments made are listed:

2020 Budget

- Ambulance: A new contract with Action Ambulance will caused an increase in the line with a more accurate number available soon;
- Building Inspection: A new code vehicle is necessary due to it not being able to pass inspection, a warrant article addresses this issue;
- Conservation Commission: there may be a warrant article proposed to adjust the amount of LUCT received by the commission;
- Fire Department: An increase of 3.3% noting that there may be an adjustment to the reimbursement line;
- Highway: Increase of 2.9% with Cyr noting that he prioritizes road maintenance in town as the amount annually proposed is not enough to get ahead citing an estimated cost of \$2.8 million dollars if all done today. Cyr has established a ditching program to prepare drainage for eventual road improvements;
- Insurance: Increase of 3%;
- Parks & Rec: Arruda suggests that the replacement of the raft be scrapped;
- Personnel Administration: Health insurance increase of 8.4%;
- Solid Waste: New contract necessary in 2020.

2020 Warrant Articles

- Generator: \$80,000 with 50/50 grant match;
- Assessing: Annually put money in ETF to pay for eventual large years, 2020 revaluation will cost \$99,300 with \$120,00 in the fund;
- Compactor: Changes are being proposed to how to handle recyclable and revamping of station;
- Conservation Land: This semi-annual \$5,000 has not been decided upon;
- Charitable: There has been no formal requests received yet.

Appointment of ABC reviewer of petition warrants – Rogerson volunteered to review the charity petition warrant articles with them being in paper format for his review.

Additional Committee comments/subjects:

Tax Rate Report – Force commended the Board of Selectmen on a 6.4% decrease in the town rate and a 3.2% decrease to the school rate.

Annual Reports – Nordlund, as chairperson, will be drafting the reports for the school and town reports. Nordlund asked for assistance with the school report citing and discussing with the committee concerns of poor treatment of the public at school board meetings and difficulty getting information.

Public Comment – Selectman Lord noted that the 1993 warrant article that established the Advisory Budget Committee requires a member of the school board to be on the committee but there is nothing that states a member of the ABC should be on the school board. Lord mentioned that the town of Tamworth had designed a questionnaire about the school. L. Shackford will look into getting a copy of the questionnaire.

8:18 PM – Curran made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Force. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Shackford, Recording Secretary