

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF MADISON  
September 27, 2022  
MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Ron Force; Doug McAllister; Tino Fernandes; Ned Rogerson; Selectman John Arruda; School Board Member Michael Brooks

**Others Present** – Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Nicole Nordlund; Sharon Schilling; Adam Price; Videographer Aysia Morency

**Where and When Posted** – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on August 10, 2022.

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

**Election of Officers** – **Motion** by Force, seconded by McAllister to nominate Fernandes as Chairman for the 2022-2023 budget season. The motion passed **unanimously** with Fernandes accepting the appointment.

**Volunteers for Appointment** – Nordlund, Price and Schilling were present offering their time to volunteer as members of the Committee. Price requested a position as alternate if the Committee is so inclined. The Committee agreed to appoint Schilling as a full member and Nordlund and Price as alternates. Schilling joined the members at the table.

**Schedule of 2022-2023 ABC Meeting Dates** - It was decided that the meeting will be held at 6:00 at the Town Hall Meeting Room on the following Tuesday evenings: October 25, November 8, December 6 and January 17.

**Current Drawdown Budget Status** – Arruda gave the percentages of 69.9% of the 2022 budget spent at the 72.1% point of the year. This 2.2% is a smaller than usual cushion for this time of year. Comments:

- Arruda anticipates the legal line being over spent citing expenses having to do with guidance from the Selectmen's attorney regarding Short Term Rentals;
- The Police equipment line appears over spent but will be reimbursed by grant funds before the end of the year. A request was made to have those explanation in the comment line;
- It was suggested that each line be numbered to allow for an ease of following along with Rogerson offering to attempt that making that improvement;
- Arruda noted that the 2023 Solid Waste contract line will be adjusted as this year's number was for the first full year of hauling on our own and now there are better numbers to use for guidance;
- The Fire Department's large expense of member reimbursement comes closer to the end of the year;
- The DPW Director position has not been filled according to Arruda, and it may be handled with a Foreman's position.

**Preliminary 2023 Budget Discussion** – Fernandes reiterated the increase in the legal line due to Short Term Rental issues. Also:

- Arruda anticipates the Solid Waste recycling line to decrease;
- Arruda stated Transfer Station Revenues year to date at \$44,816.00 going into the general fund;
- Fernandes asked for aluminum and metal revenues which will be offered at the next meeting;
- Arruda explained that plastics are not money makers and our expenses are offset by cardboard revenues. Plastics numbered 1-7 are accepted but only if clean and loads can be easily rejected.

**Capital Improvement Plan Review** – The CIP was reviewed beginning with the General Government section- Fire Department’s addition to rear of the station. Brooks explained that this was placed on the CIP by a previous Chief and there are no solid plans though it would be helpful to have a hose drying tower. The item will be left with a flexible date. Further discussion included:

- Fire Department exhaust system – Brooks hesitates to move on this project as it is difficult to obtain the equipment and it will cost more than usual;
- Separation of the Expendable Trust Fund (ETF) with Brooks and Arruda asking to keep it within the department to which it was decided they would be separated within the department and EFT would be spelled instead of abbreviated;
- Library parking lot would be something that the trustees would address;
- Dust Control/Salt Shed – Arruda sees the need coming and hopes that the Conservation Commission would extend their assistance;
- The Loader and a police cruiser annual lease payments will be added to the document.

**Public Comment** – Nordlund hoped the Town will consider changing their model to saving for major purchases versus leasing as interest rates are continuing to increase. Arruda noted the time when interest rates were so low as to when the last purchasing model shifted. Force knows that the Selectmen try to use the CIP to prevent spikes to which Rogerson suggested spreading the CIP out to ten years.

**7:14 PM** – Brooks made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by McAllister. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEXT ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING** – The next Advisory Budget Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator  
Recording Secretary