

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
May 9, 2023
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Tino Fernandes; Ned Rogerson; Sharon Schilling; Joe Dame; Selectman John Arruda

Others Present – Town Administrator Linda Shackford

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on April 19, 2023.

Meeting Called to Order – By Fernandes at 5:00 p.m.

Welcome to newly elected member – Fernandes introduced the newest member, Joe Dame to the Committee for a 3-year term.

Appointment of Sharon Schilling – Due to conflicting information between the Town Budgeting Ordinance and RSA 669:61 Vacancies in Town Offices, some confusion as to the length of Schilling’s term was brought to light. It was confirmed that Schilling’s term ends in 2025. It is the recommendation of Town Counsel to update the Town Budgeting Ordinance to align with the language of the RSA which states that appointments to elected vacant positions are only until the next election.

Appointment of alternate members – Fernandes stated that Nicole Nordlund is still considering the position of alternate on the Committee. Dame suggested consideration of other write-ins on the ballot.

Election of officers for the coming year – Motion by Rogerson, seconded by Schilling to elect Fernandes as Chairman for the 2023-2024 budget year. The motion passed **5-0**.

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Rogerson to elect Schilling as Vice-Chairman for the 2023-2024 budget year. The motion passed **5-0**.

Review of the Town Budgeting Ordinance – Changes to the ordinance can be suggested by the Committee and require a public hearing held by the Selectmen and a vote of Town Meeting. Topics to be considered for change included updating dates of submission, attendance at school committee meetings, review of the budget and CIP, and an update to the section to make the appointment language more aligned with NH RSA 669:61.

Review the ABC’s past year performance – Fernandes asked for comments from the Committee. Rogerson would like to have the school inform the Committee of when their budget discussion starts with Schilling mirroring Rogerson adding that the Committee attend the School Board’s meetings. Fernandes will ask the School Board to appoint a member to be their representative on this Committee and find out when they plan to have preliminary budget discussions.

Discuss the ABC’s process and any changes the committee would adopt – Discussion of returning the warrant articles format back to a single budget article versus using article by function. Schilling asked about the process for each department submitting their budget, is there a planning factor used. Fernandes

feels it is onerous to expect each department to come in and would rather call in any department heads that the Committee would like to ask questions of.

Albany school contract – There has been talk of Albany students leaving the Conway schools to attend Madison Elementary. The Committee discussed the possible impact to the budget. Fernandes will reach out to the Superintendent to see what kind of input the Town is able to offer.

Initial evaluation of the Town CIP – Rogerson will work with Shackford to expand the spreadsheet to include more future years.

Other business – Arruda gave an explanation of changes to the Transfer Station that included a re-configuration of the traffic pattern for a new paper/plastic/cardboard compactor. Arruda reported an increase in revenues at the Transfer Station compared to last year at this time.

The Committee will monitor the School Board's schedule regarding their budget and attend meeting accordingly.

The first meeting for the 2024 Town Budget will be scheduled for September.

Repair expenses from recent road washouts are being brought to the Governor's attention by Representative Mark McConkey in hopes of receiving financial assistance.

Public comment – There was none.

6:11 PM – Motion by Rogerson, seconded by Dame to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator
Recording Secretary