

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
September 12, 2023
MINUTES**

Members Present – Chairman Tino Fernandes; Vice-Chair Sharon Schilling; Selectman John Arruda; Ned Rogerson; Doug McAllister; Joe Dame; Substitute School Board Rep Jim Curran

Members Excused – School Board Rep Sarah DeMartino

Others Present – Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Fire Chief Michael Brooks; School Board Member Jim Curran; MadTV Videographer Aysia Morency

Where and When Posted – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on August 15, 2023.

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

Approval of May 9, 2023 Minutes

Motion by McAllister, seconded by Schilling to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 with typo corrected. The motion passed **6-0**.

Schedule of 2023-2024 ABC Meeting Dates

The Committee reviewed the calendar and decided on the following Tuesdays at 6:00pm meeting dates:

October 10th
November 7th
December 5th
January 16th

The Committee will also attend School Board meetings on:

October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th
January 8th
February 5th Deliberative Session

Review of Fernandes' Meeting with Superintendent and Members of the School Board

Fernandes met with School Superintendent Whaland, Principal Woodward and School Board Members Jim Curran and Sarah DeMartino over the summer. The meeting allowed Fernandes to express his thoughts about how to “measure” the performance of the school. The principal and those School Board members feel that emphasis on state test results is not a good measure with Fernandes hoping to see better test scores. Curran added that work is being done on that issue. Curran explained the impact of parents that use the opt-out of testing option along with data being used directly from website data compilations versus testing sources as a measure. Fernandes suggested a stronger emphasis to parents on the results of opting-out.

Current Drawdown Budget Status and Potential Overruns

Arruda stated that the overall budget is not too bad with 68.1% of the total budget spent at the 69.9% point

of the year. Department heads have been asked to only spend for necessities. The \$72,471 cut at Town Meeting was a challenge noting that there are some lines that are set and cannot be cut such as insurance and notes due. If present trends hold, Arruda feels we will be ok.

The substantial damages to Town roads are expected to have an impact on the 2023 budget as reported by Arruda. Brooks added that FEMA funds have been requested but a declaration has not been made by the Federal Government. Overtime and materials have impacted the DPW budget significantly.

Capital Improvement Plan Review

This is a work in process that will be on the next agenda.

Upcoming School Board Meeting Schedule

The schedule was reviewed earlier in the meeting. The next School Board meeting is October 2nd.

Such Items as Properly Presented to the Committee

Brooks informed the Committee of the change to the Town Meeting Rules of Procedure. The change requires that detail, as to which lines and the amount of the reduction, be included if a reduction in the budget is made.

Public comment – There was none.

6:39 PM – Motion by Rogerson, seconded by Dame to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator
Recording Secretary