

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF MADISON
February 20, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES**

Present – Selectmen Michael A. Mauro, John Arruda and Adam Price; Town Administrator Linda Shackford; members of the public

Mauro opened the public hearing at **4:40 PM**.

Mauro announced the following:

This Public Hearing is to discuss and receive input on the proposed amendments to the Budgeting Ordinance.

Notice was posted 01/30/2024 at the upper and lower levels of Town Hall, and the Madison and Silver Lake Post Offices. Published in the 02/01/2024 edition of the Conway Daily Sun.

Mauro opened the floor to public discussion.

Tino Fernandes, Advisory Budget Committee Chairman, offered some background on the proposed change. Fernandes stated the Meetings section of the ordinance that addresses the terms of appointment to the committee was confusing; was it just until the next election or was it to the end of the vacant term. The language proposed by the committee was reviewed and then approved by both Town Counsel and the committee after a couple of revisions.

Fernandes questioned the wording change presented asking if it had gone through another revision with Town Counsel. Shackford stated no, then expressed her concern that she had printed the wrong red line version of the ordinance.

Fernandes read the two versions aloud:

Version presented:

Appointments made to fill ~~unelected or~~ vacancies will be made by the chairman of the Budget Committee, ~~and will be for the remainder of the term.~~ The appointee shall serve until the position may be placed on the next official ballot at the upcoming annual town meeting at which time the voters shall elect an officer for the full term or the balance of an unexpired term, as the case may be.

Version approved by the Advisory Budget Committee:

The appointee shall serve until the position may be placed on the next official ballot at the upcoming annual town meeting at which time the voters shall elect an officer for the balance of the unexpired term.

George Epstein's opinion was that he thinks the version presented is good language and even more clear than the approved version. Fernandes conceded that it has the same meaning and outcome and it sounds acceptable for now.

Joy Gray asked if this is a time to speak on how to go about aligning the ordinance with RSA 32:15 V which speaks to incompatibility of officers. Gray gave an example of a department head being able to advise on their department's budget. Mauro explained that would be a discussion for a later time as this change has already gone through the process to be on the warrant.

Mauro asked for any further discussion or comment. There was none.

Mauro closed the Public Hearing at **4:46 PM**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator