

# MINUTES OF THE MADISON TOWN MEETING

MARCH 12, 2024 Town Election  
and reconvened  
MARCH 16, 2024 Town Meeting

## PRE-ELECTION PROCEDURES

**MANUAL COUNT OF ELECTION DAY BALLOTS**—On February 21, 2024, Town Clerk – Tax Collector, Michael Brooks and Collection Clerk, Rebecca Bonner completed the manual counting of Town Election Day ballots; and on February 26, 2024 Town Clerk – Tax Collector, Michael Brooks, Collection Clerk, Rebecca Bonner and School Clerk, Patricia Ambrose completed the manual counting of School Election Day ballots to be delivered to the Moderator on Election Day (RSA 658:31).

**TESTING ELECTION DAY EBCD MEMORY CARDS**—On February 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., as posted on February 22, 2024 on the upper and lower level bulletin boards in the Town Office building, at the Madison and Silver Lake Post Offices and the Town website, Town Clerk Michael Brooks, Collection Clerk Rebecca Bonner commenced the required pre-election test of the Electronic Ballot Counting Back-up Memory Card and Election Day Memory Card for tallying the Town and School ballots (RSA 656:42 VIII-(e) (1-11)). The EBCD results were then compared to the manual tally of test ballots cast to ensure the accuracy of the Election Day Memory Card scanning. After completing the reconciliation, the Election Day memory card was installed and sealed as required by State Law.

## ELECTION DAY

At 8:00 a.m., March 12, 2024, before the meeting was convened, Town Clerk-Tax Collector, Michael Brooks and Selectman/Registered Voter Adam Price examined the compartments in the electronic ballot counting device to assure the compartments were empty then the Town Clerk had the electronic ballot counting device print the Election Zero Report for the annual Town and School Election.

Moderator Epstein opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. The Moderator declared that it was no longer necessary to move to waive the reading of the Warrant. Moderator Epstein then declared the polls open for acting upon Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the 2024 Town Warrant with the meeting to reconvene at nine o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, March 16, 2024 in the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison to act upon the remaining Articles:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Madison in the County of Carroll in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, polls to be open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM to act upon Articles 1 through 3 with the meeting to reconvene at nine o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, March 16, 2024 in the James Noyes Hall at the Madison Elementary School in Madison to act upon the remaining Articles:

**Article 1.** To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Vote for one Selectman for three years	<b>Joy Gray</b>	<b><u>297</u></b>
	Richard Rick Judkins	18
	Michael A. Mauro	126
	Write-In	
	Blanks	No vote for this position 11
Vote for one Town Clerk/Tax Collector for three years	<b>Michael R. Brooks</b>	<b><u>369</u></b>
	Write-In	
	Becky Bonner	1
	Marcia Shackford	2
	Karl Nordlund	1
	Nicole Nordlund	1
	Yogi Bear	1
	Blanks	No vote for this position 75
Vote for one Town Moderator for two years	<b>George Epstein</b>	<b><u>411</u></b>
	Write-In	
	Michael Brooks	1
	William Lord	2
	Blanks	No vote for this position 39
Vote for one Supervisor of the Checklist for six years	<b>Emily Sheppard</b>	<b><u>403</u></b>
	Write-In	
	Colleen Geoffrey	1
	Blanks	No vote for this position 49
Vote for two Planning Board Members for three years	<b>Chester Paul Littlefield</b>	<b><u>352</u></b>
	<b>Marc Ohlson</b>	<b><u>334</u></b>
	Write-Ins	
	David Cribbie	2
	Nicole Nordlund	1
	Blanks	No vote for positions 218
Vote for two Trustees of the Library for three years	<b>Karen M. Lord</b>	<b><u>381</u></b>
	<b>Linda Drew Smith</b>	<b><u>351</u></b>

	Write-Ins		
	Blanks	No vote for this position	173
Vote for two Advisory Budget Committee Member for three years		<b>Josh L. Shackford</b>	<b><u>290</u></b>
	Write-Ins	Nicole Nordlund	16
		Richard Judkins	2
		Jim Eldridge	1
		Joy Gray	43
		Tino Fernandes	1
		Bill Lord	2
		Ron Force	3
		Marcia Shackford	1
		Karl Nordlund	2
		James Shackford	2
		Nicole Lail	1
		Joe Bailey	3
		George Rau	1
		Jake Boewe	1
		Michael Brooks	1
		Marc Ohlson	1
		Jack Martin	1
		Karen Lord	1
		Bernie Edwards	1
		William Zehring	1
		Anyone Else	4
	Blanks	No vote for this position	528
Vote for one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years		<b>Kathleen M. Moore</b>	<b><u>384</u></b>
	Write-Ins	Tim Duffy	1
		Linda Smith	1
		Michael Brooks	1
		Joy Gray	1
		Nicole Nordlund	1
		Lucas Jesseman	1
	Blanks	No vote for this position	64

**Article 2.** Are you in favor of Amendment No. 1 to the Madison Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: to amend Section 1.3.B., Existing, Non-conforming Uses, to restructure this section and to clarify the requirements that a reconstructed structure must be in the same location and have the same dimensions and bulk as the existing structure except where a difference would make the reconstructed structure less nonconforming, and to add “the shoreland setback” in place of “the high-water line” to the setback requirements for expanded structures, and to omit the requirement that an expanded structure is limited to 50% of the existing first floor footprint. Recommended by the Planning Board.

**Article 2** was **PASSED** by a vote of **292 Yes** 114 No. 46 ballots were not cast for this question.

**Article 3. By Petition.** Are you in favor of increasing the board of selectmen to 5 members? (ballot vote required)

**Article 3** was **PASSED** by a vote of **270 Yes** 171 No. 11 ballots were not cast for this question.

<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST ON ELECTION DAY:</b>	453
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS AT END OF ELECTION DAY:</b>	2,003
<b>TURNOUT PERCENTAGE of TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS:</b>	<b>22.62%</b>

**TOWN MEETING RECONVENED – MARCH 16, 2024**

Prior to reconvening the meeting, Moderator Epstein suggested those voters present proceed to the Supervisor of the Checklist table to sign and receive his/her “A” through “J” printed ballot and ballot envelope.

One-hundred fifty-nine (159) voters signed and received paper ballots.

<b>TOTAL VOTER RECEIVING HAND-HELD PAPER BALLOTS:</b>	159
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS AT END OF ELECTION DAY:</b>	2,003
<b>TURNOUT PERCENTAGE of REGISTERED VOTERS:</b>	<b>7.94%</b>

Moderator Epstein requested all persons elected on Tuesday to proceed to the front table to be sworn in by Selectmen.

At 9:05 a.m. Moderator Epstein opened the meeting.

Moderator Epstein asked the Supervisors of the Checklist to suspend the check in process and for all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Epstein explained the procedures for checking in and the need to obtain paper ballots in order to participate in voting today.

The Moderator read the Town & School Election results of the election held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. The results were posted in three places in the entry-way to the gymnasium. A round of applause was requested for out-going Selectman, Mike Mauro for his service to the Town.

The Moderator then pointed to the In Memorium on page 1 and recognized the contributions of Henry Anderson, Ken Hughes and John Sherwood to the Town of

Madison. He also recognized Henry Forest, noting that he did pass this year and will likely be recognized in next year's report. On page 2, the Moderator recognized the contributions of Candy Sue Jones and Wayne Jones (Old Home Week Committee, 25 years), Phil Laroche (Planning Board, 21 years), Marcia McKenna (Conservation Commission, 23 years), Josh Shackford (Selectman, 15 years) and Mark Totman (Zoning Board of Adjustment, 7 years) for their collective years of service to the Town of Madison in various capacities. The Moderator also recognized Jim Noyes, for whom this gymnasium was dedicated, and for his past services and contributions to this Town. A round of applause was given.

Moderator Epstein continued the meeting by asking voters to turn to the yellow pages beginning at Page 149 of the 2023 Town of Madison Annual Report to consider Articles 4 through 34 of the 2024 Town Warrant. He reminded all in attendance that the PTO is selling refreshments.

He then pointed out the printed rules of procedure on page 9 and the fact that there is a procedure to challenge his decisions. He reminded the meeting that he can be overruled if it is the wishes of this meeting. He referenced several votes last year to restrict the reconsideration of warrant articles and mentioned that some towns in New Hampshire make such a motion after each article. He stated that he does not want this meeting to do that. He described the process as ridiculous.

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million seven hundred and seventy-six thousand seven hundred and forty-two dollars (\$1,776,742.00) for General Government. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

	2023 Approved	2023 Expended	2024 Proposed
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,529.66	\$ 2,500.00
Assessing	\$ 33,345.00	\$ 32,068.00	\$ 36,200.00
Building Inspection	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 49,648.26	\$ 53,950.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,305.64	\$ 4,650.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 8,150.00	\$ 7,190.33	\$ 9,600.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 7,297.98	\$ 11,650.00
Executive	\$ 155,610.00	\$ 164,292.76	\$ 177,070.00
Financial Administration	\$ 167,024.00	\$ 166,077.02	\$ 170,329.00
General Government Buildings	\$ 170,200.00	\$ 165,678.06	\$ 178,200.00
General Government Equipment	\$ 12,400.00	\$ 12,645.40	\$ 13,600.00
Insurance	\$ 114,219.00	\$ 114,218.31	\$ 133,451.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 17,300.00	\$ 24,654.50	\$ 28,800.00
Library	\$ 102,092.00	\$ 95,355.62	\$ 106,607.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 46,572.00	\$ 36,675.63	\$ 47,500.00
Notes Due	\$ 135,027.00	\$ 134,925.98	\$ 121,992.00

Patriotic Purposes	\$ 5,525.00	\$ 5,200.90	\$ 8,200.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 590,195.00	\$ 551,153.26	\$ 581,542.00
Planning Board	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 5,164.80	\$ 9,350.00
Rec Program	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 19,037.41	\$ 66,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 4,121.74	\$ 3,900.00
Zoning Board	\$ 9,490.00	\$ 7,569.70	\$ 11,650.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,678,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,608,810.96</b>	<b>\$ 1,776,742.00</b>

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved:

Selectman Arruda

Seconded:

Selectman Price

The article was reviewed line-by-line with opportunity for discussion, questions and amendments.

Jesse Shackford stated that it is a done deal. He pointed to the Budget Committee stating that “this group rubber-stamped it” and pointed to the Selectmen and stated that “this group made up the numbers.” He stated that he did not expect anything would change today. He did not propose any change to be made.

Moderator Epstein, after realizing that he had not made introductions, asked Advisory Budget Committee Chairman Justino Fernandes to please introduce the panel of Advisory Budget Committee members seated to his left— Joseph Dame, Sharon Schilling, Doug McAllister, and alternate member, Joy Gray. Outgoing member, Ned Rogerson, was not present for the meeting. Moderator Epstein then turned to his right and asked Selectman Mauro to introduce those individuals and his/her position with the Town—Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michael R. Brooks, Selectman John Arruda, Selectman Adam Price, Town Administrator Linda Shackford and Town Attorney Pro-Tem, Eric Maher.

Sharon Schilling wanted to ensure that any amendments to this article needed to specify the line from which the amendment is to be made.

The Moderator corrected Ms. Schilling and stated that there was no such procedure. The Selectmen did try to make such a rule but the Moderator did not feel that it was appropriate because there is no obligation for the people to do so. He stated that it would be helpful to the Selectmen if you specified where any cut might be made but that it could not be required.

Selectman Price moved to reduce the operating budget by \$3,747 from the Madison PEG TV line to represent that actual amount of franchise fees. Seconded by Selectman Mauro.

Doug McAllister clarified that these are franchise fees. Mr. McAllister did not understand that the budget line was funded to the exact level of franchise fees actually received by the Town as it was decided years ago that the PEG TV would not be funded through taxation because not all tax payers have cable service to their property. He erroneously assumed that the Selectmen were cutting their money.

Selectmen Price clarified that the amendment was correcting the amount to the actual amount of funds received from Spectrum in the form of franchise fees.

Carol Kramer rose to amend the recreation budget.

The Moderator explained that Selectman Price's amendment was on the floor and would need to be voted up or down before any additional amendments would be discussed.

**The Moderator declared the Amendment PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

The new budget, after the Amendment, is as follows:

	2023 Approved	2023 Expended	2024 Proposed
Animal/Pest Control	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,529.66	\$ 2,500.00
Assessing	\$ 33,345.00	\$ 32,068.00	\$ 36,200.00
Building Inspection	\$ 51,250.00	\$ 49,648.26	\$ 53,950.00
Conservation Commission	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,305.64	\$ 4,650.00
Direct Assistance	\$ 8,150.00	\$ 7,190.33	\$ 9,600.00
Election, Registration, Vital Statistics	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 7,297.98	\$ 11,650.00
Executive	\$ 155,610.00	\$ 164,292.76	\$ 177,070.00
Financial Administration	\$ 167,024.00	\$ 166,077.02	\$ 170,329.00
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Insurance	\$ 114,219.00	\$ 114,218.31	\$ 133,451.00
Interest - Tax Anticipation Notes	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00
Legal	\$ 17,300.00	\$ 24,654.50	\$ 28,800.00
Library	\$ 102,092.00	\$ 95,355.62	\$ 106,607.00
Madison PEG TV	\$ 46,572.00	\$ 36,675.63	\$ 43,753.00
Notes Due	\$ 135,027.00	\$ 134,925.98	\$ 121,992.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 5,525.00	\$ 5,200.90	\$ 8,200.00
Personnel Administration	\$ 590,195.00	\$ 551,153.26	\$ 581,542.00
Planning Board	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 5,164.80	\$ 9,350.00
Rec Program	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 19,037.41	\$ 66,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 4,121.74	\$ 3,900.00
Zoning Board	\$ 9,490.00	\$ 7,569.70	\$ 11,650.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,678,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,608,810.96</b>	<b>\$ 1,772,995.00</b>

Carol Kramer moved to reduce the recreation budget by \$26,000. Seconded by Bill Dempster.

Carol Kramer stated that the amount doubled and she could not find a budget.

Selectman Price explained that the budget did not actually double. The \$66,000 reflects the addition of the Director's salary to the budget. The proposed budget for 2023 stayed the same and the Director's salary was added to the operating budget. Additionally, Selectman Price explained that the 2023 recreation line was reduced in response to the amendment made in last year's meeting cutting the operating budget by \$73,343.00 (moved by Ron Force and seconded by Sharon Schilling in 2023). The proposed budget for 2024 is the same as the original budget that was proposed in 2023. The increase is attributed to the inclusion of the Director's salary in this year's budget.

Carol Kramer was adamant that she did not understand how the money was spent and there was nothing in the book that explained it to her.

Selectman Price explained that the salary in 2023 was from the warrant article that was passed and all other expenditures have been published and are available. Consequently, the Director's salary in 2023 was paid from the warrant article and not reflected in the operating budget as there was no salary line in the 2023 proposed budget.

Carol Kramer accepted all of the explanations but still requested her amendment. She concluded by stating the importance that swimming lessons be offered.

Selectman Price clarified that the need for swimming lessons was well understood and that the committee has had problems in recent years locating a willing instructor for a swim program.

Joy Gray restated all of the information previously stated by Selectman Price. She emphasized the goal of moving toward self-sustainment of the recreation programs through a pay-to-play scheme.

Carol Kramer withdrew her amendment and Bill Dempster withdrew his second. She concluded by restating the importance of swimming lessons and suggested that they be available to non-residents at a fee.

Mike Veilleux asked if the budget was going to be considered line-by-line.

Nicole Nordlund asked for the balance of the line for attorney fees that was passed last year's meeting. She asked for an accounting of all of the Town 501(c)3 organizations. She asked for a clarification from the Budget Committee as to whether they still approve of the budget. She realized that Sharon Schilling had not attended the meeting where



the Advisory Budget Committee voted their recommendations and wanted to get Ms. Schilling's opinion on the record.

Sharon Schilling stated that she was not present at the consideration of the budget but stated that she would not have voted in favor of it. She felt that there should be more specificity. Ms. Schilling offered no explanation for the specificity that she was seeking.

The Selectmen stated that the Treasurer's Report (page 63 of the Annual Report) shows the balances of all audited accounts.

Selectmen reported the expenditures from the legal warrant article.

Nicole Nordlund would like the operating budgets put back into one article. She moved to reduce the budget by \$22,785, seconded by Karl Nordlund. She wants to reduce the amount of dollars going to lawyers.

The bottom line, if amended, would reduce the total line to \$1,750,210.00.

Selectman Price stated that the proposed budget was down from last year, already.

**The Moderator declared the Amendment DEFEATED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Donna Veilleux asked her annual question regarding whether the Town buys employee unemployment insurance? And, have we made any payments?

The answer to this question has not changed from year-to-year. The Town Administrator, Linda Shackford, responded no. Ms. Shackford pointed to the reported budget where it was evident, both, that the Town had budgeted \$5,000 for this purpose; and, that zero dollars had been expended from that line. It was all printed on the worksheet; copies of which were made available as hand-outs prior to the meeting.

Linda Haver had a question regarding swimming lessons. She stated that she had lived in town for 40 years and there were always swimming lessons and wondered why they were not offered.

Selectmen explained that it was the ability to find an instructor that has been the hurdle.

**The Moderator declared Article 4 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred sixty-four thousand seven hundred and one dollars (\$964,701.00) for Public Works.

	2023 Approved	2023 Expended	2024 Proposed
Highway	\$ 265,297.00	\$ 278,507.25	\$ 253,750.00
Parks & Rec	\$ 16,351.00	\$ 14,841.92	\$ 20,050.00
Solid Waste	\$ 149,501.00	\$ 147,995.65	\$ 134,501.00
Administration	\$ 535,600.00	\$ 502,228.06	\$ 556,400.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 966,749.00</b>	<b>\$ 943,572.88</b>	<b>\$ 964,701.00</b>
DRA Approved Over Expenditure	\$ 441,000.00	\$ 394,997.36	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,407,749.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,338,570.24</b>	<b>\$ 964,701.00</b>

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 4 – 1 – 0**

Moved:  
Seconded:

Selectman Price  
Selectman Mauro

The article was reviewed line-by-line with opportunity for discussion, questions and amendments.

Jesse Shackford rose with the same comment as the previous article. He does not have a problem with the budget but he did question what the DPW did this winter. He stated that all of the vehicles and equipment have been parked. Mr. Shackford stated that the crew sat in the shop all winter telling stories. He felt that they must have run out of stories to tell. He stated that they were too lazy to remove the plows and sanders from the trucks mid-winter and if there was no snow to plow, they would do nothing. He stated that they should have checked the weather forecast and, if there was no snow forecasted for the week, they should pull the sanders, drop the plows and get to ditching which could have all been done this winter. He stated the need for more over-sight and accountability, "This is not a retirement home."

Donna Veilleux generally did not comprehend how the budget was reported and questioned Selectman Price's statement that the budget was below last year's and with \$441,000 used for an emergency; why it was reported that the Selectmen did not use any money from the fund balance. She was accusing the Board of Selectmen of lying in their reports.

The Moderator clarified that Ms. Veilleux was looking at two separate and distinct references to the unassigned fund balance. The Selectmen correctly reported, in this article, that \$394,997.36 was used for emergency road repairs. Due to the emergency expenditure, the Selectmen did not use any of the unassigned fund balance during the tax rate setting for 2023. Ms. Veilleux was incorrect in her assertion that the Selectmen were not being truthful in their reporting.

Selectman Mauro stated that activity reports are provided by the DPW at Selectmen's Meetings every two weeks.

Jesse Shackford audibly scoffed.

**The Moderator declared Article 5 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred sixty-eight thousand six hundred and forty-five dollars (\$668,645.00) for Public Safety.

	2023 Approved	2023 Expended	2024 Proposed
Ambulance	\$ 107,366.00	\$ 107,356.92	\$ 133,044.00
Emergency Management Dept.	\$ 7,511.00	\$ 10,855.73	\$ 9,701.00
Fire Rescue	\$ 166,900.00	\$ 108,718.12	\$ 165,900.00
Police	\$ 367,502.00	\$ 354,789.96	\$ 360,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 649,279.00</b>	<b>\$ 581,720.73</b>	<b>\$ 668,645.00</b>

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved:  
Seconded:

Selectman Arruda  
Selectman Price

The article was reviewed line-by-line with opportunity for discussion, questions and amendments.

Jesse Shackford questioned whether we have enough members on the fire department to respond.

The Fire Chief summarized the membership status of the Department and the training advances over the past two years. Four members have successfully completed the Firefighter I curriculum and became certified. Three of those members went on to complete the Firefighter II curriculum and became certified. Additionally, we have three new EMT Basics. We still have mutual aid agreements with surrounding towns to assist at larger incidents. Any in attendance were welcomed to obtain an application to join the department.

Donna Veilleux stated that the Selectmen approved a request to extend health insurance to an employee (the Chief of Police, who has announced his intention to retire at the end of August 2024) after this budget was approved by the Selectmen and budget committee and she did not believe that those funds were included in the budget.

Selectman Price stated that they are included under the personnel administration line in the budget that was just approved.

Donna Veilleux questioned how they could have been included being that the non-public meeting took place after the budget was approved.

The Moderator stated that the inquiry was outside the scope of this meeting as it applies to an individual employee (the Chief of Police) being attacked by Ms. Veilleux. The Selectmen have stated that the subject matter is funded in the budget.

Selectman Price once again stated that it is included under personnel administration approved in Article 4.

As Chief King approached the microphone, Doug McAllister asked the Moderator to allow only registered voters to speak.

The Moderator stated that he would allow non-resident department heads to speak as we have always permitted. Department Heads are entitled to speak to their budgets and the comments are not general in nature.

Chief King stated that there have been no changes to the Police Budget since it was proposed and approved.

The Moderator requested a round of applause as Chief King has publically announced his retirement for later this summer.

**The Moderator declared Article 6 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) for paving and road improvements of Town roads including but not limited to Mooney Hill Road, Allard Hill Road and East Madison Road. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the funds have been exhausted with the completion of the project or by December 31, 2029, whichever is sooner.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Arruda  
Seconded: Selectman Price

Dave Evans asked if Modoc Hill Road was included in this article.

Selectmen responded that it is not included in this article but it will be addressed in Article 9.

**The Moderator declared Article 7 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease agreement in the amount of two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000.00) for the purpose of leasing a new solid waste truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000.00) for the first year's payment

for that purpose with forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) to come from the trade in of the solid waste truck and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) from the Transfer Station Capital Projects Expendable Trust Fund. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Mauro  
Seconded: Selectman Price

Jesse Shackford referenced the use of common sense and industry standards. No local hauler would spend this sum of money for a truck to be used 2 days a week. We went into this to save money, not throw money away, he said. Buying this new truck is “Like using a thoroughbred for Sunday pony rides.” Basically, he is not in favor of this purchase.

Joe Dame stated that he has done an extensive investigation into this proposal and market conditions which confirmed that we are saving approximately \$100 per load and the costs will be cheaper than the current vehicle.

Joy Gray asked for clarification on the funding mechanism as she did not understand.

Selectman Price clarified that there is no appropriation through taxation this year and, if approved, the future payments would be included in the notes due line of the operating budget for the term of the lease.

Selectman Arruda stated the importance of this truck to the operation of the transfer station. He recognized the efforts of Dave Swift in putting this proposal together.

Sharon Schilling asked if other departments could use it.

Town Clerk – Tax Collector clarified that the DPW would use the vehicle for other purposes, if it was safe to do so, pointing out that they had used the existing truck to move large concrete blocks used for culvert headers on Colby Hill Road and culvert pipes to other sites this past summer. Other Departments would not be able to use the truck themselves.

Joy Gray still did not understand where the expense would go in the budget.

Moderator clarified notes due.

Bob Vaughan asked if all of our employees where properly licensed to drive the truck.

Josh Shackford stated that all DPW employees have CDL-A or B licenses.

**The Moderator declared Article 8 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) to repair Modoc Hill Road.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Mauro  
Seconded: Selectman Price

Sharon Schilling noted that Modoc Hill Road had recently been closed and wondered if this article needed to be amended to request more money.

The Emergency Management Director (EMD) responded that the proposed culvert replacement is intended to address the water issues that we have experienced 5 times this past year. There is no need for additional money to be appropriated. He also stated that the Town had just received information indicating that a disaster had been declared for the December 17, 2023 storm event that impacted Modoc Hill Road. This official declaration will enable the Town to seek 75% reimbursement from FEMA for these repairs.

Donna Veilleux asked if the reimbursement was confirmed.

The EMD responded stating what was required to be submitted to State and Federal Agencies in support of the repairs and briefly outlined the approval process. The only certainty is that the Town is eligible for reimbursement. There are no guarantees beyond that.

**The Moderator declared Article 9 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new ballot counting device. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchase of the new ballot counting device is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Mauro  
Seconded: Selectman Price

Ken D'Amico requested that Article 28 be considered first as the 2 are contradictory. Second by Carol Kramer.

The Moderator stated that there would be no debate.

Attorney Maher pointed out that we have an open motion and second on Article 10 on the floor.

**The Moderator declared the Amendment PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Moderator requested the Selectmen to withdraw their motion and second on article 10. Selectman Mauro withdrew his motion and Selectman Price withdrew his second.

**Article 28. By Petition.** Shall the following provisions pertaining to elections be adopted? All voting shall be by paper ballot and all ballots shall be hand counted only, rather than by use of optical scanning or any other types of programmable electronic counting devices.

Moved:  
Seconded:

Ken Damico  
Mark Lucy

Mr. D'Amico read a multi-page prepared statement in support of his position that all ballots should be counted by hand. Mr. D'Amico concluded by presenting the Moderator with a written request that this article be voted by secret ballot.

Mike Veilleux stated that right now we have both with a machine count and the paper ballots. The electronic machines are a useful tool.

Michelle Montowski is new to Madison (4 years) and this is her first meeting. She stated that there are concerns with the integrity of our elections and that ballots are counted accurately. She spent her career configuring systems in IT. It is absolutely possible that a program can be written to change the data.

Joy Gray stated that she had a 30-year career in IT and confirmed that it is possible to change the results. She feels that this is a good use of technology.

Deborah Ayers stated that the machines are not connected to the internet and we still have paper ballots. She has no question with counts in New Hampshire and especially in Madison.

Mike Mosher spoke favorably for the machines and suggested that hand-counting would be arduous.

Gordon Snyder stated that he had served as Moderator in another town in New Hampshire and stated that that town had a machine also. If you question the result, you can request a recount. Hand-counting may not be as good. Mr. Snyder strongly recommends voting this one down.

Christina McAllister stated that she worked in IT also. She stated that she participated in the hand-counting on Tuesday and stated that she enjoyed it. People make errors. She urged the meeting to support voting machines.

Selectmen Arruda recounted an interaction with Richard Papazian after the town did not purchase a voting machine. Selectman Arruda invited Mr. Papazian to assist with hand-counting at the next election (after the failed vote on the machine). Part way through the counting, Mr. Papazian described the process as archaic and committed to support the acquisition of a machine the next year. Selectman Arruda stated that the process for testing was public and that anyone who was interested was encouraged to come down to Town Hall and observe the process.

The Moderator got into a bit more detail regarding the existing technology and the security there of. He estimated that there have been at least 150,000 races decided by machines in New Hampshire with one anomaly in Windham a couple of years ago. He emphasized the importance of doing it right and protecting the integrity of the process.

Bill Cherry asked for the number of residents in Town. He questioned the need to spend \$7,000 to count relatively few ballots.

The Moderator responded and explained the fact that we experience differing levels of turnout or participation at different elections. Yes, we had less than 500 voters come out for our local election last Tuesday but we expect over 1,500 to vote in the Presidential election in November.

Attorney Maher passed a note to the Moderator but the Moderator did not indicate what the note said.

Julie Shields asked if we had considered buying a second machine as a “cross-check” of the current machine.

The Moderator explained that the ultimate cross-check is to request a recount. He explained the impossibility of accessing the ballots to run them through a second machine. That would violate the security of the ballot process.

The Moderator declared that the Article would be voted by using Ballot lettered “A”. He paused the meeting for 5 minutes to allow for voting.

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Highway Heavy Equipment Expendable Trust Fund.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**



Moved:  
Seconded:

Selectman Price  
Selectman Arruda

The fund currently has \$13,730.00, as stated by the Moderator.

No discussion.

**The Moderator declared Article 11 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Transfer Station Capital Projects Expendable Trust Fund.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved:  
Seconded:

Selectman Mauro  
Selectman Arruda

The fund currently has \$81,300.00, as stated by the Moderator. However, in accordance with the vote on Article 8, \$50,000.00 will be withdrawn for the down payment on the new truck. That withdrawal will drop the balance to \$31,300.00 prior to the vote on this article.

No discussion.

**The Moderator declared Article 12 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Assessing Expendable Trust Fund.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved:  
Seconded:

Selectman Price  
Selectman Mauro

The fund currently has \$105,000.00, as stated by the Moderator.

The Moderator stated that it costs over \$100,000 every five years for the revaluation process required by the State.

No discussion.

**The Moderator declared Article 13 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Historical Society Building Improvement Expendable Trust Fund.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Mauro  
Seconded: Selectman Price

The fund currently has \$20,000, as stated by the Moderator.

No discussion.

**The Moderator declared Article 14 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

The Supervisors of the Checklist presented the Moderator with the tabulated results of the ballot vote on Article 28.

**The Moderator declared Article 28 DEFEATED** by a count of Ballot lettered "A".

22 Yes 130 NO

The Moderator jumped back to Article 10.

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a new ballot counting device. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchase of the new ballot counting device is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Mauro  
Seconded: Selectman Price

The Moderator explained the process with the new machines and the involvement of State agencies. The State has conditionally approved two options. He stated that he has had discussions with the Town Clerk and they agree that the State should have approved one machine for the entire State.

No discussion.

**The Moderator declared Article 10 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots. The Moderator directed that the minutes reflect Mr. D'Amico's opposition.

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Silver Lake Dam Improvement Expendable Trust Fund.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Price  
Seconded: Selectman Arruda

The fund currently has \$19,250 in it, as stated by the Moderator.

Selectmen stated that the total project is projected to cost over a million dollars.

Mark Faunce asked about the current status and how far along we are.

The Moderator offered the use of his hammer.

Joe Dame stated that he had researched this and stated that the dam is 100 years old.

The Moderator stated that there are 22 people watching the live stream.

**The Moderator declared Article 15 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for land acquisition and conservation purposes.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Mauro  
Seconded: Selectman Price

The fund currently has \$59,691 in it, as stated by the Moderator.

Ralph Lutjen spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission and the importance of this contribution.

Marcia McKenna read a prepared statement regarding the importance of supporting this article.

The Moderator recognized the importance of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust and the work that they do.

**The Moderator declared Article 16 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Groundwater Remediation Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purposes of conducting a Focused Site Investigation of ground water conditions as directed by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and any necessary remediation and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) for this purpose, and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Arruda  
Seconded: Selectman Mauro

The Emergency Management Director outlined the project with a little history of the water testing that led the State to prescribe the focused site investigation. The Board of Selectmen have engaged Wilcox & Barton to conduct the investigation on the Town's behalf. Test borings and water sampling to be conducted this spring. It was stated that the failure to make this appropriation would not save the Town money because the State would conduct the investigation and send us a bill.

No other discussion.

**The Moderator declared Article 17 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand eight hundred and ninety-six dollars (\$9,896.00) to be placed in PEG TV Expendable Trust Fund this sum to come from the unassigned fund balance which represents unused franchise fees from the 2023 Operating Budget.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved: Selectman Price  
Seconded: Selectman Arruda

The fund currently has \$43,370 in it, representing unexpended franchise fees, as stated by the Moderator.

The Moderator clarified the nature of franchise fees.

Doug McAllister stated that the funds also pay the videographers.

**The Moderator declared Article 18 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Mary Cronin is concerned about the sustainability of franchise fees as a funding mechanism if more and more people leave Spectrum.

Doug McAllister stated the status of the lack of a current contract and intimated the need to find a different provider.

The Moderator called for a vote again but it had already been conducted.

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the purpose of forest maintenance, the entire amount to come from the previously established Forest Maintenance account, and no amount to be raised by taxation.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Moved:

Selectman Price

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

Mark Faunce had questions regarding a Town Forrester and the Red Pine Scale.

Conservation Commission member stated that the Commission works closely with a licensed forester but, historically, they have not accepted the title of Town Forester. The member did not recall being presented with any information regarding Red Pine Scale over the past year.

**The Moderator declared Article 19 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, to designate land known as Map 116, Lot 023, as conservation land to be managed and regulated by the conservation commission in accordance with RSA 36-A:4.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

Moved:

Selectman Price

Seconded:

Selectman Mauro

12.1 acres on Davis Pond accessed from Boulder Road.

Ralph Lutjen spoke about the surrounding lands that were already in conservation or privately owned by conservation entities.

Marcia McKenna restated a lot of what Mr. Lutjen just said.

**The Moderator declared Article 20 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the amendments proposed by the Advisory Budget Committee to the Town's Budgeting Ordinance adopted at the 1991 Town Meeting, amended at the May 11, 2021 Town Meeting, which include changing the appointment of members to better align with NH RSA 669:61. Copies of the Amended Budgeting Ordinance are on file with the Town Clerk, posted with the Warrant and available at Town Meeting.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

Moved:	Selectman Mauro
Seconded:	Selectman Price

The Moderator reviewed the proposed changes, as follows:

**CURRENT WORDING:**

As duly elected or appointed officers of the municipality, members of the Advisory Budget Committee shall take an oath of office as required by RSA 42:1. The municipal records and Town Report should clearly show the dates of election or appointment and the expirations of the terms. ~~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.~~

**PROPOSED WORDING:**

As duly elected or appointed officers of the municipality, members of the Advisory Budget Committee shall take an oath of office as required by RSA 42:1. The municipal records and Town Report should clearly show the dates of election or appointment and the expirations of the terms. **Appointments made to fill vacancies will be made by the chairman of the 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.**

The Town Clerk stated that under the present rules, the Chairman of the Advisory Budget Committee has greater appointing authority than the Selectmen in that he is able to appoint a member for up to 2 years without that member having been elected. This change will bring the Advisory Budget Committee in line with all other departments in town.

Justino Fernandes suggested an amendment to the ordinance, and not specifically this Article, as follows:

“No selectman, town manager, member of the school board, village district commissioner, full time employee, or part time department head of the town, school district or village district or other associated agency shall serve as an elected member of the Advisory Budget Committee. Every elected member shall be domiciled in the town and shall cease to hold office immediately upon ceasing to be so domiciled.”

The proposed amendment was seconded by Joy Gray.

Bill Dempster questioned the members of the budget committee that opposed the amendment.

Mike Veilleux wanted to know if it would impact the Selectmen’s Rep (John Arruda) if he were an employee.

The Moderator indicated that it would not. It was noted that the Selectmen’s Rep is not an elected member of the Advisory Budget Committee.

Doug McAllister asked when it would be effective.

Moderator responded for all elections happening after this meeting. The currently elected member (Josh Shackford) will serve out the term to which he was elected and would likely be barred from being re-elected, if the amendment were to pass.

The legal question was not addressed by counsel.

**The Moderator declared the Amendment PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**The Moderator declared Article 21 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Amended Building Permit Ordinance as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, with the same to replace the Building Permit Ordinance as adopted by the Town Meeting in 1980. Copies of the Amended Building Permit Ordinance are on file with the Town Clerk, posted with the Warrant and available at Town Meeting.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**

Moved:	Selectman Price
Seconded:	Selectman Mauro

The Moderator summarized the proposed changes to the permit requirements contained in a four-page document previously presented and reviewed at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen prior to this meeting.

Eric Edwards wanted to amend the low figure to a minimum \$8,500 before a permit will be required. Seconded by Nicole Nordlund.

Reed Heath thinks \$8,500 is too high and feels that the ordinance will be abused.

Cheryl Harris stated that it is not too much.

Bob Boyd clarified the permitting requirement.

Mike Veilleux stated his misunderstanding of the current ordinance.

**The Moderator declared the Amendment PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**The Moderator declared Article 22 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 23. By Petition.** To see if the Town will vote to accept a deed from Norja Inc. for 3 roads as depicted on plan entitled "Banfield Hollow Acres" for Norja Inc. Approved by the Madison planning board June 2004 and recorded at the Carroll Registry of Deeds in plan book 2206, page 815. Roads are as follows, Brookstone Lane, Pebblebrook Lane and Whitton Ledge Lane.

Moved:

Jay Bisio

Seconded:

Richard Mattei

Jay Bisio presented the article with a statement of all that has been done in the past 20 years.

Paul Marks spoke on behalf of the Planning Board to clarify that the Planning Board has approved the plans and it is not intended to appear that they approve this article.

Sharon Shilling asked how many miles of roadway we were talking about.

The Selectmen responded that the total distance was 6 tenths of a mile, amounting to 1.2 lane miles.

Joy Gray asked how much it was going to cost.

Josh Shackford said that the DPW has calculated an estimate of \$100 per plow trip. Meaning, each time that they go onto the roads it will cost approximately \$100.

It was asked if there was any deferred expense that the Town would have to assume.

Reed Heath suggested that the Town examine the roads to make this determination.



John Arruda recounted the acceptance of Peak Vista Lane a few years ago as the last private road to be accepted by the Town.

Gordon Snyder stated that he contacted the Road Agent and the Selectmen regarding the costs.

Mike Mosher feels that the benefit is not enjoyed by all and where is this going to stop.

Reed Heath is concerned about future costs. He does not believe that the status of the road effects the value of the real property. He does not want to do it.

The Moderator clarified that the status of the road absolutely effects the value of the appraisal of the properties on the road.

Jay Bisio clarified that there is no drainage underneath the road and there is 80 feet of sand with no rock bigger than a jelly bean.

Linda Haver gave her life history in Madison and her familiarity with Forest Pines Road which was not always a Town road.

Attorney Maher responded that this meeting cannot be compelled to accept the roads.

Joy Gray stated that she is not opposed to the article but wanted to ensure that estimates had been calculated and there is a complete understanding of what we are being asked to take on.

Linda Haver stated that she believed that the roads in Banfield Hollow were already assessed as Class V roads and wondered if the Town had this information.

The Selectmen responded that they did.

An unnamed speaker asked if there was going to be a response to Joy's question.

The Moderator responded, no. You can ask questions and officials are generally good about responding to them. There is no obligation to respond to an unsolicited question.

The Town Clerk clarified that there are implications in the way questions are asked and that the question was not being ignored. He stated that the straight answer is that there is no way to know what taking these roads on is going to cost. There are too many variables with the amount of snowfall, etc. It is not possible to answer the question. There has been nothing built in to the budget to maintain these roads in 2024.

**The Moderator declared Article 23 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 24. By Petition.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a non-lapsing Veterans Monument Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19a for the purpose of maintenance and

future upgrades to the Veterans Monument and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2500 for this purpose, and further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund upon the recommendation of the Veterans Advisory Committee.

**Not Recommended by Selectmen 0 – 3 – 0**

**Not Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 0 – 4 – 1**

Moved: Sharon Schilling  
Seconded: Cale King

Sharon Schilling asked for this fund because she was not aware that a fund already existed.

Selectman Price clarified that the money was encumbered from 2023 budget and not unassigned fund balance, as incorrectly stated by Sharon Schilling, to repair the errors that were made on the existing stone.

Denita Dudley said that her son's name was spelled incorrectly 5+ years ago and would like to see it fixed as soon as possible.

Sharon Schilling is fixated on the need to add money despite several statements that obligations have always been met within the operating budget.

Bob Vaughan wants it done; 2 years he has waited to have his son's name added.

Joy Gray wanted to amend this article to add money to the existing account. Seconded by Cale King.

The Moderator asked if she had her amendment written out and she stated that she did not know the name of the existing account. The Moderator formulated the language for the amendment as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the Veteran's Monument Fund.

**The Moderator declared the Amendment PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

It was noted that Garden club maintains the grounds. A round of applause was given in recognition of the Garden Club.

**The Moderator declared Article 24 PASSED, as amended** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 25. By Petition.** To see if the town will vote to require board and committee meetings to begin no earlier than 6PM, thus enabling a larger group of people to attend meetings and actively participate in town government.

Moved: Marcia McKenna  
Seconded: Julie Shields

Marcia McKenna wants to open the Boards and Committees to a diversified group of people. A more representative group of people.

Selectman Price stated that this would create a scheduling conflict for the Town Hall meeting room.

Cheryl Brooks wonders about the impact on Boards where the State specifies the meeting times.

Selectmen Arruda asked if the vote on this article was advisory.

Attorney Maher confirmed that the vote is advisory in nature.

Cheri Stackpole says that she is never out of work before 5:00 PM. She would like to amend the article for the Selectmen to meet at 5:30 PM.

Bob Boyd specified his experience with the Joint Loss Management Committee.

Selectman Mauro expressed his concern for the older population that does not like to be out late.

Mr. Snyder proposed an amendment to this article as follows:

To see if the town will vote to encourage when feasible board and committee meetings to begin no earlier than 6PM, thus enabling a larger group of people to attend meetings and actively participate in town government.

The amendment was seconded by Bonnie Slader.

**The Moderator declared the Amendment PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Bill Dempster did not understand how the vote was advisory.

**The Moderator declared Article 25 PASSED, as amended** by a standing count of the house.

54 Yes 45 NO

**Article 26. By Petition.** To see if the Town of Madison will vote to approve Guest Parking Pass use @ The Foot of the Lake Beach. Passes would be sold at Town Hall and be valid M-F July 1 through Labor Day. Also, valid on any day, the remainder of year, for parking only in the overflow lot, located across the street from the beach. Subject to availability of spaces. Passes shall have date, in ink written, on front (single use), and be displayed on dashboard of vehicle.

Moved:  
Seconded:

Nicole Nordlund  
Linda Haver

Nicole Nordlund believes that the current ordinance came into place during the COVID lock-down. She recounted her story regarding the inability of non-residents to use town property.

Mike Mauro is concerned with no reciprocity from other towns, such as Conway. Residents of Madison cannot just go and use property owned by the Town of Conway.

Linda Haver stated that she had gotten a ticket at the Foot of the Lake.

Bethany Morehouse wondered if the ticket could be avoided if there was a police officer present. Guests can be easily verified.

Bill Dempster appreciates the Town only beach without having to worry about parking. He sees it as a privilege that is to be preserved for Madison residents. He is opposed to this Article.

Selectman Arruda is not as opposed to this but he is concerned that the passes will be passed around and that the process will be abused like it has been in the past. He is concerned that we are creating an administrative burden.

Chief King clarified that he started this effort in 2019 when he was on the Board of Selectmen for the reasons stated by Mr. Dempster. The aim was to control the parking in the area owned by the Town. He was infuriated by the passing of a \$2 permit from person to person. He stated that residents that he has talked to have never been happier. The police have found a sticker on a Home Depot rental truck at the transfer station. He outlined the appeal process if someone were to get a ticket that they did not feel was deserved.

Mike Veilleux correctly stated that there is no restriction on who can use the beach. He stated that there are many options for parking in other places, on property of others, where you won't be ticketed.

**The Moderator declared Article 26 DEFEATED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 27. By Petition.** To see if the Town of Madison will vote to approve the adoption of the New Hampshire Statute RSA 79-F (taxation of farm structures and land under

farm structures) in an effort to support our Farming Community This statute has been adopted in many New Hampshire towns statewide in the effort to encourage the preservation of productive farms and associated structures. Farming in NH has a long and proud history which shaped our State's landscape. It is further declared to be in the public interest to prevent the loss of farms and their associated structures due to property taxation as values incompatible with their usage.

Moved: Julie Shields  
Seconded: Tom Head

Tom Head gave a brief synopsis of the statute. Similar to current use with 10 contiguous acres and outlined the necessary uses for the property. There would be a penalty for withdrawal.

**The Moderator declared Article 27 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

Selectman Arruda moved that the charitable articles be voted as a group (Articles 29-33) in the aggregate amount of \$26,304.00, seconded by Selectman Mauro.

**Article 29. By Petition.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500.00) to support Madison home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), congregate meals, transportation and program services provided by the Gibson Center for Senior Services, Inc.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

**Article 30. By Petition.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand four hundred and twenty-one dollars (\$5,421.00) in support of Starting Point providing advocacy and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

**Article 31. By Petition.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand seven hundred and seventy-one dollars (\$5,771.00) for the operation of Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc. service programs in Madison: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, Disaster Relief, Tamworth Dental Center.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

**Article 32. By Petition.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand one hundred dollars (\$3,100.00) for the Family Resource Center at

Children Unlimited, Inc. to strengthen families by promoting health, well-being, self-sufficiency and positive parenting through support and education.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

**Article 33. By Petition.** To see if the town of Madison will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand five hundred and twelve dollars (\$6,512.00) for the support of White Mountain Community Health Center to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the town of Madison.

**Recommended by Selectmen 3 – 0 – 0**  
**Recommended by the Advisory Budget Committee 5 – 0 – 0**

Selectman Arruda moved the charitable articles as a group (Articles 29-33), seconded by Selectman Mauro. The total amount moved is \$26,304.

Budget Committee member, Sharon Schilling, asked if this was increased over last year.

Selectman Price stated that the amount had actually decreased by \$1,200.


**The Moderator declared Articles 29-33 PASSED** by a show of hand-held paper ballots.

**Article 34.** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Seeing nothing further, the Moderator solicited a motion to adjourn from Bill Lord, no second was solicited, and was so voted.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted and attested to the minutes' authenticity and accuracy,

  
Michael R. Brooks,  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector