

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF MADISON  
July 16, 2024  
MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Sharon Schilling; Joe Dame; Josh Shackford; Rick Judkins; Joy Gray, Selectman

**Members Excused** – Sarah DeMartino, School Board

**Others Present** – Town Administrator Linda Shackford; Elwin King; Ned Rogerson; Bill Dempster; MadTV Videographer Kasia Scentsas

**Where and When Posted** – Town Hall upper & lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on May 28, 2024.

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

**Welcome and Introductions** were made by Schilling; with DeMartino being excused and Gray expected to be late.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Dame led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge.

**Approval of Minutes – Motion** by Judkins, seconded by J. Shackford to approve the minutes of June 18, 2024 with corrections. The motion passed **3-0-1**; with Schilling abstaining because she was not at the meeting.

**Agenda Order Change** – Judkins asked to move Elwin King’s request for appointment ahead on the agenda; it was agreed by all to make the change.

**Request for Appointment: Elwin King** - Schilling asked King to speak about himself and why he would like to be appointed to the Committee. King stated he is a life-long resident and would like to be a more active member of the Town and there appeared to be not a lot of interest in the open seat for this Committee. Schilling asked King to explain his background with budgeting. King owns a trucking company and keeps his finances on a tight leash using common sense.

Schilling, after watching the June ABC meeting, expressed her concern of what appeared to be King interrupting the Committee. King felt the meeting was run with an open floor concept and he felt allowed to offer his opinion. Schilling said the meetings are not necessarily open floor, but offer times to speak with the raising of your hand – offering professional courtesy.

Schilling asked about a post King made to Facebook on May 22, 2024 regarding the grader and how it seems that he had information prior to the Selectmen. King said he has been in the “dirt work” business his whole life; he talks to people and educates himself on what is going on.

It was decided by Schilling to appoint King as a member of the Committee and ask the Selectmen to process the formal paperwork.

**Schilling’s Public Comments to the Selectmen** – Schilling was unable to attend the July 9<sup>th</sup> Selectmen’s meeting so she asked Dame to read a statement on her half as ABC Chairman that expressed her concern

for the Selectmen's disregard to procedures in the purchase of the grader. Their decision, which was made without proper analysis, forces the taxpayers into a corner at Town Meeting.

Judkins was of the understanding that the upgrade from the CAT 120 to a CAT 140 was because that was the unit available without having to wait eighteen months for a new order. The option of renting a grader would be based upon its availability.

Schilling stated that the Selectmen chose not to follow procedure with Judkins saying it can still be voted down at Town Meeting. Schilling would have voted against the purchase believing that the decision to purchase the grader had been made long before the public hearing.

*6:21pm Gray joined the meeting.*

L. Shackford asked for a moment to speak to Schilling's statement and was granted such. A false statement is made at the bottom of the first page Schilling states "the ABC made no recommendation to the Town regarding this purchase due to a significant lack of information". Schilling agreed that this information was incorrect, it was based upon her conversations and discussions with others. Schilling then turned to J. Shackford and stated she would have asked him to abstain from that vote because he has an intrinsic stake in the decision. J. Shackford said the law allows him to decide when to abstain with Schilling knowing she can challenge his decision.

Dame gave a synopsis of the review made by the Committee showing a good, fair price for the grader given the information at the time. Dame updated the cost analysis for the Selectmen's hearing.

L. Shackford asked about a line on the second page stating the "ABC questions the due diligence of monetary decisions made by the Selectmen regarding this purchase", L. Shackford does not see where that discussion happened. Gray stated that the ABC questioned the need for the grader, agreeing with Schilling's statement.

**Dempster Revenue Opportunity** – Dempster sees an opportunity for collecting revenue for the Town in the form of civil fines and fees from STR properties through enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance. These fines and fees can be collected per RSA 676 with each day of violation being a separate offence. Dempster's calculations lead to \$880,000 of potential revenue which will be closer to \$1,000,000 by mid-September. Dempster suggested running a cost analysis to see if it is prudent to go to court for the fines.

Schilling asked what Dempster is asking of this Committee. Dempster responded advice; he does not feel the options have been fully pursued by the Selectmen. Schilling explained that this Committee works with revenues but does not generate them. At Gray's request, Dempster explained his process for tallying fines and how he obtains his information on STRs.

**Equipment Vehicle Inventory** – Dame has offered to work with the DPW to obtain vehicle information from the iWorQ system to start planning for future replacement needs. Schilling feels the Town is not prepared for future purchases.

Judkins would like to see the CIP used for this need; problem is that a vote at Town Meeting can change any plan. Schilling wants the Committee to help department heads with their plans which would also include general building improvements.

Dame would like to build a vehicle replacement plan to assist in staggering out vehicle purchases. He noted that we are running a 1997 backhoe at the Transfer Station which is a critical piece; it needs to be replaced. King can see the DPW 420 backhoe moving over to the Transfer Station and a new machine obtained for the DPW. This vehicle inventory project will be discussed again at the next meeting with ideas suggested for what information should be collected.

**2024 Budget Drawdown** – The Committee reviewed the drawdown touching on over-expended budget lines that appear out of proportion with where we are in the year. L. Shackford was able to offer comments and explain several lines.

**Revenue Review** – Dame noted that FEMA declared the April 3<sup>rd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 storm a disaster so there should be funds coming available. Shackford explained that EMD Brooks has been doing all of the FEMA reporting; it is almost a full-time job.

**Other Business:** Judkins asked if the Fire Department still uses the Firehouse software program. L. Shackford will look into that question.

**Public Comment:** There was none.

**8:40 PM – Motion** by Judkins seconded by J. Shackford to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,  
Town Administrator/Recording Secretary