

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
September 24, 2024
MINUTES**

Members Present – Sharon Schilling; Joe Dame; Rick Judkins; School Board Rep Sarah DeMartino; Selectboard Rep Joy Gray

Members Excused – Josh Shackford; Elwin King

Others Present – Town Administrator Linda Shackford; MadTV Videographer Kasia Scontsas

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.

Pledge of Allegiance – Gray led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Judkins, seconded by Dame to approve the minutes of August 13, 2024 as amended. The motion passed **5-0**.

2024 Budget Drawdown – The Committee reviewed the year-to-date drawdown focusing on lines that are already overspent. L. Shackford was able to offer comments and explain several lines. Schilling’s inquiry from last meeting about why the contract services line of the fire department budget is already over 100% spent was answered. Schilling asked at the last meeting for an addendum to be added that explained the lines overspent to prevent having to reiterate the reasoning at each meeting. L. Shackford will send a list to Schilling of the budget lines for the creation of a document to keep track of comments on overspent lines.

The idea of creating a detailed warrant article summary was discussed.

2024 Revenue Review – The Committee reviewed the year-to-date revenue numbers. The typical revenue amounts are in line with 2023 with the FEMA reimbursement of \$262,835.77 included.

Equipment Vehicle Inventory Review – There have been no changes or additions made recently.

CIP Review – Gray reported that the Selectboard had no issues about an assembly of volunteers to move forward with an ad-hoc CIP group. This group would not be subject to RSA 91A. The Planning Board and Selectboard were not going to be sending a representative. The group would gather data that would be passed along. The group would not make any decisions. Dame, Schilling and Gray offered their interest in working on the CIP. L. Shackford cautioned the group to be careful not to form a quorum of ABC members. DeMartino said School Board Chairman Curran may be interested in joining.

Health Insurance Analysis – The Committee reviewed an overview and numbers created by Dame regarding the complex and challenging topic of rising employee health insurance costs. The nationwide

average increase for 2025 is expected to be 9%. HealthTrust's premium numbers will be announced in mid-October for the 2025 year. Dame's analysis showed potential savings by moving to a higher deductible/co-pay plan along with consideration of an increase in the percentage contributed by employees.

Public Comment: Paulette Lowry offered her opinion that Town employees need to pay a little bit more of their insurance premiums.

Other Business: The Committee received a copy of the ambulance contract via email. The latest quarterly report was sent to Schilling by L. Shackford. Concern was expressed about whether the Town is getting what it is paying for and if there is any recourse in the event it is not.

8:50 PM – Motion by Judkins seconded by Dame to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator/Recording Secretary