

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
December 3, 2024
MINUTES**

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

Members Excused – Rick Judkins

Others Present – Town Administrator Linda Shackford; MadTV Videographer Aysia Wellinghurst

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 6:03 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions were made by Schilling.

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

Public Comment – There were none.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Gray, seconded by Dame to approve the minutes of November 19, 2024 as amended. The motion passed **4-0**.

2025 DRAFT Budget – The Committee reviewed the draft budget. Some thoughts:

- MCC – camp scholarship line may need to be proposed as a warrant article or come from their gift account; it would be handled like any other donation;
- DPW - parts and contract services line should be reviewed using a three-year comparison;
- Executive – cloud-based QuickBooks should be considered for a saving to software costs;
- Fire – how the member reimbursement point system works was discussed;
- Legal – suggested to reduce the town counsel line by \$1,000;
- Personnel Administration – the Selectmen should consider waiting to institute any raises until April 1st, allowing the budget to be approved first;
- Patriotic Purposed – Schilling suggested an increase the monument line of \$100 to allow for two names to be engraved annually;
- Rec – Gray submitted to Shackford a list of Square transactions totaling \$16,689.50 with backup information needing to be obtained from the Rec Director.

Schilling noted that the draft budget is an overall increase of 3.6%. Schilling brought to the last Selectmen’s meeting a recommendation to keep the budget level funded, if not a decrease of 2-3%, there was no discussion at the time by the Board. Schilling is hoping the Selectmen will agree to decrease the budget and meet with the department heads asking them to work at the numbers.

2025 DRAFT Warrant – The committee reviewed the draft warrant. Some thoughts:

- Consider changing the wording on the grader warrant article to include the finance costs over the 7-year lease;
- Grants to assist in the repair of the dam should be sought;

- The committee calculated an estimate of 1.6 million in warrant articles.

Road Priorities – The DPW Director was unavailable to come to the meeting. The committee hoped he could have offered some insight. The list of roads by repair priority needs to be updated with the criteria for the condition included. It was noted that the list does not include all of the paved roads in Town and needs to be updated.

2024 Revenue Worksheet - The numbers received for Rec Department revenue from the Square account can be included in the report once all back up information is received.

Trust Funds and Warrant Article Drawdowns – There we no changes since the last review.

CIP – The Selectmen reviewed the drafts at their last meeting. The Selectmen asked that it be distributed to the department heads for their review, changes and suggestions; being returned for another review at their December 23rd meeting.

Health Insurance and General Budgetary Guidance – Schilling extended the recommendation to the Selectmen that there be an increase to a 10% employee contribution to the health and dental insurance premiums and that the 2025 budget be level funded if not reduced by 2-3%.

Schilling asked DeMartino how the school budget is coming along. DeMartino responded “good” noting there will be a public hearing on Monday, January 6th regarding that budget.

Motion by DeMartino, seconded by Gray to adjourn. The motion passed **4-0**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48pm

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford,
Town Administrator/Recording Secretary