



TOWN OF MADAWASKA
328 St. Thomas Street Suite 101, Madawaska, Maine 04756
207-728-6351

**Madawaska Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Madawaska High School Library
August 11, 2020 at 5:00 pm**

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Doug Cyr, Laurie Gagnon, Jason Boucher, Daniel Daigle, and Manon Raymond

TOWN MANAGER: Gary M. Picard

RECORDING SECRETARY: Nathalie Morneault

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chris Braley, Ken Gendreau, Adam Desrosier

OTHERS PRESENT: Kris Albert, Brandon Thibeault, Donna Leonard, Eric Cyr, Caryl Albert, Samuel Cyr, Arleen Cyr, Bert Lachance, John Cyr, Kevin Dube, Diane Boucher

Chairman Doug Cyr calls the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and established a quorum with Selectmen Laurie Gagnon, Jason Boucher, Daniel Daigle, and Manon Raymond.

Article 1 Pledge of Allegiance

Before starting Articles, there was a discussion on the budget process. This proposed budget has year-end financials included which is different from years before. Airport, Valley Recycling Facility, and County Tax have all increased. No COVID stimulus money or money from the Federal Government is available currently for municipalities. There are also no COLA adjustments to wages. Currently, the budget has a net decrease of 408,383.

Daniel Daigle read a prepared statement to the taxpayers of Madawaska, about working for and looking out for the taxpayers. By raising taxes their will need to be cuts. We cannot do the same over and over again and expect the same results. The taxpayers will have the final say.

Article 2 To Consider the Department 500, Public Works Budget.

05- Salaries and Wages- 9 Full-Time / 1 Part- Time Employee – No cola or wage increases

10- Employee Benefits- Rates are based on a calendar year

The board members discussed looking at what other communities are doing for benefits to their employees. Currently, an employee's health insurance is paid 100% if single, 60% for a family plan, and \$300 stipend if they do not take a policy. Part-Time employees only receive half benefits. If the board wishes to make changes to the health insurance, they will need to sit down with the town employees to have a discussion on thoughts/concerns.

35- Operating Expenses- Decrease of \$5,000 in contracted services & \$50 in Travel and Training

40- Supplies – No change

50- Utilities – Decrease \$4700 due to better rater on heating oil contract

Heat exchanger is finished between the garage and bus garage. School does not furnish any heat or help in expenses.

55- Minor Equipment – No change

60- Vehicle & Equipment – decrease \$5000 from Gas/Diesel/Propane

65- General Maintenance- Sand and Gravel increase of \$10,000 due to not getting sand out of the river and having it screened/hailed. This gives public works extra 2 weeks of manpower vs cleaning up and hauling out of the river.

It was asked if it can be put on a warrant to authorize left over monies from pervious budget to a reserve account in each department to have. Public Works presents a budget with no room for extras or breakdown. The grader is a ticking timebomb giving warning signs in the hydraulics. Public Works



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Mechanics Team does a lot of inhouse work and services all departments in mechanical needs. Questions were brought up if the town can dedicate reserve funds specifically to replace equipment.

Article 3 To Consider the Department 300, Ambulance Department Budget. Ambulance Department is a 24-hour service department that services Madawaska and 3 communities (Frenchville, St Agatha, Grand Isle). The department has 6 full-time and 13 part time employees. The department averages about 800-900 calls a year.

05- Salaries & Wages – No change

10- Employee Benefits- Slight increase - based on what plans employees choose

35- Operating Expense- Increase of \$400 overall due to Emergency Dispatch (ASO contract).

The Ambulance Department contracts a company to do the billing out of Presque Isle.

Ambulance Director, Eric Cyr talked very highly of the Emergency Dispatch service, how they are very reliable, and one step ahead of the them.

40-Supplies- Decrease of \$2900 – make do with supplies they have for now.

50- Utilities – Increase of \$500 due to telephone system, phone over internet VOP system

55- Minor Equipment- Decrease of \$6050 due to needing any minor equipment.

60- Vehicle & Equipment – no change

Overall, The Ambulance Department has presented an overall \$1,957 increase from last years proposed budget. The Department also has a Revenue line, which 150,000 is used to offset the budget. They have a total of 3 ambulances currently in their fleet. The oldest, a 2010 is starting to show signs of problems and rot. Questions were asked if combining departments (Joint Fire/EMS) could be investigated by reaching out to other areas that have joint departments.

Jason Boucher states to take 200,000 instead of 150,000 to offset the budget for this year.

7:00 P.M. **Laurie Gagnon motions to continue the meeting passed the 2-hour window with a recess for a bathroom break. Daniel Daigle seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.**

Article 4 To Consider the Department 600, Recreation Department Budget.

The Recreation Department employees 4 full-time employees.

05 – Salaries & Wages – Due to steps in employment agreement to be honored

10- Employee Benefits – Based on calendar year

35 – Operating Expense- Increase \$200 in printing and advertising to help advertise the bigger programs to get more interest in surrounding communities.

40 – Supplies –increase of \$500 for supplies to update the First aid kits for all seasons and replace the outdated supplies.

50- Utilities – Decrease of 1800 due to heating fuel contract price came in lower than last year.

55 – Minor Equipment- No change

60- Vehicle & Equipment – No change – It was overspent last year due to repairs needed to the tractor, truck and a few other repairs to equipment.

65- General Maintenance – No change – Sprinkler system is a dry system pressurized by air. In the event the sensors pick up heat it activates the system. The pipes are corroded and have been patching pinholes. The system gets an efficiency fails each inspection.

It was discussed to investigate into a better Internet service for public during events, Hotspot?

Reduce to one internet line? Events that happen in the Multi-Purpose with no charges to these



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activities but do use employees, supplies: Acadian Festival, Trade Show, Rhythm and Roots, Music in the Park. *It was recommended to look a better rental fee for the use of the Building, Fields, or space/properties.*

70-Building Repair & Maintenance-No Change - did go over last year due to oil tank going bad and needed repairs.

Parks and Restrooms- the Rec Department takes care of Multi-Purpose Building, Boy Scout Hut, Boat Landing, Beach, Historical Society, Bicentennial Park, Dionne Park, New Parks, Athletic Fields, and RV Park. *Selectman Daniel Daigle would like to see numbers on the usage of the RV Park in the last 3 years.*

75 – Program Expenses – No Change

Special Programs refers to special programming throughout the year, example Trunk or Treat. Improve the middle school field from rock to grass to make it better to mow.

Thanksgiving / Christmas Specials – when they bring a presenter to town and the children do not pay a fee.

School take care of 1 soccer field; Rec Department mows and trims all other fields.

The Department has self-funded programs. Revenues and Expenses Accounts. Take in money such as registration fees from the programs and use that money to update equipment. It is a nontax payer funded account that carry over from year to year.

Summer Programs are covered under Youth Activities. Wages are not reflected in the programming sheet that was provided. Skating Fees go in a General Account.

****Are we charging enough for these programs? Can we look at a fee schedule? Break up the programs by labor cost, expenses, and revenue to get a better picture. Can they have a Parks Budget and Recreation Budget.**

Article 5 To Consider the Department 120, General Assistance Budget.

No changes from the previous budget to this year proposed budget. The process to administer General Assistance is defined in statute.

Article 6 To Consider the Department 700, Insurances Budget.

Town Wide Insurance is defined as Unemployment Compensation, Workers Compensation, and other insurance that includes Prop & Casualty and Bond/Excess. This is prices receives from MMA, MEMIC and UIG. The budget was decreased by \$5,036.

Article 7 To Consider the Department 710, Intergovernmental Budget.

250- County Tax – The town does not have control on the cost. There is an increase of \$45,391.

100- VRF- An increase of \$23,000. This is due to 2 factors, Freight charge increase due to bridge closure to large trucks, and the per ton landfill cost.

200- Northern AAA Airport – has an increase of \$1,473 due to operation costs.

400 – Street lights- a decrease of \$59,000. This is due to the swap out of the streetlights.

700- Chamber – increase of \$4235. They are struggling financially. They need to be incorporated more into town activities. This will be monitored closely and be revisited.

800- Acadian Festival- Acadian festival did not happen this passed year due to COVID. The funds were dispersed, some used at the beginning but not all. It was stated not to fund this year.

\$17,200 was removed from the line.



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Article 8 To Consider the Department 730, Debt Service Budget.

A review of the municipal debt was done line by line. The leases that are seen are leased to own, there is not buy out at the end.

Adjournment

Jason Boucher motions to adjourn at 9:35 PM. Daniel Daigle seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.