



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

**Board of Selectmen / Finance Committee Budget Meeting Minutes
Madawaska Safety Complex Firemen's Meeting Room
March 31, 2022, at 5:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard J. Dionne, Christopher Braley, Doug Cyr, Manon Raymond
FINANCE COMMITTEE: Linda M. Cyr, James M. Cyr, Robert Poiesz
TOWN MANAGER: Gary M. Picard
RECORDING SECRETARY: Nathalie Morneault
OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Dube, Denise Duperre, Caryl Albert, Donna Leonard, Paul Lausier

Board of Selectmen Chairman Richard J. Dionne calls the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and established a quorum with Selectmen Christopher Braley, Doug Cyr, and Manon Raymond.

- **Pledge of Allegiance.**

BUDGET ARTICLES BOARD OF THE SELECTMEN & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amendments to the Parks, Recreation & Maintenance Expense budget was presented to the board due to hiring both the Recreation Director and the Program Director.

Amended Ambulance Expense Budget was provided with the different scenarios if positions would be added for review. These scenarios were provided to show readiness and lessen the burden on the taxpayers.

Expense Budget Summary was also updated to reflect the changes from the last meeting.

Article 1 To Consider the Town Admin, Dept 110.

Richard J. Dionne abstains from Town Admin Budget, Dept 110.

Town Admin budget is showing an increase of \$51,452; this would be due to salaries, wages, and benefits. 3 Town employees have increased their hours to 40-hour weeks, to offset the work generated from assessing. The increase is also due COLA, the proposed Earned Benefit, and Health Insurance is seeing a 6% increase.

Article 2 To Consider the Dev & Assessing Budget, Dept 200.

This budget covers the Code Enforcement Officer, and the Plumbing Inspector wages. 25,000 is placed for the Assessing Contract due to the end of the free Regional Assessing Program in December. The Regional Assessing Program was free for a few years. The Town has gone live with their GIS Mapping system.

Article 3 To Consider the Public Works Budget, Dept 500.

Public Works budget has increased \$146,044 since last year due to increases in supplies, and salaries, wages & benefits. This budget reflects adding 1 fulltime position.

Contracted services are seeing a decrease due to widening streets with the snowblower verses picking up snow. Utilities is on the rise. Repairs of equipment cost has risen 20-40%, and freight cost is now added into the price. Chemicals has risen \$4/ton since February. Road Striping would be \$5-7,000 for an inhouse setup, it would be roughly \$3-5,000 for a laser setup. Public Works Garage Furnace Room is in



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dire need of repair; from the roof leaking, mold issues, pulling the furnaces out and replacing the units, to painting the building to be more presentable.

The Town Manager gave an introduction of the new position in the budget would be for an Office / Field Position. This position would be filling in the office and doing field work along side the director. Public Works director stressed the need of another field laborer position on a Full-time basis rather than fill the office / laborer first. The Fulltime laborer would help with filling in with time off.

There will be a big turn over when some retire in the next 10 years. The Public works department takes care of 63.75 miles of road. Back in the 1980's, there was 25 fulltime employees and 2-3 parttime, after that time they have ran short staffed, and no extra manpower exists today. The mechanics are not only a mechanic, they do go out to help out in the field at times, and also service other departments.

By Consensus, the board is okay to add a Full-time laborer.

Article 4 To Consider the Revenue Budget.

The revenue budget has increased by \$460,719.

Questions from the Finance Committee were asked, what was collected in excise? What the Ambulance has in revenue as a total? What is transferred and where the \$250,000 comes from? Instead of the word "surplus" can it be replaced by capital reserve.

Lien Fees collected should be reflected in revenues.

Capital Reserve

The Roads and streets are falling apart. Ridgewood Ave is in need of repairs and reshaping. The director will need to go out in the spring and find the high priority areas to be covered first. The roads could use another 4-500,00 more for capital.

Next Meeting Dates:

Finance Committee Only:	April 5 th at 5:30 PM
Board of Selectmen only:	April 12 th at 5:30 PM
Joint BOS / Finance	April 16 from 12-4 PM

Adjournment

7:45 P.M. Christopher Braley motions to adjourn. Manon Raymond seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carries.