



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 21, 2022, at 5:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard J. Dionne, Christopher Braley, Jason Boucher, Doug Cyr, Manon Raymond

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Linda M. Cyr, James M. Cyr, Adam Desrosier

TOWN MANAGER: Gary M. Picard

RECORDING SECRETARY: Nathalie Morneau

OTHERS PRESENT: Denise Duperre, Ross Dubois, Donna Leonard, Jim Soucy, Caryl Albert, Ken Theriault, Fran Gendreau, Mark Madore, Eric Cyr

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, Jason Boucher, Doug Cyr, and Manon Raymond.

- **Pledge of Allegiance.**
- **Public Participation.**

This portion of the meeting is to allow the public to inform the Board regarding their concerns. Public Participation is limited to ten minutes, of which two minutes will be allotted individually. Please be advised that individuals addressing concerns will be placed on the Board's next regular meeting agenda unless the issue addressed is one of an emergency nature. The Chairperson or Acting Chairperson will use his/her discretion as to whether action on any particular issue should be taken at this meeting. Items regarding personnel issues or town employees cannot be discussed in open session.

No Public Participation at this time.

BUDGET ARTICLES BOARD OF THE SELECTMEN & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Articles will be taken out of order due to employee presence and time.

Article 4 To Consider the Police Department Budget, Dept. 310.

The Department is in year 1 of their Police Union Contract. They had asked for the contract to be opened up due to wages. They have the same number of officers and are currently fully staffed. The departments budget is showing an increase of \$14,961, mainly due to salaries and utilities. One officer will be hopefully going to the academy in August, which is about \$10,000 for travel and lodging, this leaves the department short an officer for 18 weeks. The body cameras are on all officers, which have proved to be great help with some cases.

The condition of the fleet:

- Charger – replaced the engine, now has a warrantee and should be good for about 3-4 years
- Durango – Is the newest, should be good for 3 -4 years

Article 7 To Consider the Library Budget, Dept 400.

The library did not receive the appropriation requested last year. Fran Gendreau gave the board a sheet of their bookkeeping showing the towns appropriations dating to 2009. Since 2005 the Librarian wages have only increased due to Cola.

A question was asked what has been attempted at bringing in Revenue. If the Church helps fund the Library? As for generating revenues they have tried book sales which has been on hold for 2 years due to



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covid and donations. As for programs for the youngsters, it is hard to charge families, so they ask for donations. In the past they have received Grants for computers and books.

The library is looking to have a capital improvement fund going for repairs to the building. The capital fund will be visited at Article 10.

Article 5 To Consider the Fire Dept. Budget, Dept. 320.

The Fire Department is showing a decrease overall of \$7,754. Chief Soucy is asking if they could add back the \$4,300 for hoses due to the 15-year rotation and the need for hoses.

Forestry Grant is a 50 / 50 match. This can be used for replacement of equipment like chainsaws, pagers, etc.

By Consensus, Add the \$4,300 back to 100-Hoses.

Article 6 To Consider the EMA Budget, Dept. 325.

The EMA Budget is seeing a decrease of \$1000 due to removal of the Infrastructure Communication Tower.

Board of Selectmen asked Chief Soucy for an update on:

- UTV - It is approximately 1 year out but is ordered.
- Fire truck – 10 – 14 months out.
- Rescue Truck – Swapped over.

~~**Article 1** To Consider the Town Admin, Dept, 110.~~

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

Article 9 To Consider the Pollution Control Budget, Dept. 960.

As for the Grand Isle arrangement that was previously discussed in a prior meeting, Gil St. Pierre and Shawn Bernard of DEP went to Grand Isle and the tanks have more capacity than they realized. They will not be bringing any loads to Madawaska for now, but Pollution Control is willing to lend a hand if needed in the future.

The Pollution Control Budget is its own budget, it is not part of the Tax Commitment. As presented, the budget is showing an increase of \$36,114, due to salary and benefits, and utilities. The Endico site needs repair. The leased land also needs to be brush cut.

Pollution Control Superintendent asked if he could add some wants to his budget. He would want to add the following:

- Clothing and Safety increase to \$2500 * *Due to a new employee*
- Professional Fee increase to \$12,500 * *Professional fees is when someone comes in for the new equipment.*
- Office Supplies increase to \$1,200
- General Supplies increase to \$14,000
- Heating Fuel will need to be adjusted
- Water Fees increase to \$8,500 * *Water rates will be going up 10%*
- Software / Computer increase to \$2,500
- Gas / Diesel / Propane increase of \$5,000



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- Repair / Maintenance increase to \$40,000
- Chemicals increase to \$42,000
- Oil & Lubricants increase to \$2,000
- Line Maintenance increase to \$12,000
- Endico Site Maintenance increase to \$32,000

Article 3 To Consider the Ambulance Dept. Budget, Dept. 300.

The ambulance budget is showing an overall increase of \$2,141 as presented, will need to be adjusted in the MSRS line and if they accept the proposed proposal.

- The Ambulance Department would like to add another Fulltime Shift due to the need of Transfers downstate. On call and standby staff is getting harder to recruit or keep due to availability. The biggest gap is during the daytime where most of the on-call/standby have daytime jobs. MedCom is a company downstate that finds ambulance departments for transfers. Over the last 4-5 years, Madawaska has picked up Frenchville, St. Agatha, and Grand Isle. The area towns are getting great services. Revenues are on the rise each year.
- Billing Services – Looking into different Billing Services for a better price. Currently, Madawaska has Maine Billing out of Presque Isle. Some other towns have switched to ComStar.
- Defibrillator machine monitor contract is paid for.
- Response Time- Keeping an eye on acceptable call times. They are looking at improving coverage without leaving the town un-serviced.
- Fire / EMS Model – Town's such as Caribou, Presque Isle and Fort Fairfield have switched to this model. Having just 2 Fulltime staff would help insurance rates.
- Increase Staff Coverage Proposal – Director gave 2 proposals to add to the staff for increase coverage. *No decisions were made at this meeting.*

Director asked if he could add Armored Vest for safety gear, which is between 600-900 each.
By Consensus, \$10,000 can be added to clothing and safety equipment.

~~**Article 8** To Consider the Public Works Budget, Dept. 500.~~

Article 10 To Consider the Capital & Reserves Budget.

Town Manager went through the Capital Purchases and Reserves Budget.

- Public Works Reserve asking for a continued \$25,000.
- Fire Department Reserve asking for a continued \$25,000.
- Capital Repairs to the fire trucks - \$40,000.
- Recreation Facility Reserve - \$5,000
- Road Project Reserve - \$150,000
- MDOT 2021 Sidewalk Replacement Project - \$48,000 for 14th Ave to 16th Ave sidewalk. MDOT pays 80% set to start in 2023.

Review of the Reserve Account Balances as of March 11, 2022.

By Consensus, to add a library reserve account of \$5000 for maintenance such as south wall water issue, roofing, lighting; and make an effort for fund raising.

By Consensus, to add \$15,000 for Fire station #2 upgrades such as roof and building repairs.



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Next Budget meeting: March 31st, 2022, at 5:30 P.M.

Adjournment

Christopher Braley motions to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Jason Boucher seconds the motion. All board members are in favor and motion carried.