

**ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN OF MADISON
April 21, 2026
MINUTES**

Members Present- Sharon Schilling; Doug McAllister; Charlie Allen, Nan Bartlett; Noreen Downs (Alternate); Selectmen's Rep Joe Dame.

No School Board member has been assigned yet.

Others Present- MadTV Videographer Theo Gray

Where and When Posted- Town Hall upper and lower bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on August 28, 2025.

Meeting Called to Order – By Schillig at 6:00PM

Welcome and Introductions were made by Schilling

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

Charlie Allen arrived at 6:02PM

Approval of March 24th, 2026 Minutes with corrections:

Motion by McAllister, seconded by Allen to approve the March 24th, 2026 minutes as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments: None from the public. Schilling mentioned FaceBook post on Town of Madison page regarding budget and taxes. Will attempt to find and send to other members. Schilling sent the Budget Ordinance to all the members. Discussed in general the parameters of ABC meeting dates. It was mentioned that the Ordinance mentions a Budget Committee in one place instead of an Advisory Budget Committee. Opinion was to leave it alone for now.

School Board Update: Bartlett provided update and she suggested that people go online and look at the school board packet that is provided for every meeting.

There is a projected end of year balance as of 03/20/26. No discussion regarding amount. Bartlett indicated that there was no discussion regarding the default budget. McAllister expressed that he would like to see a 10% cut in their budget over the next three to four years. Bartlett discussed staffing and that it was all renewed but more people and more money doesn't mean better education.

Staffing, building utilization and SAU combining, enrollment, and resource sharing were all discussed. The search committee for a new Superintendent is constituted and the search is underway.

Pre-school enrollment was discussed at 18-19 students but daily average attendance is 8-11. year end fund balance is now projected to be \$1,017,158.00 on a default budget. This was due to two staff positions not being filled and no out of district placements from a Special Education perspective. The question came up regarding what happens to the projected unexpended funds? Where do they go? Do they go back to the General Fund? Schilling will get an answer.

Schilling indicated that she would talk to Jim Curran, the Chair of the School board to get a rep from them to sit on the ABC, even if it has to be him for the interim.

Selectman's Update: Joe Dame discussed that there is a new Town Administrator: Lucia Roth and an Admin Assistant, Madison McCarthy who are getting things updated but at this point there is no Budget drawdown available. We still need to fill the Part-time Land Use Administrator position and they need help with Quick Books.

Dame met with Congressman Pappas- He fully supports the Silver Lake Dam funding request. Dame suggests all departments have a wish list for every year for potential grant items.

Dame reports we are likely to overrun the Admin budget line by probably \$8-10K. Selectmen will have to look at where else to economize.

The Safety/Joint Loss Committee meeting – water at the lower barn was tested and is bad. Getting a quote for filter systems and UV system. It would be \$1150.00/yr for maintenance.

AED's- Looking to acquire one for the Transfer Station. Denita Dudley went through the first aid kits to see what needs to be updated.

From an economic standpoint, the Inflation rate is currently 3.3%. Wall street expects it to be about 4%. This is worth keeping an eye on.

The water heater in town hall went and it needed replacing. It was not in the budget. The heating elements were replaced in 2018. Dame was asked to have department heads look at other appliances etc to see if anything else might be of an age to go.

The first half tax rate needs to be set so bills can go out by late May/early June. It hasn't been done yet.

The committee discussed budget guidance and agreed to have formal initial guidance to department heads and selectmen after the June 19th meeting.

CIP Update: Schilling provide an update stating that no real work had been done as it is now in the hands of the Selectmen for approval. Further mentioned that it needs to continue to be based on requirements and rationale. Mention was made to discuss CIP with the School Board as well.

Administration:None

There being no further business, Bartlett made a motion and Allen and McAllister seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:33PM. Unanimous, 5-0 to adjourn. Next meeting is May 19th at 6PM in the lower level of Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Schilling
Chair, Advisory Budget Committee