



**TOWN OF MADISON  
BOARD OF FINANCE**  
SPECIAL MEETING, October 19, 2016

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Draft- Subject to Approval

Present: Joseph MacDougald, Mark Casparino (via teleconference), Bennett Pudlin;  
Jennifer Tung, Sharon Kokoruda, Jason Ulstad (via teleconference)

Also present: Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director; Kristen Bartosic

Mr. MacDougald called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

**SPECIAL SESSION**

1. Pledge of Allegiance. The Board of Finance and members of the audience stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of minutes – Regular meeting of September 21, 2016. On motion made by Mr. Pudlin and seconded by Ms. Tung, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Amended Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2016 as submitted.

3. Chairman's comments.

None.

4. Citizen and Finance member comments.

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

5. Discuss and take action on special appropriation request of \$180,000 from the Madison Public Schools to add to the reserve fund for unanticipated external placements for Special Education students for tuition and transportation related services established by the Board of Finance, November 18, 2009. Mr. MacDougald explained that the costs for Special Education are unpredictable and reserves must be set aside for these expenses. Ms. Nobitz confirmed that the Board of Education had requested funds during the FY 15-

16 and that the reserve had been reduced. She stated that this was the first major expense from this fund within the last five years.

Mr. Casparino asked if the Board should expect to see this type of expense next year and Ms. Nobitz stated that it cannot be projected accurately as costs are unpredictable. Mr. Pudlin confirmed that there are many variables each year which affect the cost for Special Education. He added that the Town of Madison has a very good Special Education program.

Mr. MacDougald reiterated the choices that the Board needed to make at this meeting and Ms. Tung suggested that the reserve be funded higher, to \$200,000 to avoid a “pay-as-you-go” mentality. Mr. Pudlin responded that the Board could fund to the requested amount today and then review the reserve balance during the budget cycle. Mr. MacDougald agreed with this suggestion and stated that the Board should ask the Board of Education if the threshold should be updated.

On motion made by Mr. Pudlin, and seconded by Mr. MacDougald, the Board voted unanimously to approve a special appropriation request of **\$180,000** from the Madison Public Schools to add to the reserve fund for unanticipated external placements for Special Education students for tuition and transportation related services established by the Board of Finance, November 18, 2009; pending Board of Selectman and Town Meeting approval.

6. Review of Financials. There was no discussion on Financials.

7. Citizen comments. There were no citizen comments.

8. Liaison Reports and Report from First Selectman.

Mr. Pudlin stated that he and other members had attended the CIP meeting at the Library; the presentation from the Library Board was quite impressive. He added that the building needs major renovation and that the Library Board has decreased the projected bond amount to \$9 million. However, he questioned if the Board of Finance should discuss the impact of this bonding. Ms. Nobitz responded that the impact was included in the CIP plan.

Mr. Pudlin added that the number of Town residents who use the Guilford or Clinton libraries instead of Madison’s library was alarming; and Ms. Kokoruda agreed.

Regarding the Board of Education schools plan, Mr. Pudlin stated that the BOE has narrowed their focus to the 5-school model; preserving Jeffery and Ryerson Elementary Schools instead of building a new elementary school. The BOE will not undertake an in-depth study for this 5-school plan.

Ms. Tung questioned what the impact of this plan would be on the LeSage property and Mr. Pudlin stated that it was still in the planning stages but possibly if this parcel is not used in the plan going forward, it would be held in reserve for Town use. He also added that the 5-school plan has a possibility for the construction of a new, smaller, elementary school.

Mr. MacDougald stated that for the next meeting, the Board should review the bonding projections for these two projects in order to smooth out the debt payment and avoid higher increases in the mill rate.

Ms. Nobitz responded that operational savings and future debt service were hard to project without a clear timeline for the school project. Mr. MacDougald stated that the sooner the Board knows the possible variables, the better. Mr. Pudlin added that the school renovations would require multiple classroom moves and that it would ultimately be five years before a cost-savings was seen. Mr. MacDougald added that in any town where a new school was built, budget problems in the following year are predictable, so the Board should consider them now.

Mr. Casparino echoed Mr. Pudlin's comments regarding the Library presentation.

Mr. MacDougald encouraged those watching from home to go out and vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

9. Adjourn. There being no objections, Mr. MacDougald adjourned the meeting at 7:53 a.m.

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Lauren Rhines  
Executive Assistant